Online Programs
Boost ‘Phenomenal’
Growth of Continuing Studies

Page 22
A Message from the Chancellor

I am grateful for your extraordinary support during my first year as chancellor. Thanks to you, the University is abuzz with good news on many fronts and there’s a genuine feeling that UMass Lowell is on the move.

Enrollment is up more than 20 percent, including a 48 percent increase in students of color. These students are benefiting in unprecedented numbers from the scholarship programs funded with your support. Our hockey team is off to a strong start again, buoyed by the incredible attendance and encouragement given by alumni and friends last year. Ambitious plans are being finalized to build two new buildings to support teaching and research, renovate existing classrooms and laboratories, and expand student housing options.

But in the midst of all this good news, we have financial realities to face. The troubles of the broader economy have inevitably affected the funding we will receive from the state. As I write this letter in mid-November, we face the Governor’s 9C cuts that will reduce UMass Lowell’s budget by $4 million mid-way through the fiscal year. I have asked our senior management team to avoid across the board cuts so that we maintain momentum in meeting our core mission of teaching, research and service to the Commonwealth.

To ensure that we continue to move forward, I plan to launch a strategic planning initiative, UMass Lowell 2020, this spring that will provide a framework for strategic decision making into the next decade. Our new provost, Ahmed Abdelal, and Jacqueline Moloney, executive vice chancellor, will lead the strategic planning initiative with support from our new vice chancellor for Administration, Finance, Facilities and Technology, Joanne Yestramski, our new vice chancellor for Advancement, Beth Shorr, and Chief Public Affairs Officer Patti McCafferty. I encourage you to get involved in this initiative and would appreciate your advice and guidance as we shape our plan for the future.

I began by expressing my appreciation for your generosity. In fact, donors have endorsed our direction by giving in record amounts to our scholarship programs and annual fund. Your help on this journey is needed more than ever. Please consider making a gift to UMass Lowell using the envelope in this magazine or online at www.uml.edu/giveLowell. Every gift strengthens our ability to help students realize their dreams and make a lasting contribution to their communities and our world.

Marty Meehan

Chancellor
Cossé Bell’s Work Airs on PBS

Historically, the Faubourg Tremé neighborhood adjacent to the New Orleans French Quarter was home to the most prosperous and politically active black community in North America. Five years ago, before Hurricane Katrina devastated the city, UMass Lowell History Prof. Caryn Cossé Bell began work as research director on a film project chronicling the neighborhood’s rich culture. The completed documentary, “Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans,” produced by Pulitzer Prize-winning musician Wynton Marsalis and filmmakers Dawn Logsdon and Lolis Elie, will appear on public broadcasting stations across the country beginning in February 2009.

Southeast Asian Involvement and Experience Honored

With a population of 20,000, Lowell’s Southeast Asian community is second only to that of Long Beach, Calif. The influence of this population — which numbers a fifth of the city’s total — and its significant cultural contributions have been chronicled in a new book by author/editor Lan Pho, director emerita of the Center for Diversity and Pluralism, and co-edited by Political Science Assoc. Prof. Jeffrey Gerson.

More than one hundred people attended a May book signing and recognition event at the Mogan Center in Lowell, including former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, who was honored for his work with immigrant groups.

The book, “Southeast Asian Refugees and Immigrants in the Mill City,” includes essays and studies about the resettlement of Southeast Asian immigrants to Lowell that began thirty years ago in response to conditions in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

History Department Celebrates Publications by ‘Excellent Scholars’

In the space of a year, three UMass Lowell history professors have published books, demonstrating the significant abilities and achievements of the department.

Department Chair Joseph Lipchitz describes them as “the latest achievements of three excellent scholars who have multiple books to their credit.”


Montrie’s book examines work as a central part of Americans’ evolving relationship with nature, highlighting connections between worker’s rights and the rise of environmentalism.

Pierson’s latest book tells the story of a group of Confederate soldiers in Fort Jackson, New Orleans who rose up against their officers and used the fort’s heavy guns on their commanders, resulting in the surrender of the fort to Unionists.

Strobel’s most recent book examines the creation of colonial “racial order” on the American and South African frontiers, comparing efforts by white people to undermine Native American and African sovereignty.

Microsoft Chooses Holly Yanco’s Project for Research Funding

Microsoft Corp. has selected Assoc. Prof. Holly Yanco’s robotics project as one of eight proposals that will share $500,000 in research funding and advanced software applications.

Yanco, who directs the Robotics Lab in the Computer Science Department, was selected by Microsoft from a field of seventy-four researchers from twenty-four countries. The company had requested proposals to examine the growing role of robots in society, from serving as human-operated tools to becoming “social” partners working with and alongside people.

UMass Lowell is sharing the funding with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale University,
University of California Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon University, McGill University, United Arab Emirates University and University of South Florida.

Yanco’s project, entitled “Multi-Touch Human-Robot Interaction for Disaster Response,” came about after Hurricane Katrina exposed technological gaps that, despite the prevalence of satellite imagery, left many emergency responders resorting to hand-drawn paper maps to search for survivors in the aftermath of the 2005 storm. Although robot cameras were in use, they were limited to sending video only to operators at the site and not immediately to the staff coordinating search and rescue operations at the command center.

“Our proposed intelligent, multi-touch command and control display system will allow collaboration by multiple users on multiple levels,” she says. “Thus, informed discussion can take place, damages and risks can be properly assessed, an action plan can be developed and resources efficiently allocated. If a significant finding occurs in the field, the plan can be quickly updated and modified.”

Researchers’ Work Ensures Safety of Space Station Crew

Dr. Ivan Galkin, head of the UMass Lowell Center for Atmospheric Research’s Software Systems Section, has been helping NASA and Boeing, the prime contractor for the International Space Station (ISS), decide whether it’s safe for astronauts to venture outside the Space Station, orbiting some 220 miles above the ground.

As the 270-ton complex travels through Earth’s tenuous ionosphere, its huge solar-panel arrays continuously pick up and accumulate free electrons, a process known as “spacecraft charging.” NASA and Boeing are concerned that when this charge becomes too high, astronauts performing “spacewalks” could get zapped by the ISS, potentially damaging the astronauts’ sensitive communications or life-support electronics, or worse.

“In other words, the astronaut can get electrocuted during a spacewalk if the Station collects too much charge,” says Galkin.

Thanks to Digisonde sounding data provided by Galkin, mission planners can predict plasma densities in the ionosphere more accurately and can abort a spacewalk if the conditions are not right.

Digisondes are portable, ground-based transmitters that the Center built and installed in about seventy sites in the U.S.,

English Faculty Members Publish Three Books in Spring Semester

Three members of the English Department faculty published books during the spring semester: two novels and one work of non-fiction.

The three are Adjunct Prof. Dave Daniel, Asst. Prof. Andre Dubus III and Geoffrey Douglas, a writer in the Publications Office and an adjunct professor.

Daniel’s novel, “Reunion,” follows the lead character’s trip from California to his boyhood home in Massachusetts and ponders the question: If we could return to our high school days and somehow alter that past, would we?

In his novel, “The Garden of Last Days,” Dubus explores the days leading up to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on America through the eyes of intersecting characters, including those of one of the terrorists, who is enthralled and repulsed by a Florida strip club dancer.

In “Classmates: Privilege, Chaos and the End of an Era,” Douglas relives the often troubling years he spent at St. Paul’s School in Concord, N.H., fifty years earlier. The non-fiction work relates the differing stories of several classmates, including that of Sen. John Kerry.
Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, South America and Antarctica. Each instrument is capable of automatically taking measurements of the ionosphere directly above its location and providing on-site processing and analysis before sending the information in near-real time to space-weather prediction centers. About thirty of these Digisonde sounders send their results to UMass Lowell’s automated data repository at Wannalancit Mills.

**Computer Science Majors Honored for Academic Achievement**

Fourteen undergraduate and graduate students were recognized for their academic achievements at this year’s Computer Science Academic Excellence Awards Banquet.

“We wanted to reward and recognize the students’ academic achievements with merit-based cash awards,” says Computer Science Chair Jie Wang. “The awardees were selected by the faculty based on the students’ GPA and other academic performance measures.”

A total of $17,100 in scholarships was awarded.

The honorees were Ryan Beaver, Ryan Buckley, Janice Marie Cosentino, Christopher Deveau, Elizabeth Tran, Daniel Gabriel, Victoria Kaercher, Ross Caisse, Zheng Fang, Beibei Yang, Mark Micire, William Wesley Gordon, Matthew Ouellette and William Brendel.

**Teachers Participate in Hands-On Science Foundation Workshop**

Fifteen middle and high school teachers from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Washington attended a summer workshop funded by the National Science Foundation. Called “iSENSE: Internet System for Networked Sensor Experimentation,” the workshop was a collaborative project between UMass Lowell and Machine Science Inc., a supplier of educational robotic and electronic kits.

iSENSE trains educators on hands-on science using networked sensor probes. Its goal is to develop a web-based system for collecting and sharing sensor data. Such a system will allow students to view, graph, analyze and export data from individual sensors and then combine them with information from multiple sensors to examine regional, national and global phenomena.

The workshop’s faculty included Asst. Prof. Fred Martin of Computer Science, Assoc. Prof. Sarah Kuhn of the Regional Economic and Social Development Department, Asst. Prof. Michelle Scribner-MacLean of the Graduate School of Education, and Sam Christy and Ivan Rudnicki of Machine Science.

---

**The School of Education: A Legacy of Foresight, Innovation and Growth**

Heading into its second quarter-century, the Graduate School of Education (GSE) is on the front line of educational institutions, with a range of offerings deep and diverse enough to meet the needs of almost anyone pursuing a career in education, at almost any level.

At the master’s level, candidates may receive their degrees and teaching licenses at either the elementary or secondary level.

“This degree provides teaching candidates with a variety of field experiences linked to their coursework,” says GSE Interim Dean Anita Greenwood. “We have a great reputation for supervision of our teachers in the field while they’re working on their master’s. During the twelve weeks a student is in classroom teaching, we’ll conduct between six and eight visits, which is well above the norm.”

For those who already hold a teacher’s license, master’s level and a certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) are offered in curriculum and instruction, reading and language, and education administration.

In addition to the master’s and CAGS degrees, the School’s doctoral program is flourishing. Designed around the needs of students seeking to work in higher education, as well as K-12 school administration, the program is research-based, requiring that candidates write and defend their dissertations before being awarded degrees. Three areas of concentration are available: leadership in schooling, mathematics and science education and language and literacy.

One of the School’s major recent initiatives has been the expansion of its online offerings. Although the initial teacher-licensing master’s degree program isn’t available online due to the importance of actual hands-on classroom time for student teachers, other master’s degrees and the CAGS degree can now be earned through online instruction. And this has been more successful, Greenwood says, than anyone anticipated: “When we started teaching online, we were concerned that some of the collegiality might be lost. But instead, it’s created a whole different kind of participation.”
Seventy Plastics Engineering Students Receive Endowed Scholarship Funds

Seventy undergraduate and graduate students in plastics engineering recently received financial support from twenty-six endowed scholarship funds for the academic year 2008-09. The monetary values vary, but most of the scholarships are in the range of $1,000 per academic year.

“These funds have been created through the generosity of our alumni, corporate partners and even members of the plastics engineering faculty,” says department Chair Robert Malloy. He credits the program’s success to the efforts of the University’s Office of Advancement in working with the community in establishing these funds, which awards scholarships annually in perpetuity. About 20 percent of the recipients are students from other countries, including India, Indonesia, Thailand and Israel.

“We know many of our students struggle financially, and many end up working an excessive number of hours,” says Malloy. “This really hurts their ability to do well in courses and impacts our retention rates. Scholarship support is one way to limit the number of hours students work.”

$628,000 in Grants Gives Engineering Lab Unique Capabilities in Field of Measurement

Five faculty members in the College of Engineering have been awarded grants totaling more than $628,000 for equipment that will have a significant impact on sound and vibration research.

The National Science Foundation’s Major Research Instrumentation Program has awarded the researchers — Assoc. Pros. Christopher Nieszrecki and Peter Avitabile, and Pros. Julie Chen and James Sherwood of mechanical engineering, and Prof. Pradeep Kurup of civil and environmental engineering — $491,575 with which they have purchased a three-dimensional scanning laser vibrometer system.

And, with an Army Research Office grant of nearly $137,000, the team acquired an Aramis Digital Image Correlation Imaging System.

These two new pieces of equipment will work in combination with a 64-Channel Microphone Acoustic Mapping Array to provide remarkable research possibilities.

Nanomanufacturing Summit Draws 200 Participants

Provost Ahmed Abdelal, Dr. Ming Wei, center, of the Plastics Engineering Department and Prof. Joey Mead of the Nanomanufacturing Center chat during the third annual Nanomanufacturing Summit that drew close to two hundred participants to the Wannalancit Mill building earlier this year. More than fifty posters were presented by some thirty researchers from the University, industry partners and allied institutions such as Northeastern University, the University of New Hampshire, Seoul National University of Technology and the Army Natick Soldier Center.
Students, Faculty Attend Milwaukee Plastics Conference

Sixty-three UMass Lowell plastics engineering students, along with ten faculty members, participated in the 54th Society of Plastics Engineers annual conference held in Milwaukee earlier this year. The three-day event was the largest meeting of its kind, attracting plastics professionals from around the world for hundreds of presentations on the latest technologies in plastics materials, design and manufacturing.


“Organizing and funding such a trip is always challenging, and we had to be creative in our efforts to minimize the cost for the students,” says Malloy. In addition to student car washes, funds for the Milwaukee trip were raised through donations by plastics alumna Debbie Hauser B.S. ’79, Prof. Amad Tayebi, George Kachen of the UML Nanomanufacturing Center, the Plastics Graduate Student Organization, the Society of Plastics Engineers Student Chapter, the Nanomanufacturing Club and the ACS Rubber Division Student Chapter.

On the way to the conference, the group stopped in Racine, Wis., to visit the headquarters of S. C. Johnson & Son (previously the Johnson Wax Co.). James Kimball B.S. ’82, Johnson Wax’s engineering director and a plastics engineering alumnus, arranged for a special tour of the facility, which is one of architect Frank Lloyd Wright’s most famous buildings.

On the second day of the conference, the group also hosted a reception and dinner at a local restaurant for about 70 alumni from the Milwaukee area and those attending the conference.

Formula SAE Team Competes in National Event at Virginia Raceway

A group of UMass Lowell engineering students competed this year in the annual Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) competition at the Virginia International Raceway in Alton, placing twenty-first out of a field of forty-four. Formula SAE is a student design contest sponsored by the Society in which teams design, build and compete in scaled-down, open-wheeled Formula-style race cars.

This was the University’s first entry into the event since 1996. The River Hawks Racing Team, composed of more than twenty mechanical and electrical engineering majors, was pitted against schools from across the U.S. and Canada in a series of races that tested the performance and endurance of the cars and drivers.

“Everyone on the team worked really hard to get the project ready for this competition,” says Justin Pekarek, the club’s vice president and leader of the car suspension team. “Completing all aspects of building a race car, from design and fabrication to assembly and final testing, was a great experience for us all.”

The car was powered by a 1997 Honda CBR 600 F3 motorcycle engine that produced about 75 horsepower. It could attain speeds well over 100 miles per hour but, for safety reasons, cones were added on the course to create hairpin and other tricky turns to slow down the cars and require more driver input, says Pekarek.

“This project started with no financial support, no blueprint, no previous car and no funding — only the dream of a few car enthusiasts and a faculty advisor, Prof. James Sherwood, who inspired us to take on such a huge undertaking. During the course of a year, we had literally carved out a home next to the wind tunnel at Ball Hall,” he says. In addition to the support from the University, various local sponsors contributed to the project.
ISR Systems Commits $100,000 for Future Engineers Center

Goodrich Corporation’s ISR Systems has signed a four-year, $100,000 commitment for UMass Lowell’s Future Engineers Center and its innovative DesignCamp program. Every summer, DesignCamp offers more than a dozen hands-on workshops on the campus to more than five hundred students in grades 5 to 10. Gathered for the check presentation are, from left, Goodrich/ISR Systems President Tom Bergeron, Dean John Ting, Goodrich/ISR Systems Vice President and General Manager Dick Wientzen, Human Resources Vice President Dan DeSantis, Future Engineers Center Executive Director Doug Prime and Chancellor Marty Meehan. Goodrich/ISR Systems designs and builds custom-engineered electro-optical systems for defense, scientific and commercial applications.

Tripathy Fellows Honored for Outstanding Research

UMass Lowell doctoral candidates Rahul Tyagi in the Chemistry Department and Rahul Panchal in the Plastics Engineering Department won the 2008 Tripathy Memorial Endowed Graduate Fellowship Awards in recognition of their academic accomplishments and multidisciplinary research in the areas of materials science and polymer science. Each award consisted of a $6,500 research stipend for the summer.

Tyagi’s research involves an environmentally benign approach to synthesizing polymeric materials used for delivering cancer drugs. Panchal is seeking a potential solution to the industrial problem of monitoring and measuring polymer shrinkage, which is one of the biggest concerns in the plastics injection-molding process. The work has resulted in the filing of an application for a provisional U.S. patent.

Now in its sixth year, the fellowship is given in memory of the late Sukant K. Tripathy, an internationally recognized leader and renowned researcher in materials science and the founding director of the Center for Advanced Materials. He was a professor of chemistry and also served as the University’s provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Colleges - Health

Doyle Named Interim Dean of the School of Health and Environment

Prof. Kathleen (Kay) Doyle has been named interim dean of the School of Health and Environment (SHE), succeeding Dr. David Wegman, who resigned as dean and plans to return to the faculty after a one-year sabbatical. A national search for a permanent dean is in progress.

Doyle has chaired the Department of Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences since 2004, and has directed the Medical Technology program since 1983. She has also been a visiting professor in biochemistry at the UMass Medical School and a research fellow in pathology at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. She received the National Scientific Research Award from the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Sciences in 1994 and in 1997 for her work on the pathological effects of alcohol.

Doyle is on the board of governors of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Registry, and is a recipient of its National Service Award. ASCP is the oldest, largest and most respected professional organization for laboratory medicine. Last year, Doyle was nominated to the ASCP Institute Advisory Committee, a “think tank” that helps the executive board set the organization’s agenda.

She also serves on the board of directors of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, is a corporator for Lowell General Hospital and is on the boards of advisors for the American Textile History Museum in Lowell and Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell. She received the UMass Lowell Francis Cabot Lowell Faculty Award for Outstanding Service and the Department Teaching Award in 2003.

As department chair, she has continued to teach Clinical Immunohematology (blood banking and transfusion medicine) and Human Biochemistry for undergraduates, as well as Advanced Pathophysiology in the graduate program. Doyle played a major role in planning and developing the intercampus, interdisciplinary Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology doctoral program.

She holds a B.S. in medical technology from UMass Amherst and an M.S. in biological sciences and a Ph.D. in chemistry/biochemistry from UMass Lowell.
Clinical Lab Sciences Celebrates 30th Anniversary

From its inception in 1978 to its recent 30th anniversary celebration, the Clinical Laboratory Sciences program has been growing and changing.

After launching as a medical technology program, degree options have expanded to include an undergraduate clinical sciences option, a master’s degree, a clinical pathology graduate certificate and the first graduate certificate for public health laboratory scientists in 2006.

This spring, the Board of Higher Education approved a bachelor’s degree in nutritional science.

“This has all been accomplished with a small, dedicated nucleus of faculty,” says Department Chair Kay Doyle.

The celebration included recognition of four founding faculty — Alease Bruce, Mike Frechette, Jay Lam and Ted Namm. “I wanted to thank these four faculty members for their devoted service and outstanding teaching,” Doyle told those assembled for the celebration. “It was their vision for our programs that helped make us what we are today.”

Doyle also recognized the contributions of Prof. Gene Rogers, graduate program coordinator, and Assoc. Prof. Tom Wilson, academic coordinator for the nutritional sciences program. Both Rogers and Wilson are program alumni. Professional technologists Donna Rogers and Nancy Grandbois were recognized with “Above and Beyond” awards for their outstanding service in Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

The celebration also included presentation of the first Clinical Laboratory Science Distinguished Alumni Award to Gerald Martone ’79. Martone, who received an honorary degree at the University Commencement in May, has had a remarkable career in international relief work. He is currently director of Humanitarian Affairs and U.N. Relations for the International Rescue Committee in New York.

Sleep Disorders Seen as Factor in Onset of Diabetes and Other Diseases

Nursing Prof. Geoff Phillips McEnany thinks sleep is pretty important. And he isn’t thinking about the kind of sleep that “knits up the ravelled sleeve of care.”

His concern is with the hidden and baleful effects of sleep disorders and dysregulation on major disease states such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity and cancer. Recent research points to the strong connection between disturbed sleep and the onset of many medical conditions such as those noted here.

“Though the science of somnology has burgeoned in the past fifteen years, the education of health providers about the co-morbidities associated with dysfunctional sleep is inadequate,” says McEnany, who conducts research and maintains a clinical practice with psychiatric patients.

Sleep is easily overlooked as a contributing factor to disease, because patients are rarely conscious of their own sleep disturbances. And, neither doctors nor nurses routinely inquire about sleep as part of a basic assessment and diagnosis.

McEnany has developed an educational program for nurses, funded initially by a $135,000 grant from Sepracor, about sleep and chronobiology. Working with UMass Lowell’s Continuing Studies and Corporate Education program, he designed a twelve-module online course that covers a full range of sleep issues, from the science of sleep to behavioral assessment and intervention. The course provides thirty-six accredited contact hours toward a certificate and is offered at no cost to the members of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association and the International Nursing Honor Society, Sigma Theta Tau.
UMass Lowell welcomed 2,352 new undergraduate students to campus this fall, a 20 percent increase over the fall '07 number and the largest group of incoming students in the school's history.

Incoming undergraduates included 1,528 freshmen and 824 transfers. Applications for fall '08 admission were higher for both freshmen (15 percent increase) and transfer students (13 percent), for a 14 percent overall jump over 2007 numbers.

Applications to graduate programs also increased slightly over last year, but enrollments were almost identical. This was offset by an overall enrollment increase in Continuing Studies and Corporate Education (CSCE) of more than 14 percent. Students in graduate programs can register for traditional classroom courses through the “dayschool” or for online courses through CSCE.

All together, according to preliminary reports, UMass Lowell’s fall enrollment numbers increased by more than 10 percent to 13,479 students.

Among all new students, there was a 27 percent increase in the number of applications from students of color, and a 39 percent increase in enrollments for this group.

“One interesting aspect of this fall’s numbers is that, in all categories, enrollments increased more than applications did,” says Kerri Mead, director of Undergraduate Admissions. “That indicates that students are increasingly seeing us as a school of choice rather than a backup.”

Overall, freshman academic numbers improved slightly. Students’ average high school GPA is 3.23, and their average SAT score is 1083.

This was the first fall for which the Proximity Program was in place. Proximity offers a reduced tuition to students from Southern New Hampshire towns located within twenty-five miles of the Lowell campus. This program brought in ninety-nine freshmen and transfers from qualifying areas.

Thomas Taylor, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success, identified a variety of factors that contributed to the increase in enrollments.

“The admissions office implemented some new strategies to interact more with prospective students, we had an award-winning viewbook to work with and the campus has enjoyed greater visibility recently, primarily because of the arrival of Chancellor Meehan.”

Taylor said they also focused on putting together more competitive financial aid packages for incoming students, and awarded merit-based scholarships earlier than previously, increasing their effectiveness as a recruitment tool.

There were also new scholarships to award, such as the $35,000 in grants from the Martin T. Meehan Scholarship funded by contributions made during the Chancellor’s inauguration.

Demand for University Housing Soars

This summer, UMass Lowell experienced the greatest demand for on-campus housing in its history, with a waitlist of four hundred undergrads. The increase is the result of four phenomena: more incoming students than ever before, a higher percentage of incoming students requesting housing, a higher number of returning residential students and requests for housing from one hundred former commuter students.

Solutions to the crunch included increasing the residence life space in Fox Hall, turning over a larger percentage of the East Meadow Lane apartments to undergraduates, housing fifty returning students in rental units located close to one another and housing two hundred forty students, including about sixty freshmen, at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua, N.H.

What started as a lease arrangement at the Radisson developed into a full-fledged residential community, with the hotel providing breakfasts and dinners seven days a week, the University providing transportation for the 9.5-mile ride to and from campus, and a full complement of Residence Life staff. Costs for UMass Lowell at the Radisson match those for on-campus housing and meals.

“We have asked for a lot of input from students to make sure the transportation schedule worked well, and that the food met students’ needs,” says Director of Residence Life James Kohl. “I think we’ve worked things out pretty well at this point.”

The Honors House at Eames Hall opened this fall, with one hundred fifteen students opting in to a living space that includes a faculty member in residence and a busy semester-long calendar of activities.

Robert Grantham, assistant professor of sociology, who resides in Eames, launched a movie and discussion series and has helped students organize an Honors House council and committees that include a speakers’ bureau and programming group.
Ensuring the success of undergraduate students, strengthening graduate programs and research, and “internationalizing” the UMass Lowell experience were among the top priorities articulated by Provost Ahmed Abdelal in a wide ranging interview concerning his plans for the University.

Abdelal became provost in mid May after serving in that same capacity at Northeastern University since 2002. As provost and chief academic officer at UMass Lowell, he oversees long-term planning, curriculum, instruction, research, outreach and assessment, libraries and academic services.

“There is considerable agreement that there are certain areas we need to concentrate on to further the success of UMass Lowell,” Abdelal said.

As part of the plan to achieve this success, he said his office would be reorganized to include three vice provosts — one each for undergraduate education, graduate education and research.

(Not long after Abdelal’s interview, Don Pierson was named vice provost for graduate education. Pierson, dean of the Graduate School of Education, had served as interim provost prior to Abdelal’s appointment. Several months later, Prof. Charlotte Mandell of the Psychology Department was appointed vice provost for undergraduate education.)

Abdelal said an internal search would be conducted for a vice provost for research — a position that would have increased responsibility for matters such as technology transfer, commercialization, and research relations with corporations. Until that search is completed, Partha Chowdry continues to serve as vice chancellor for research in an interim capacity.

“These vice provosts will work with the deans, faculty and other administrative units to see what they can do to advance the areas of their prime responsibility,” Abdelal said.

Addressing the welfare of undergraduate students, the provost said, “We want to see that they get the highest caliber of education, and to do this we must identify and eliminate any constraints that might appear to prevent this from happening.”

The best indicator of success, he said, is graduation rate — the number of students who enroll as freshmen and remain through graduation.

“We have already begun a number of efforts aimed at increasing retention and, if we do this every year, we ultimately will increase the number of students who graduate.”

To this end, he said, he had been working with Tom Taylor, dean of Enrollment and Student Success, and the academic deans to launch what he called a number of “academic learning communities” for first year students.

“The basic premise is that you register students based on their major or areas of interest. They will be registered in cohorts to two or three classes together so they can begin to connect with one another, and with a faculty mentor who can describe for them their area of interest and its possibilities. Half or two-thirds of the incoming freshmen in the fall will be in these learning communities.

(The learning communities were launched in the fall, and more than half of the 1,528 incoming freshmen were enrolled in the program.)

“In summary, I want us to do everything we can to enhance the graduation rate — through learning communities, through educational technology and through tutorials. Any time we find a course that has an unacceptable failure rate, we must look to see what kind of support is needed to help the students.”

In order to increase undergraduate enrollment, Abdelal said, deans and department chairs will have to help the admissions office recruit students.

“I also want to see us recruit more international students. They will be part of the diversity we want to nurture because of the different cultures they represent. We also want our students to go abroad.”
Six ‘Smart Classrooms’ Created in Dugan Hall This Year

The number of technically enhanced classrooms in the University grew by six this year with the introduction of a half dozen “smart classrooms” in Dugan Hall on UML South.

The six have been equipped with podiums, called “Smart Symposia,” that have DVD/ VCR, FC, document camera and laptop/PowerPoint/thumb drive capability. The instructor works from the podium’s computer screen which is operated by a mouse in four of the rooms and by touch-screen method in the other two.

The second-floor rooms also have been completely remodeled with new flooring, ceilings, newly painted walls and upgraded heating and air conditioning systems.

“I love the new classrooms,” says English Prof. Marlowe Miller. “I’m using Wikis (a collection of web pages that enables anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content) in all my classes. Every day we access the Wiki to keep class notes (no more chalkboards), view images and videos, and discuss posted material.”

The smart classrooms have been used this year by faculty from the English, Art and Nursing departments.

‘Green’ Initiative Includes Organically Fertilized Lawns

Thanks to the growth of a pilot program launched by UMass Lowell and a local organic lawn-care expert, chemicals are no longer in use on most of the lawns on campus.

The program, a cooperative effort of John Coppinger of The Green Guy in North Chelmsford and the UMass Lowell Office of Facilities, started on a pilot basis about four years ago. Since then, it has grown to include most of the grass surfaces at the University.

Facilities Director Tom Miliano says, “By producing fertilizer on campus using grass clippings and food waste that would normally be trucked to a landfill, we’re taking advantage of a cost-effective method of keeping our lawns healthy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the amount of waste entering landfills. The organic fertilizer program is an important part of Chancellor Meehan’s commitment to campus sustainability.”

As part of this sustainability initiative, a twenty-plus member “Green Team” has been appointed to develop a comprehensive recycling program. The team’s long-term goals include the creation of sustainable reuse and recycling programs, implementation of cost-saving waste management methods, establishment of environmentally sensitive purchasing procedures, and full engagement of the University community.

Green Team members represent virtually every facet of University life, including student affairs, dining, grounds maintenance, athletics, arts, public affairs, purchasing, facilities, residence life and students.

Rich Lemoine, assistant director of Environmental Health and Safety, says, “This is a very encouraging beginning.”

Asteroid Named in Recognition of UMass Lowell’s Scientific Achievements

The International Astronomical Union has christened minor planet No. 7806 as “Umasslowell” in recognition of the University’s academic and scientific achievements. The object, which circles the sun between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter and measures 2½ to 5½ miles across, was discovered on October 26, 1971 by Czech astronomer Lubos Kohoutek from Hamburg Observatory in Germany.

“This is truly a unique honor for UMass Lowell,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan. “We’re grateful to the international astronomical community for this special recognition.”

According to Dr. Brian G. Marsden, director of the IAU’s Minor Planet Center at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, of the nearly 14,700 names that had been given so far to asteroids, only about 300 have been bestowed to institutes, observatories and universities. Thus, UMass Lowell joins a small number of prestigious institutions of higher learning worldwide that have been honored in this manner. In the U.S., these include Princeton, UC Berkeley, Harvard, Brown, Caltech, MIT and Cornell.

The asteroid’s name was proposed by Edwin L. Aguirre, a former associate editor of Sky & Telescope magazine who is now the science and technology writer at UMass Lowell, and his wife, Imelda B. Joson, Sky & Telescope’s former photo editor.

This image of asteroid 7806 Umasslowell, circled, was captured on September 9 by astronomers Giovanni Sostero and Ernesto Guido in Remanzacco, Italy, using a remotely controlled 14-inch telescope and CCD camera in New South Wales, Australia.
Falcons Atop Fox Hall Take ‘Foster’ Chick Under Their Wings

Of the fourteen known breeding pairs of peregrine falcons in Massachusetts, one of them can be found residing atop UMass Lowell’s 18-story Fox Hall on the East Campus.

To help ensure the survival of these endangered raptors, the University’s Facilities Department, along with the state’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, provided a wooden nest box on the hall’s rooftop. In spring, state biologist Dr. Thomas French and his team discovered that eggs laid by the falcons had failed to hatch. They then quickly transferred a four-week-old chick from another pair in Lawrence to the UMass Lowell nesting site.

“This year, the Lawrence falcons hatched two eggs, both males, but one was much smaller than the other,” says French. “Since the larger chick was very aggressive about getting all the food, its small sibling wasn’t growing well. I believe the latter wouldn’t survive to fledge. When we found that the Lowell pair had cracked all of their eggs but were still taking care of them, I knew that they would willingly adopt the smaller chick from Lawrence. This was his only good chance to survive.”

The adopted chick did well and has moved out of the nest with its foster parents for the winter season. The Fisheries and Wildlife staff and the Facilities Department plan to make improvements to the nest box so that the Lowell falcons can successfully hatch their own eggs next year.

Desmarais Family Donates Historic House

The gift of an historic house across the street from Coburn Hall on the South Campus could provide a home for one of many University entities looking for more space.

The 103-year-old house was given to the University by Lowell native Paul Desmarais and his wife, Linda, as a tribute to Paul’s late aunt, Berthe Desmarais, a Lowell high school teacher who lived there most of her life. Fittingly, the life-long educator’s bedroom window overlooked Coburn Hall, the original home of the Normal School.

“We wanted to give the house to the University as a legacy for the family, and also to set an example to other people in the neighborhood,” says Desmarais. He was also reluctant to see the house sectioned into smaller apartment units, which may have happened if he sold it to a private developer.

He and his family now live near Pomona College in Claremont, Calif., where he sees similar houses used for college purposes, such as alumni association offices.

Chancellor Marty Meehan says he is grateful for the generosity of the Desmarais family, and hopeful that other families in the same situation also might think of the University.

“Paul and Linda’s gift is very welcome as we continue to build our new vision for this campus. Our urban setting gives us limited room to grow,” says Meehan. “We are in the middle of developing a master plan to address the many space needs on campus, and this property will be an important addition to the mix.”
High School Students Use Assistive Technology to Help the Disabled

One hundred seventy-four students from thirteen high schools, along with their teachers, advisers and friends, packed Costello Gym earlier this year for UMass Lowell’s sixth annual Assistive Technology Design Fair.

A project of the University’s Future Engineers Center, the Design Fair offers students an opportunity to tackle real-world engineering design problems aimed at helping people with disabilities or special needs.

This year’s Design Fair was sponsored by Tyco Electronics, Philips Medical Systems, Medtronic Foundation, 3M Touch Systems, and the Francis College of Engineering.

TEAMS Program Continues to Flourish, Expand

A new UMass Lowell program, barely a year old, designed to widen the scope of the region’s top high school students while at the same time expanding the University’s reach, is not only flourishing but looking to expand.

The fledgling TEAMS (Technology, Engineering and Math-Science) program, which since September has been busing thirty-two specially selected 11th- and 12th-grade students every morning from twelve local high schools to take part here in hands-on labs, is hoping to add as many as forty to that number and to widen its offerings for next year.

The funding for the 2007-08 program — a one-year $650,000 legislative apportionment sponsored chiefly by state Sen. Steven Panagiotakos — has been renewed and increased by close to a third, to $850,000, for the 2008-09 academic year.

The four morning courses offered to the students — environmental biotechnology, interactive robotics, bat engineering design, and assistive technology and electronics — will be on the schedule again this year, says TEAMS coordinator Donald Rhine. In addition, Rhine says, two more lab courses — in anatomy and nuclear energy — are being planned for the afternoons, assuming the funding is available.

The courses offered, taught by regional high school faculty and developed through a collaboration between them and UMass Lowell professors, are designed to supplement, rather than to replace, advanced high school courses. Their goal is to allow selected students to explore applied concepts they wouldn’t otherwise encounter until their college years.

Dracut High School sophomores Travis Martin, Sean Falsey and Brian Maille developed a modified wheelchair for their client, Matt, as part of this year’s Assistive Technology Design Fair.

This year saw several outstanding projects. One of them, called the “Lift Assist,” is a modified wheelchair designed by three Dracut High School sophomores for their client, Matt. In school, Matt was unable to fully participate in various activities due to the fixed height of his wheelchair. The Dracut students salvaged parts from old wheelchairs supplied by ambulance companies, sought the help of a vocational school for welding services, and petitioned their local fire department for additional funds to purchase an office chair.

“The high quality of the projects, in combination with the positive impact that they had on their clients, really highlighted the value of service-learning based projects,” says Marcus Soule, Design Fair program manager.

This year’s Design Fair was sponsored by Tyco Electronics, Philips Medical Systems, Medtronic Foundation, 3M Touch Systems, and the Francis College of Engineering.

Braunhut Named University Professor

Susan Braunhut of the Biological Sciences Department has been named University Professor in recognition of her esteemed teaching, research and service to the University.

Among her numerous accomplishments, Braunhut was recognized for her work with colleagues in developing techniques to detect cancers, and therapies to combat them. The research also included studying factors that control wound healing, which led to the development of the “smart” bandage. It is this research that led to her current work on the regeneration of limbs in mammals, a process that only a short time ago was thought to be impossible.

“I am greatly honored to receive the designation of University Professor,” says Braunhut. “It is a lifetime achievement and it has very personal significance for me. When I was a young graduate student at Columbia University in New York City, one of my key mentors, Dr. Sol Spiegelman, received the University Professorship. I remember thinking at that time how I aspired
to be like him and what a great scientist, teacher, humanitarian and intellectual he was. Being awarded this appointment links me in a way to one of my greatest advocates and mentors.”

The professorship runs through August 2011. As part of the designation, Braunhut receives an annual salary supplement of $10,000 and one course reduction for each semester. She also delivers a University-wide lecture during each year of the appointment.

**Grinstein Inducted into Athletics Hall of Fame**

Computer Science Prof. Georges Grinstein has been inducted by the Alumni Varsity Association of the City College of New York (CCNY) into its 2008 Athletics Hall of Fame.

A 1967 CCNY graduate, Grinstein was honored as the school’s lacrosse scoring leader, with 48 goals in his senior year. “Georges still holds the record and is the definition of a deserving Hall of Famer,” says Joshua Phillippe, the association’s program coordinator.

The Selection Committee nominated inductees based not only on their “outstanding athletic achievement as an undergraduate” but also on the “reflection of honor on the College by outstanding post-graduate success in athletics or related fields of endeavor.” Moreover, the qualities of the nominees were considered “with respect to character, sportsmanship and service to the College and to the community.”

Grinstein has been coaching for more than three decades, including high school basketball in New York City from 1967 to 1972, and soccer at Auburn University from 1976 to 1981.

**NASA Award Recognizes Reinisch for Space Project Work**

Prof. Bodo Reinisch, director of the Center for Atmospheric Research, has received a NASA award for his work on the Radio Plasma Imager (RPI). The instrument, designed to characterize plasma in Earth’s inner magnetosphere in the radio frequency range, was flown aboard the agency’s highly successful IMAGE spacecraft, which operated from 2000 to 2005.

Reinisch, the RPI’s principal investigator, and his team from NASA’s Goddard and Marshall Space Flight Centers, Rice University and Stanford University, were presented with a NASA Group Achievement Award at a ceremony in Greenbelt, Md. The group was cited “for pioneering advanced space-based radio sounding and scientific advances achieved through its innovative application to geospace science.”

IMAGE was launched in March 2000, with the UMass Lowell payload onboard. The spacecraft collected a wealth of scientific data until December 2005, when its telemetry signal suddenly stopped. An estimated sixty publications in refereed journals and books have used the RPI data. “UMass Lowell researchers at the Center continue to hold NASA grants for the ongoing analysis of the RPI data,” says Reinisch.
Jacqueline Moloney Named Woman of the Year

Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline F. Moloney has been named 2008 Woman of the Year by Girls Incorporated of Greater Lowell.

The award recognizes women who demonstrate exceptional leadership and commitment; who have a strong work ethic, moral character and great compassion; and who work with dedication to enhance the quality of life and effect change in the greater Lowell community.

“I’m touched and surprised. I didn’t expect it at all,” Moloney said.

Carol Duncan, Girls Inc. executive director, said Moloney was a fine choice for the award.

“Jacquie’s accomplishments — career, community service, wife, mother — speak for themselves. But what makes her extra special is the fact that she downplays her own leadership role and gives credit to others. Her selflessness, ability to engage others and make them part of her team is a key reason for her success,” Duncan said.

Moloney has been president of the House of Hope for two consecutive terms, co-chair of the Development Committee at Girls Incorporated of Greater Lowell and has served on various advisory boards, including Whistler House, Lowell General Hospital and Saints Memorial. She is currently the vice president of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, and has been responsible for establishing numerous scholarship endowments at the University.

In her early career she served as a professional for several non-profits including the Indo-Chinese Mutual Assistance Association and the Lowell Association for Retarded Citizens.

Memorial Endowment Honors Dick Barrett

Most scholarships are awarded before students arrive on campus, to help with the tuition and fees that are due before classes start. Scholarships awarded from the Richard Barrett Memorial Endowment, however, will be given throughout the year, to students who are in emergency financial situations and in danger of dropping out of school.

Family and friends agreed this was a fitting tribute to the late Dick Barrett, a 39-year employee of the University who retired as director of Financial Aid shortly before losing his battle with cancer last year. Barrett was well known for his deep commitment to helping students succeed, even if it meant bending a few rules.

“Dick was somebody who took to heart every student who walked through the door who had a problem,” said Chancellor Marty Meehan at a reception to raise funds for the endowment. “Now, whenever a student goes through an emergency, the Dick Barrett Scholarship will be there just as Dick was there, for thirty-nine years at this University, to make a difference to students who have something going on in their lives. At the end of the day, what a legacy. Dick will live on doing what he cared about most. Helping students.”

Meehan also announced that proceeds from the reception helped the endowment pass the $25,000 mark, ensuring Barrett’s generous spirit will continue to help students for years to come.

“He would be really very happy to know that this scholarship was coming about,” said Barrett’s widow, Joan. “And I like that, rather than going to one person, it will be given in little chunks here and there to someone who isn’t going to make it, to help them scoot along a little further down the road.”

To contribute to the Richard Barrett Memorial Endowment, contact Steve Rogers, major gifts officer, at 978-934-4803.
Worldwide, researchers are working on ways to delay the onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease, and to ameliorate its terrible effect on patients and their families.

A research team at UMass Lowell has reported encouraging gains in human clinical trials using a particular neuroprotective formulation: a combination of vitamins and nutriceuticals. Known on campus as the SmartPill, it will be marketed as “MemoryXL.”

Clinical trials were conducted with healthy, normal adults without dementia; with adults with early stage Alzheimer’s; and with adults in the late stages of the disease.

“We have delayed the progression of Alzheimer’s disease by two years so far,” says Prof. Thomas Shea of the Biological Sciences Department, who led the research team. “People with early stage Alzheimer’s showed actual improvement on four standard cognitive tests. Normal adults show 10 to 20 percent boost in memory and recall. People with late-stage Alzheimer's disease held ground for six months, with no adverse effects.”

The positive results match the performance of identical tests with the most common drugs currently used to treat Alzheimer’s. MemoryXL has been licensed by a Boston-based company, according to Shea, and the product will be available within several months. FDA approval is not required, nor is a prescription necessary.

Prof. Robert Nicolosi and Prof. Eugene Rogers, both of the Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences Department, contributed to the early stage development of this product. Nicolosi has conducted extensive research on nutritional supplements in mammals. Rogers investigated the role of folate in metabolic processes affecting neurons. Early research efforts were supported by institutional funding and by the Alzheimer’s Association, a national health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research.

The clinical trials were coordinated by Nursing Asst. Prof. Ruth Remington; Elizabeth Goodrow Kotyla, research associate with the Center for Health and Disease Research; BioMedical/BioTechnological doctoral candidate Amy Chan-Daniels; and by Dr. James Paskavitz, M.D., in association with the UMass Medical Center Dementia Clinic.

The Alzheimer’s Association has awarded Shea a $240,000, three-year grant for further study to investigate whether the formulation can delay the onset of Alzheimer’s.

---

**Baseball Research Lab Featured on Fox 25 News**

The contributions of UMass Lowell’s Baseball Research Center to the sport attracted a lot of media attention this year. In addition to being featured in a summer baseball exhibit at Boston’s Museum of Science and in a new Discovery Channel TV episode, which aired this fall, the lab’s work was spotlighted on a Fox 25 News broadcast.

The nearly three-minute-long segment showed Center Director James Sherwood and Assistant Director Patrick Drane explaining the lab’s facilities and test equipment, including the high-speed pneumatic cannons used to check the performance and durability of NCAA and Major League Baseball bats and balls. The program also demonstrated baseball/bat collisions using super slow-motion videography.
Countries around the world are preparing for the possibility of a flu pandemic, but vexing questions remain about how to prevent or reduce transmission of the virus from one person to another.

Prof. Donald Milton, M.D., of the Work Environment Department, is directing a series of studies about the fine-particle aerosols exhaled by influenza-infected subjects and the effectiveness of masks in reducing these aerosols. Patricia Fabian, a post-doctoral fellow, is lead investigator of the studies, which are funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP).

In preparing for pandemic flu, the CDCP wants to know whether the virus particles exhaled during normal breathing are more numerous and significant than during relatively infrequent coughing or sneezing. If so, airborne particles may be found to play a role in transmission.

The new study, published in the online journal PLoS ONE, reports on the concentration of influenza virus RNA—a marker for the virus—in the exhaled breath of people infected with flu. The study team was led by Milton, Fabian and James McDevitt, all in the Work Environment Department, along with colleagues from the Harvard School of Public Health, the University of Hong Kong and Queen Mary Hospital in Hong Kong.

Influenza virus RNA was detected in the exhaled breath of 33 percent of the subjects, patients who were tested at three clinics in Hong Kong. The patients exhibited flu symptoms, which was confirmed as influenza A or B virus by rapid test, and the onset of illness was within three days.

“Other studies will investigate whether the airborne virus actually results in transmission of the disease,” says Fabian. “Our research will evaluate the effectiveness of surgical masks in reducing fine-particle exhalations, if worn by flu patients.”

UMass Lowell Team Doctor Exports Care, New Techniques to Beijing

Scott Sigman fixes knees and shoulders. He does it for teenage athletes, arthritic seniors and middle-aged salesmen who burn out their joints in weekend tennis games. He has also done it for some patients who depend on their joints more than most: team members of the L.A. Dodgers and Lakers, the Anaheim Ducks, and — more recently — the UMass Lowell River Hawks.

And, starting this winter, he’ll be doing it for members of the U.S. Olympic ski jump team.

Sigman, the UMass Lowell team physician, is a nationally known orthopedic surgeon and specialist in sports medicine, with a practice at Lowell General Hospital. But for several days this past summer, he took his practice, and his knowledge, to the other side of the world.

In Beijing during the August Olympics, as part of a program underwritten by Olympic sponsor Johnson & Johnson, Dr. Sigman collaborated with a U.S. medical team that helped train forty-five of his Chinese counterparts in the intricacies — some would say even the basics — of Western-style orthopedic surgery.

The experience, he says, was “as amazing and revealing as probably anything I’ve done.”

The four-doctor American team, alternating between lectures and surgical demonstrations carried out on cadavers, were able to pass on techniques to their Chinese doctor-students that had been virtually unknown in the country before. Arthroscopic shoulder surgery especially, says Sigman, was almost never practiced. Only two doctors in the country, one each in Beijing and Shanghai, were skilled enough to perform it.

“It was absolutely incredible. They had almost no concept of it at all. Only five hundred [shoulder surgeries] done in China all of last year — and that’s in a country with more than a billion people.”

Even more remarkable: none of the doctors the American team trained had ever worked on cadavers before. Their only opportunity for training or experimentation, says Sigman, came on live patients.

“I’d expected that we’d be able to help, that there would be things they didn’t know, things that we could teach them — but I had no idea, no idea at all, what a really profound difference we’d be able to make.”

If all goes as planned, a second China trip is on the horizon. This one, scheduled for the spring of 2009, with many of the same doctor-students, will feature live surgery. That, Sigman says, will bring the process full-circle.

“We’re creating world peace and harmony, one knee and shoulder at a time,” he joked to a reporter last summer before leaving for Beijing. By the time he returned, he had a far keener sense of the truth, and value, of that message.

“We had the chance to do something really important, to make a real difference for people. You don’t get that chance every day.”
The city of Lawrence has had a turbulent half-century. Once, like Lowell, among the nation’s model industrial cities, its mills the core of a burgeoning economy, it began a slow decline in the 1950s — as industry itself declined — that would leave it, by the end of the century, among the poorest in New England.

In demographers’ terms, it is a “third-tier city,” a community of fewer than 100,000 with high poverty, a shrinking economic base and a dwindling core of skilled workers. Like many such cities, it has attracted a large base of immigrants, most of them unskilled. Of the 12,000 students who attended its public schools two years ago, 85 percent were Hispanic; barely one in five spoke English as a first language.

Education, until not long ago, was a travesty. Fewer than half of the city’s high-school students were graduating on time (the state-wide average was just under eighty percent), test scores were near the bottom of the scale; through the decade of the nineties, four school superintendents came and went inside six years. Eleven years ago, the city’s public schools lost their accreditation. A year after that, the state took over the schools.

In 2000, yet another superintendent was hired, a man named Wilfredo T. Laboy. Laboy, who had come from Brooklyn, N.Y., where he had been deputy superintendent of schools, came close to not taking the job.

“My first thought,” he remembers today, “when I first saw what I saw in Lawrence, was to go back home immediately, to just get right out of there. It was wrenching, heart-breaking, to see a city’s schools in such shape.”

But he didn’t go home — and he wouldn’t. Instead, he began cleaning house. Principal after principal was reassigned; others were “asked to retire.” When he was done with the administration, he turned his attention to the schools. The largest of these by far, and therefore the most cumbersome and impersonal, was the city’s high school, which was attempting to serve roughly three thousand students at the time. And it was decrepit. Like some of the principals, it needed to be replaced.

It has been the replacement of Lawrence High School — which wasn’t a replacement at all, but an across-the-board transformation — that has most defined not only the tenure of Wilfred Laboy, but the tone and quality of education in that city and the region. It has also transformed

Assembled with a group of students and graduates of the Lawrence Leadership in Education Program are, front row from left, Dr. Hector N. Torres, program coordinator; Donald Pierson, associate provost of UMass Lowell; Dr. Wilfredo T. LaBoy, superintendent of Lawrence Public Schools; Asst. Prof. Charles Christensen of the UMass Lowell Graduate School of Education; and Sal Petralia, director of Human Resources for the Lawrence Public Schools.
the traditional relationship between school and University, and — just possibly — created a brand new model for secondary education itself.

The roots of all this were in a partnership that existed already. The College Prep program, a seven-week summer intensive for Lawrence High School students, run by the University’s Graduate School of Education and co-funded by the state, had been in place since 1985. Four days a week for the duration of the program, students in grades seven through twelve were welcomed at the UMass Lowell campus, where they attended enrichment classes, career development workshops and educational courses and activities.

Roughly a hundred and fifty LHS students, at all achievement levels, had participated each summer. Faculty worked with them and with their parents, navigated them through the SAT process, and generally tracked their progress until they reached college — many of them, ultimately, accepted at UMass Lowell.

“College Prep was an ideal partnership,” says Dr. Hector Torres, the University’s liaison to the Lawrence Schools. “It benefited the faculty who taught them, and it attracted qualified people to the University. It was also the anchor for the larger partnership between the two schools.”

The “larger partnership,” like a lot of good things in life, owes at least something to timing. In late 2000, not long after Wilfredo Laboy had come on board in Lawrence, he met Hector Torres at a conference in Boston. The two men talked; a friendship was formed. And as it became clear that the city’s high school would need to be replaced — and that, at least in Laboy’s mind, the replacement should be transformative — it was to Torres that he turned.

“He told me what he was thinking, then he asked me, ‘How can we build on this partnership? How can the University help to make this happen?’” remembers Torres today. “So I made some calls, and we got people together — the Chancellor, the provost, the deans — and we sat down and we talked.”

And as the talks progressed, and Laboy’s dream began to take shape around the table — of several smaller schools, each one thematically distinct, to replace the larger one — two things became clear to everyone there: that this was something truly different; and that success, if there were to be success, was going to depend on a strong and equal partnership.

“The way these sorts of things typically work,” says Dr. Judith Boccia, who was a key part of the process from the start, “is for the University to come in and try to ‘fix’ the school — that’s been the attitude, that’s usually the model. But it’s been nothing like that here. This partnership was founded on reciprocal respect and trust. It’s been mutual right from the beginning.”

Other meetings followed the first one. Ideas were exchanged, challenged, revised and revised again. Lawrence teachers were brought into the process; the deans went back to the colleges and recruited faculty. And by the time it all was over, a model had emerged.

In the place of the old high school, there would be six smaller, interconnected new ones, each one self-contained and each devoted to a separate theme or discipline. The names would reflect the themes — Math, Science and Technology; Humanities and Leadership Development; Health and Human Services; Performing and Fine Arts; and Business and Entrepreneurship; and Information Sciences and Technology.

By Geoffrey Douglas
Arts; International Studies; and Business, Finance and Management — which would be roughly parallel to the line-up of colleges open to students at UMass Lowell.

All six schools would share a core curriculum, which would diverge increasingly from tenth through twelfth grades. (In ninth grade it would be the same for all schools.) All six would share a common dining room, basketball court and sports fields, but would otherwise be separate. Where before there had been a single school shared by more than 3,000 students, the new model would serve six student bodies of roughly 500 each.

Construction began in 2002. Five years later, on October 28 of last year, with school and University officials looking on — Chancellor Meehan was among the main speakers — the ribbon was cut on the new Lawrence High.

It had been, and would remain, a collaborative venture. A UMass Lowell office was set up at the school, giving the University a constant presence on campus. UMass Lowell and LHS faculty widened their collaboration on curriculum. Research and grant-writing also now became collaborative, working to the benefit of both schools.

“The transformation was total,” says Wilfredo Laboy. “From a large, comprehensive school with thousands of students — the model of the past — to a collection of small schools, designed to suit the needs — personally, individually — of the students…

“And it was a natural fit for the University, a way to help create students who are college-ready, not just college-eligible, who will have the skills they’ll need for the 21st century. It’s a model, I think, for the next wave of high schools in this country.”

As time has passed, the partnership between the two institutions has taken on new dimensions. While most involve direct outreach to the students, others, aimed as much at the faculty or community, are designed more to strengthen the institutions themselves or build leadership for the future.

“And it was a natural fit for the University, a way to help create students who are college-ready, not just college-eligible, who will have the skills they’ll need for the 21st century.

— Wilfred Laboy

One measure that addresses both of these goals is the dual enrollment program. This option, open to LHS juniors and seniors who meet a grade-point minimum and are recommended by faculty, allows UMass Lowell faculty to teach courses at the high school, and the students who take them to earn credit at both schools — giving the students a head-start on their college career, while also building enrollment for the University.

“This is a tremendously valuable program,” says Judy Boccia, who played a big role in its creation. “For the students, most of them from families who have never sent anyone to college before, it offers the experience of success in a college environment — in addition to the credit. And the faculty, for their part, gain a keener understanding of what a first-generation student is up against. So everyone learns something. Everyone comes out of it better.”

Another creation of the partnership, this one clearly designed with the future in mind, is the Leadership in Education Advancement Program, or LinEAP, designed to build a core group of principals and administrators to staff the new schools into the next decade and beyond. LinEAP, funded through the Lawrence superintendent’s office with staffing and support from both the district and the University’s Graduate School of Education, offers a UMass Lowell master’s degree in education to teachers from Lawrence who are willing to commit to at least three years of service following their graduation, as principals, assistant principals or supervisors, in the city’s public schools. Roughly forty such students have come through the program so far.

“It’s the whole idea of ‘giving back,’” says Don Pierson — who was dean of the Graduate School of Education at the time — of the LHS transformation, in which he played a leading role.

“The expectation is that the Lawrence students who [attend here] will go back to Lawrence when they’ve finished, and work for the benefit of the city. It’s one way of holding on to the gains we’ve made, of building for the future — a key part of the whole program, I think.”

The partnership continues to spawn new initiatives. Last spring, alumnus Henry J. Powell heard about the partnership and decided to endow a new scholarship for LHS graduates who are accepted to UML. Two 2008 LHS graduates, Hector Guerrero and Jennifer Franco, are the first recipients of the Powell Scholarship. Each received a $5,000 scholarship to help defray their UMass Lowell first-year tuitions.

“Don’t miss this opportunity to get an education,” Powell told the two in making the award. “Give it your all, study...
and work hard and get your degree. You will never regret it.”

Other funding has come from other sources. A $1 million National Institutes of Health grant will enable scholarships for Lawrence students seeking graduate degrees from UMass Lowell in nursing; another grant, this one from Motorola, brings UMass Lowell graduate students to Lawrence High to do classroom experiments in physics. A weather station on the roof of the high school’s Math and Science Building was co-assembled by students from both schools.

“The partnership is taking place on multiple levels — social, educational, financial — each group is contributing what it can,” says Judy Boccia. “And the better it works, the easier it is to secure funding for the next project, because you’ve got a track record that’s showing good results. It’s an exciting thing to be part of.”

“I can only see it growing,” says former education dean — and now vice provost for Graduate Education — Don Pierson. “I see increasing connections between our students and theirs, as well as between faculty and students.”

But the even bigger connection, he says, and the most important one, “is the bridge we build between the high school and college experience. That’s the one that, in the end, is going to prove the most beneficial to the largest number of people — high school and University, students and faculty. That’s the real value of what we’re doing here.”

Grants in Nursing, Workplace Safety Round Out City-University Partnership

There are many dimensions to the partnership UMass Lowell shares with the city of Lawrence. One of these — at least as important as the high-school-to-college bridge the two have created — is the two-way street that has opened in the area of grants and funding.

Two recent federal grants, totaling close to $4 million, are especially notable. The first of these, for $2.7 million from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), will enable a new program to prevent workplace injuries among Hispanic workers in Lawrence. The program, Protección en Construcción: Lawrence Latino Safety Partnership, is a shared initiative among the University, the city of Lawrence, the JSI Research and Training Institute of Boston and the six-hundred-member Laborers Local 175.

Lenore Azaroff of the Department of Work Environment, who was among those who spoke for the University in accepting the award, noted that workplace accidents, especially falls, are disproportionately common among Hispanic workers — more than nine hundred of whom died last year in such accidents in the U.S.

“The results of falls are tragic,” Azaroff said. “This award will address the human suffering.”

“It’s great that NIOSH recognized the issue and chose to fund the terrific partnership that has developed between...the city of Lawrence and UMass Lowell,” said June Black, regional coordinator for U.S. Representative Niki Tsongas.

A second pair of grants, totaling more than $1 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, will fund a three-year initiative to recruit, train and graduate minority and economically disadvantaged nursing students, as well as to educate a more diverse workforce.

The outreach will take place in urban areas, particularly Lowell and Lawrence, with workshops, career fairs and other activities for participating schools and organizations. The idea, say program planners, is to enhance diversity throughout the University’s nursing program by involving faculty and students widely in the outreach activities.

“The patient population is becoming more ethnically diverse every day,” says Nursing Prof. Karen Devereaux Melillo, who led the team that secured the grant funding. “Our goal is to increase the diversity of professional nurses.”

One way to achieve this, partly enabled by the grant, is to offer scholarship funds to minority nursing students, as well as access to academic support and counseling.

“We are reaching out to students who would have to supplement with outside work,” says Melillo. “This is a major factor in retention, as many of our students are struggling with too many hours of employment as they work to complete a rigorous and demanding academic program.”
“Phenomenal.”

They both use the word “phenomenal” when they talk about the University’s Continuing Studies program.

In 2001, when she was dean of Continuing Studies and Corporate Education and the program was in its infancy, Jacqui Moloney said, “The growth has been phenomenal. Three years ago we offered three courses. Now we have sixty. We started with one hundred students. In the 1999-2000 school year we had 2,500 and this year we expect to double that number.”

That was seven years ago.

This fall, Cathy Kendrick, executive director of Distance Market Development and Corporate Outreach, says, “We’ve had continuous, phenomenal growth since we started in 1996.”

Since “phenomenal” means extraordinary or remarkable, it’s an apt description of a continuing studies program that has grown to some 20,000 enrollments and whose revenue has reached $21 million in only a dozen years.

When the program was launched in 1996, then Chancellor William T. Hogan said the University was entering that arena because “we can’t afford not to. Distance learning is the wave of the future.” That statement was prophetic.

The greatest driving force behind Continuing Studies’ growth has been online learning — a program in which students can take courses from home or anywhere else; and instructors can conduct classes from any location. Online enrollment already has topped 12,000.

Moloney, who continues to oversee the program in her new role as executive vice chancellor, says the online portion accounts for 65 percent of both enrollment and revenue for all of Continuing Studies.

Seventy-five percent of the University’s online students live in Massachusetts. The rest are everywhere else. They come from forty states and the District of Columbia, and seven countries on four continents – North and South America, Europe and Asia.
The Sloan Consortium, a grouping of institutions and organizations committed to quality online education, said in a recent report that nearly 3.5 million students were taking at least one online course. The online growth rate of 9.7 percent, the report said, “far exceeds the 1.5 percent growth of the overall higher education student population.”

“It’s amazing if you go back and look at our program,” says Cathy Kendrick, “how the growth has been sustained. A lot of factors go into it. For instance, there are so many working professionals today trying to juggle work and family responsibilities.

“The only way that a lot of them can continue their education is really through the online format. It’s extremely convenient. And from the outset we made the decision that quality had to be paramount.”

But, while quality is paramount, serious consideration also has to be devoted to offering the right courses.

“We have always tried to pick programs that we feel are marketable,” says Kendrick. “Before we put one online, we determine whether there’s a niche for it.”

While the online program has been hugely successful, there still are challenges to be met. One is what Jacquie Moloney calls “scaling” — managing its growth. There is a constant need to train new faculty, develop new courses and expand the technology to serve students throughout New England and around the world.

One important development is an innovation called “blended learning” — courses in which students do most of the work online but also come to the campus, perhaps once a month, to participate in the classroom with the instructor and their peers.

“The beauty of this program is that the students don’t have to come to class every week,” says Cathy Kendrick. “With blended learning people might be willing to travel longer distances to the campus if they had to do it only, say, once a month.

“It’s all about customizing and developing new products that can meet the needs of different audiences.”

The department is finding blended learning especially effective in programs that serve the healthcare industry, including a new one in which registered nurses can work toward bachelor of science degrees.

And, perhaps equally important in these times of growing fiscal restraints, online programs could one day help the University deal with the problem of how to accommodate a growing student population while classroom space is at a premium.

First of all, though, Moloney says, “The biggest challenge is growing so quickly in such a cutting-edge world. It’s a big job to develop an online course. We often take a year to develop one, thinking it through, working with the faculty. The faculty members are very smart and they’re committed to making the courses effective.”

Continuing Studies has four faculty developers dedicated to helping faculty migrate their courses online. They provide a six-week online training program that includes both pedagogy and technology.

Cathy Kendrick says these developers “help faculty rethink how they will teach their courses online, how they’ll engage students, and how they can make their courses more interactive.”

The faculty developers also are available throughout the semester to help troubleshoot problems and answer any questions the faculty may have.

There also are faculty coordinators, which Pauline Carroll, executive director of Academic Services, Enrollment Management and Administration, says serve as liaisons to the day school colleges. Their responsibility, she says, is to ensure academic quality and make certain that the Continuing Studies online classes are equivalent to those taught on campus.

Both Carroll and Kendrick report to Jacquie Moloney.

Sometimes the first thing to do is convince a faculty member that he or she actually does need training.

Moloney says, “One of the biggest challenges is often convincing the faculty that they still do need training. When we first started out in the late
'90s, the web was new and few considered themselves proficient in the use of computers. Now a lot of faculty assume that because they know how to send e-mail and use Google, that they will be able to teach online. Once they engage in the training, they realize there are entirely new pedagogies and technologies that they have to learn to be effective in the online world.”

Then, too, there are faculty who are still reluctant to enter the world of online teaching, especially if they’re invested in interacting face to face with their students in the classroom. This is especially true in graduate programs where faculty believe the graduate students benefit from the face-to-face experience.

“In the past four years,” says Moloney, “our biggest growth has been in the graduate program. However, the graduate faculty were reluctant to give up their face-to-face classroom time. They didn’t want to sacrifice the rich dialogue and networking opportunities that are an important part of the graduate experience, and I can completely understand and appreciate that. But it’s not the nature of life today that you can attend class every week at a certain time and place.”

That is why Moloney applied for and recently received a $650,000 Sloan Foundation grant to test the blended approach to teaching courses in the health management and health professions fields. These programs include a master’s degree in health management and policy, and three graduate certificate programs in health informatics, health management and health policy.

Moloney says, “We worked collaboratively across the UMass system to develop a whole suite of blended health care programs. We know that these students need some interaction with patients, they need laboratory experience and they need classroom instruction. These are local needs and we’re responding to them with these blended courses that enable students to have the best of both worlds — a rich mix of face-to-face experiences and online learning. We’re really meeting the needs of healthcare professionals who can’t get to campus once or twice a week.”

Charmaine Hickey, director of the Faculty Center and Co-PI on the grant, says, “The program has been very successful and has tripled enrollment in several programs. The students and faculty have enjoyed working in this new environment.”

As part of the grant, the University is working with Winchester Hospital, Lowell General and Yankee Alliance, a healthcare collaborative that deals with a number of hospitals and healthcare organizations.

“A grant from the pharmaceutical company Sepracor is funding development of an online course in sleep and chronobiology for psychiatric nurses. Prof. Geoffrey McEnany of the Nursing Department received the grant and has partnered with Continuing Studies to develop the program, which consists of twelve modules of self-paced training.

The self-paced feature was important because it allowed Continuing Studies to scale the program to serve more than twenty-five hundred nurses in a short period of time.

In summary, Moloney says, “I feel that online education has transformed
University Wins ‘Prestigious’ Sloan Award for Autism Program

The UMass Lowell online program in behavioral intervention in autism has won a Sloan Consortium award “for creating a rigorous, high-quality online graduate program that meets the growing need for individuals with expertise in dealing with the challenges of autism.”

The Most Outstanding Online Teaching and Learning Program award represents a joint effort that includes the UMass Lowell Psychology Department, the Shriver Center at the UMass Medical School in Worcester and UMass Online.

Cathy Kendrick, executive director of Distance Market Development and Corporate Outreach, describes the national honor as “a very competitive and prestigious award.”

It was also the fourth one bestowed on the program in the last three years. The other three were for Excellence in Online Teaching, Excellence in Institution-Wide Online Teaching and Learning Programming, and Excellence in Faculty Development for Online Teaching.

Prof. Charlotte Mandell says, “This program is one of the very few in the country available entirely online for individuals interested in expanding their knowledge of this developmental disorder. With a critical shortage of skilled early intervention professionals in the United States, UMass Lowell’s program is meeting the growing demand for specialists in this field.”

Mandell is coordinator of an online program leading to board certification as Behavior Analyst.

Enrollment in the program, which attracts students from around the world, has more than quadrupled since it was established in 2005.

In connection with this program, UMass Lowell Psychology Prof. Richard Siegel has received an Outstanding Faculty Award in Continuing Education for the regional division of the University Continuing Education Association. Siegel is coordinator of the autism program for UMass Lowell.

According to Pauline Carroll, executive director of Academic Services, Enrollment Management and Administration, “The University’s program provides professionals in psychology, education, child care, speech and language disorders, mental health and human services with an understanding of autism and related developmental disorders. It also provides an introduction to behavioral methods and how and where they can be used and evaluated.

“The online bachelor’s degree in psychology is one of UMass Lowell’s most popular degree programs for students interested in the social sciences.”
Students Praise Online’s Convenience, Flexibility and Career Enhancement

Thousands of people, young adults and older professional learners, enjoy the benefits of UMass Lowell’s Continuing Studies program and, in particular, its wide range of offerings available online. The program enables students to earn degrees or certificates in courses ranging from accounting to a master’s degree in health management and policy.

Cathy Spinney in Massachusetts, Nate Morris in Montana and Seth Friedman in Connecticut are three professionals who have high praise for the quality and convenience of the University’s online learning program.

Cathy Spinney, senior vice president for Business Development with Yankee Alliance, describes her positive experience with the online/classroom blended learning curriculum.

“When I first enrolled in the Health Management graduate program it was your traditional classroom program and I attended each week for three hours,” she says. “It was a great opportunity to build relationships with other students and get to know the professors.

“But travel is a big part of my job and I was only able to take one course each semester. When the program evolved into the blended format, including Saturday sessions, it gave me the ability to take two classes a semester, thus shaving two years off the time it took me to complete the course.

“The blended model offers flexibility, because you can be in any city and attend the online sessions, and face-to-face sessions where you can meet and network with other students and the professors. The faculty in the program are accessible and flexible, and they ensure that each student has all the necessary tools to succeed in the program.”

Nate Morris, a senior systems analyst with General Dynamics in Helena, Mont., says, “I discovered UMass Lowell’s distance learning program by carrying out my own methodical internet search in 2002. I was specifically looking for an online degree program that would allow me to transfer credits from several other colleges, finish the degree entirely online, not require any kind of on-campus residency program (even for a week or two a year), was fully accredited by one of the major accrediting institutions, was backed up by a traditional brick-and-mortar college, and could help me apply for my GI Bill benefits. The University’s program fit those needs to a T, and I incredibly had found only one other college that did as well, but they were twice the cost. Hence, I chose UML.

“I take the online classes because I live in Montana and my choice of colleges and degrees is seriously limited. I also travel a fair amount of time for my job and not having mandatory classroom attendance lets me work on my course work when I have the time — weekends, evenings, lunch breaks. This has worked out very well. If something comes up one week, I can put my class ‘on hold’ and catch up the following week. This has come in handy in nearly every class I’ve taken over the last five years. I’ve also moved once during classes and I was able to work around such a disruption and keep up with my class work.

“I will graduate in December (2008) with a B.S. in information technology, and having this degree (compared to a computer science degree) is paramount to me because it is more in line with my career. Were it not for UMass Lowell, I would have had to settle for a degree not in line with my career, and would have had to transfer, yet again, to another college when I moved three years ago.

“Since starting my degree with UMass Lowell, I’ve never considered researching other colleges or transferring. Lowell is the perfect choice for starting and completing a degree online.”

Seth Friedman, who works out of his Danbury, Conn., home as a consultant for a large midwestern insurance company, took a dozen online courses to complete his bachelor of arts degree in December 2007.

He says he has enjoyed a successful career in financial services for more than twenty years, adding, “My motivation to pursue a degree was more about a sense of unfinished business from undergraduate years than any other reason.

“Getting a degree was more of a personal quest than about some sense of getting to the next level professionally. At the same time, there’s no question but that it helps.”

He chose UMass Lowell, he says, because he liked the fact that it had the Massachusetts brand name behind it, while a lot of other online degree programs were “of dubious quality.”

The twelve online courses he took were “the best education experience of my entire college career,” he says. “I learned more than I ever did in my undergraduate years. The basis was about knowledge, not just about testing ability in a very narrow way. The emphasis was on writing, and if you can express yourself in a written format, you can often display a greater and deeper knowledge than if you simply took a test.”
Successful Fundraising Year Shatters Goals

UMass Lowell enjoyed a highly successful fundraising year, raising a record amount for scholarships and surpassing its endowment goal.

The campaign to double the University’s endowment, which began four years ago, met its goal a full year earlier than expected. As a result of these efforts, the University has doubled the number of individual endowment funds – from 120 to 250. These funds now generate $1 million each year in scholarship, research and department support.

“The campus community — alumni, friends, faculty and staff — should be proud of these accomplishments,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan. “Today's students are benefiting now, and tomorrow’s students will continue to benefit, from the many scholarship and discretionary funds created over the past four years.

“Scholarships are often the difference in whether our bright, hard-working students can afford a UMass Lowell education. Some students miss out on the full educational experience because they are forced to work full time to pay the bills.”

Fiscal year 2008, which ended on June 30, saw the fruits of Chancellor Meehan’s emphasis on private fundraising efforts. His own inauguration in April raised $1 million for several endowment funds, including the Chancellor Martin T. Meehan Educational Excellence Fund and the Music Scholarship Fund.

Other highlights of the year included two $1 million gifts for professorships in green plastics, a gift from the Greeley Foundation that now funds the University’s first peace scholar, and a wildly successful fundraising event for the Honors Program that raised $117,000, breaking a record for the most money raised from a single campus event.

Faculty and Staff Support Soars

The number of faculty and staff giving back to UMass Lowell increased 75 percent in 2008, as those who know the University best demonstrated their support for the campus’s bold new vision.

Almost 500 faculty and staff donated $371,172 for the fiscal year that ended June 30, including those who gave to the chancellor’s inauguration, the Honors Fellow Endowment and the Richard Barrett Memorial Endowment, which honors the late financial aid director.

“When people give back to the organization that they work for, it’s a clear endorsement of what they see happening day to day,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan. “The University benefits from the hard work of our faculty and staff, and also their extra commitment to keeping quality education accessible to our students.”

A great deal of faculty and staff giving supports scholarships. More than 200 people bought tickets to the concert and reception held the evening before Chancellor Meehan’s inauguration. During the week of inauguration activities, the University raised $1 million for music scholarships and the Chancellor Martin T. Meehan Educational Excellence Fund. The Honors Fellows Fundraiser, which supports scholarships for honors students, also attracted strong faculty and staff support.
More than 400 people gathered at the Campus Recreation Center to celebrate 50 years of management education at UMass Lowell.
University that prided itself on its strong engineering and technology curriculum," said Chancellor Marty Meehan, noting there have been more than 13,000 management graduates since then, and that they represented about one-fifth of UMass Lowell's 2008 graduating class.

Also speaking were Kathy Carter, dean of the College of Management, and UMass President Jack Wilson.

Anniversary sponsors who donated more than $100,000 included:

- Kathleen B. Allen '77, former chief financial officer of Millipore Corp.;
- Mark V. Forziani '78, retired managing director of Tudor Investments in Boston;
- Richard L. Grande '72, senior vice president at Morgan Stanley in Boston;
- John F. Kennedy '70, president and CEO of Nova Analytics Corp. in Woburn;
- Robert J. Manning '84; Gary M. Mucica '71 visiting professor and director of the College of Management's graduate programs; and Bernard Shapiro '56, professor emeritus.

Stuart Mandell, right, who founded the management program at Lowell Tech fifty years ago, shakes Chancellor Marty Meehan's hand at the College of Management's 50th Anniversary celebration. With them are keynote speaker Robert Manning '84, center, and Gary Mucica '71.

Additional photos from the event on the following pages.
Leadership donors were honored at the event, which raised $1 million for management education. From left, Dean Kathy Carter, Stuart Mandell, Richard Grande '72, Kathleen B. Allen '77, Mark V. Forziati '78 and Gary M. Mucica '71.

Guests enjoyed socializing and networking before the program.

Dean Kathy Carter, UMass President Jack Wilson and Chancellor Marty Meehan present keynote speaker Robert Manning ’84 with an image of Southwick Hall.

From left, Dean Kathy Carter, UMass President Jack M. Wilson, Chancellor Marty Meehan, Donna ’84 and Robert Manning ’84, Yana and Bernie Shapiro ’56.

Carol Tran ’05, Ali Chrisehty, James Sullivan, Joe Finch ’04 and Marcus Edward ’06 joined the celebration.

Carl Famiglietti, Cheryl Andronico, Trish Famiglietti and Will Andronico ’89 enjoy the evening.

Feature Story
Some current and retired faculty members from the management program enjoyed talking to former students at the management celebration. From left, Santo Pullara, Russ Karl, Al Cederlund, Charles Feeney, Stuart Mandell, Irwin Shapiro, Bill Burke and Chuck Thompson.

College of Management Dean Kathy Carter presents a bouquet to Ada Mandell at the Management 50th celebration.

From left, Profs. Stefanie Tate and Sherre Strickland join with Onelis Martinez, Annalisa Donati ’08, Jo Ann Tamilio ’01 and Clementina Lucci ’01 at the management event.

From left, Linda Carpenter ’89, Larry Ardito ’69, and James and Rosanne ’81 Toscano.

Management program founder Stu Mandell, second from left, with, from left, three members of the Class of 1962, James Edward McCormack, G. Russell Knibbs and Peter Mitsakos.

Guests enjoyed the networking reception before the dinner and speaking program.
When he enrolled at Lowell Tech in the fall of 1968, Richard Grande, probably like most of his fellow freshmen, didn’t have any clear notion of what he might want to do with his life. His father was an MIT engineer; one of young Richard’s earliest memories, as a 7- or 8-year old, was watching the first Honeywell D-1000 computer, which his father had helped build, being unveiled from behind a giant auditorium curtain (“It was immense,” he remembers, “about thirty feet long, with these big vacuum tubes coming out of it”). So it may not have surprised anyone too much when his early LTI course choices showed a bent for engineering.

But those choices were remade within a year or so — and then remade again several times. The engineering course-track morphed into a major in industrial engineering, in which he would earn his 1972 degree. Then, not long after, he began thinking he could see himself as a dentist — until his father’s blunt judgment put an end to that. (“He told me, ‘You’d be the worst dentist in the world. You have no patience, you pay no attention to detail — believe me, that’s not the job for you.’ And I thought about it and thought about it, and eventually came to the conclusion that he was probably right.”)

He had grown up in Concord in the fifties and early sixties, one of six siblings in a home where frugality was a serious virtue. He had chosen Lowell Tech, he says, because “it was the only place I knew where you could get that great an education for $200 a semester.” So he knew the value of a dollar. And he knew, long before college was over, that the world wouldn’t wait long on his choice of a career.

In 1973, he was married — which raised the stakes even higher. So, needing an income but still not certain where he saw himself long-term, he embarked on what would turn out to be a rocky short-term career: he refers to it today as “playing around with real estate.” This got so dicey that, at one point — with nothing coming in and all the wedding money invested in properties — he had to borrow from a friend to meet his new wife’s $200 tuition payment. At the lowest stage of things, he remembers: “I was down to my last quarter, literally my last twenty-five cents. There’s not much that’ll put things in perspective quicker than that.”

Somewhere along the line, he says, between all the false starts and close calls — probably in large measure because of them — he had stumbled on an understanding of at least one thing he enjoyed, and that might bring meaning to his life: “Making money grow. It just really appeals to me. I mean, think about it — everybody wants it, nobody wants to be without it, it’s never going to get obsolete. I think I needed a simple concept, and that’s as simple as it gets: taking care of
money, finding ways to make it grow. Once I saw that, and thought it through, I knew it was what I wanted to do.”

With that piece in place, the rest was almost seamless. In 1975, three years after his LTI graduation, he took his first career job, for Kidder-Peabody in Boston, where he would manage portfolios, run the options desk, and become very good indeed at making money grow — and by the end of his time there, training others to do the same. He would stay there twenty-two years, the last sixteen as partner, before leaving in 1997 to go to Banc of America Securities, Bank of America’s investment banking subsidiary, where he would serve the next six years as managing director.

Five years ago, in 2003, he made the move to where we find him today: at Morgan Stanley in Boston, where, as senior vice president in the firm’s Global Securities business, he manages the financial portfolios of high net-worth ($2 million-plus) individuals. It’s a job he has been doing for more than three decades — but never, he says, at a more perilous time than now.

“What’s happening now [in the financial markets] — the real estate market falling out, coming together with the credit crisis — you could call it the perfect storm. I’ve never seen anything like it, in my thirty-three years in the business. There’s just no way of knowing how far out this will take us, or where we’re going to land.”

But even at times like this, he says — maybe even especially at such times — there are chances aplenty for making money grow.

“The market is driven by two things. Fear and greed. Where there’s greed, where the markets are going up and everyone’s buying — that’s when the risks can be highest. Where there’s fear, as there is now, where asset-values are dropping and everyone’s selling in panic — that’s where the opportunity lies. But even knowing that, you’re still going to get it wrong a lot of the time. You’re going to make some wrong picks — I know, I’ve made my share. All you’re looking for is a good batting average. That’s the best you can hope for. It’s a very humbling business.”

He has done well — not only for the firms he has worked for and those others whose wealth he has augmented, but for himself and those around him. He lives today with his wife, Celia, in the family home in Concord, the town of his childhood, where he has lived the last thirty-four years, since just before that day so long ago when he was down to his last twenty-five cents. He and Celia have raised three children, two daughters and a son, the last of whom graduated from Bates College last spring. For a time some years ago, when his kids were in their teens, he was a Division I soccer coach. He is expecting his first grandchild late this fall.

But he has not left behind his beginnings. And for all his good fortune, and all of the CEOs he lunches with and seven-figure buys he consults on — and though his own children have been educated mostly at private schools — he remains staunchly loyal to the college where it all began, forty years ago this fall, for $200 a semester.

He has made a commitment — of $100,000 to the School of Management — which he is roughly halfway through fulfilling. The purpose of the money, he says, is as basic as it is urgent: to raise the profile of the University by improving the experience of walking around it.

“We need to have better facilities. The grounds, the classrooms, everything. That’s what’s going to draw new students and new teachers. That’s what will help them choose us over, say, Merrimack College or some other nearby school.”

But grounds and classrooms aside, he says, there is a larger message that is still too little understood:

“I enjoyed my time at Lowell Tech. I did my share of partying, but I hit the books pretty hard, too — I think I was on the Dean’s List most of the time I was there. But whatever it was we were studying, we were doing it out of the same texts they were studying at Yale or Harvard, and working under professors who were every bit as bright and inspiring.

“And for some of us, for those who might have had a hard time affording it, or were working and [going to a school] at the same time, you graduated with something else, too, something that didn’t always go with an education at Harvard, Yale or Cornell. You graduated with a work ethic. A work ethic and a great education — that’s a pretty hard combination to beat.

“And you know what? In all the years I’ve been in this business, and all the people I’ve known — and there are a lot of them around who went to great-name schools — I’ve never once felt I had to take a back seat, educationally, to anyone at all.

“That’s an important message. It’s a message that needs to be sold and resold — to students, prospective students, alumni, to anyone who’ll listen. Because it’s a big part of the beauty of the school.”
LIRA Program Proves to Seniors that Learning Never Ends

Eight times a week, members of the group gather for class. Sometimes it’s a history course — American or Chinese, taught usually by Prof. Bob Forrant. Other times art and music, religion and science, economics, Shakespeare plays or Broadway musicals. Sometimes it’s a book group, led by one of its members. From time to time, depending on the subject and who’s available to teach it, the class may rely on an instructional DVD.

But always, no matter the subject or the teacher, the venue is the same: Fox Hall, Room 412.

“We’ve been in other rooms in the past,” says group member and curriculum chairperson Toby Hodes’58 (many, like Hodes, are graduates of the University), who also leads the book-group discussions. “And we’re not sure where we’ll be after this fall — but I’m sure they’ll find a place for us. It always works out in the end.”

The group, the Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA), is a member-run, collaborative venture of about a hundred retired and semi-retired local residents with a shared interest in continuing their education. Sponsored by the UMass Lowell Office of Community Service, LIRA was founded twenty years ago by Prof. Mark Levine, at the time director of that office, who got the idea — and later the program itself — from the head of a local nursing home.

“When after five years, it eventually became clear that the program made more sense than it would make dollars,” Levine would write later, “[the nursing home] was comfortable releasing the program to [us].”

LIRA operates on a two-semester plan, with classes running for two hours each in eight-week blocks in both fall and spring. Course offerings run the gamut of the sciences and humanities — film, opera, ethics, literature, biology, economics — with day-long outings to museums, plays, concerts and historic sites complementing the academic schedule. Some courses are taught by UMass Lowell faculty, who volunteer their time; others are led, and often proposed, by the members themselves. The venue, until recently, has been the room in Fox Hall, though that may change with the coming of planned construction there. While the curriculum is designed around college-level material, there are no academic or age requirements. The yearly dues, for an unlimited range of offerings, are $100 per member.

“It’s a social outlet — we make new friends, and learn to enjoy each other. And it keeps our minds busy.” — Toby Hodes

“It works in a lot of ways,” says Toby Hodes. “It’s a social outlet — we make new friends, and learn to enjoy each other. And it keeps our minds busy. Maybe best of all, it offers the chance to learn things you might have wanted to learn in college but never had the chance to, or to expand your knowledge of what you already know. The choice is yours.”

“While LIRA was never to be highlighted in our University catalogue,” Mark Levine wrote before his death in 2005, “time and again the program has proved of great significance to local and distant folk, who tended it, nourished it, honored it….

“Once in its place, LIRA would remain beloved and in full flower all these years, quiet in its presence, like a fragrant ground cover in the corner of the University garden.”
Platzer Named Rowing Head Coach
Women's Crew to Become Varsity Sport

Veronika Platzer, who led the University of Virginia women’s four rowing team to the 2004 NCAA Championship, has been named head coach of the River Hawks women’s rowing program and director of the Bellegarde Boathouse.

Platzer spent the last two years at the University of Michigan, which followed four years at the University of Virginia and stints at the University of Wisconsin and Mercyhurst College.

She also has been a U.S. Junior National Team coach for the last three years.

“The search committee’s goal was to identify the candidate best suited to develop a thriving rowing program and create a vibrant boathouse environment, and we’ve done that with Veronika Platzer,” says Director of Athletics Dana Skinner. “Veronika’s extraordinary background as an athlete, her passion for rowing, and her sense of optimism about future possibilities made her the ideal candidate.”

The goal is for UMass Lowell’s women’s rowing program to return to varsity status, ending a six-year hiatus as a club sport.

In November of 2007, the University received $1 million from the state for improvements to the Bellegarde Boathouse. With the grant, Skinner says, reinstating women’s crew was a natural progression.

“This is another positive step in the University’s efforts to attract high-quality students,” Skinner says. “Elevating women’s rowing to NCAA Division II status will provide our students with another exciting varsity sport and enable the University to take full advantage of the Merrimack River and the newly renovated Bellegarde Boathouse.”

Platzer is a 1987 graduate of Grinnell College where she was a three-time NCAA Division III champion in the discus. She was inducted into the college’s Hall of Fame in 1991 and voted the NCAA’s Female Track and Field Athlete of the Decade (1980-90).

Last May, Platzer was among five men and women inducted into the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Stegnar Top Scholar in Hockey East

Thirteen River Hawks Earn Hockey East All-Academic Team Honors

Frank Stegnar was one of thirteen UMass Lowell hockey players who achieved Hockey East All-Academic Team honors at the end of last hockey season. This is the fourth straight year the River Hawks had at least eleven players named to the All-Academic Team. Student-athletes who earn a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher in each of the two academic semesters in which they competed receive all-academic honors.

Stegnar was one of three players named as the Top Scholar Athlete in Hockey East, earning a 4.0 GPA. In addition to making the All-Academic Team for the second straight year, Stegnar was named to the league’s Academic All-Star Team.

Champs from 1988 Donate $5,000 to Booster Club

Athletics Director Dana Skinner and Head Basketball Coach Greg Herenda accept a $5,000 donation to the Sixth Man Club, the basketball booster organization, from Gavin Cummins ’88, Leo Parent ’88, John Paganetti ’84, Bill Herenda ’88, and former Assistant Coach Marc Kuntz, at the Athletic Department Golf Tournament in June. The money was raised by the 1988 national championship team in honor of Coach Herenda.
Game-Tested River Hawks Hope to Rank High in Hockey East

“...The team should be good,” says Jonathan Albert. “They should be very good. Lots of talent, lots of young leadership.”

Albert, a media relations assistant in the Athletic Department, is one of many with the same sure prophesy — that this year's UMass Lowell River Hawks are going to have some serious success. The team, he notes, is long on returning players — only two members graduated with last year's squad — as well as on game-tested talent, all of which bodes well.

“There are only three seniors,” he says, “and thirteen juniors. They're set up to be good the next two years. It’s always tough to pick these things because a lot of stuff can happen, but I’d say, if all goes well, they should finish in the top four in Hockey East, maybe the top 10 or 12 in the country.”

The season opened Oct. 11 with a game at Colgate. The first home game, a sell-out victory, was Oct. 24 against Providence. The full season — roughly halfway over as of press-time — will be 34 games, 27 of them against Hockey East opponents. The highlights, says Albert, will be the three games the River Hawks play in January and February against reigning national-champ Boston College; another high-point, a two-game series Oct. 16-17 against 2007 champion Michigan State, ended in a split.

The team is led by co-captains Ben Holmstrom, a junior center, and Mark Roebothan, a senior who plays wing. Other standouts include junior wing KoryFalite, a second-team Hockey East all-star last year who led the league with 18 goals; and sophomore defenseman Maury Edwards.

Ticket sales have been brisk. More than 800 club seats, at $299 each, had been sold already as of press-time — equaling last year’s total — while roughly 400 regular seats ($70-$199) were spoken for. The average home game last season drew just under 3,400, roughly 400 of them students; the goal this year, says marketing coordinator Scott Donnelly, is to come close to 5,000 a game.

Herenda Named Head Coach of Men’s Basketball

Greg Herenda, an assistant men's basketball coach at UMass Lowell from 1983 to 1985, has been named the River Hawks new head basketball coach. He succeeds Ken Barer who resigned after seven seasons at the helm.

Herenda, who most recently was head coach at Division III Cabrini College in Padnor, Pa., brings to the program more than twenty years of experience at all NCAA levels.

Prior to a year at Cabrini, he was head coach at Elgin Community College in Elgin, Ill., and five years as associate head coach at East Carolina University. He also served as an assistant at Yale, Seton Hall and Holy Cross following a four-year period at his alma mater, Merrimack College.

Athletics Director Dana Skinner says, “Greg brings a breadth of experience and a reputation for building lasting relationships that will be beneficial as we attempt to strengthen the program and broaden its appeal to prospective student-athletes, alumni, and members of the Merrimack Valley basketball community. We’re pleased to have him back as our head coach.”
Members of the Class of 1943 enjoyed lunch at Allen House to celebrate their 65th Reunion. Front row, from left: Phyllis Clemens McCormack, Natalie Johnson Gtridge, Louise Cavalieri Goni. Back row: Marie Pouliot Dumont, Catherine Hill Goodwin, Margaret Harkins, Lucille Charron, Alice Foley Hill.

Charlie Hoff ’66 was honored with the President’s Medal at UMass Night at the Pops at Symphony Hall in Boston in May. With Hoff, center, are UMass Board of Trustees Chairman Robert Manning ’84, left, and UMass President Jack Wilson.

At the Alumni Volunteer Appreciation Night at the Lowell Spinners in August, Bob Melillo ’73, left, with River Hawks Basketball Coach Greg Herenda and Prof. Karen Devereaux Melillo ’78, chair of the Nursing Department.

Plastics graduates in the greater Rochester, N.Y., area gathered on Aug. 11 for an alumni dinner. On hand were, from left, Mark Bissell ’07, Brett Blaisdell ’76, Karen Malburne ’82, Audra (Gavelis) Write ’96, Dan Barrons ’03, Dan Smith ’02, David Cameron ’94, John Davis and Prof. Robert Malloy.

In May, alumni in the legal profession gathered at Allen House for a reception hosted by Chancellor Marty Meehan. From left, Patricia Sullivan Talty ’75, Reynold Ilg ’80, Gilbert Nason ’08, Michael Harris ’08 and Prof. Frank Talty ’77, director of Academic Programs.

Families enjoyed watching the Lowell Spinners in August at the Alumni Volunteer Appreciation night.

Mary Jo Leahey ’37, center, was honored before the final concert of the Mary Jo Leahey Symphonic Band Camp in August. With Mary Jo are fellow music education alumna Gertrude (Trudy) Hirsch ’42 and Chancellor Marty Meehan.
Los Angeles-area alumni greeted Chancellor Marty Meehan in Marina del Rey during his recent trip to California. Shown from left are Vishu Shah ’72, John Crowe ’76, Michael Lesnever ’94, ’98, Jean Demeo ’92, Bob Berwick ’58, Chancellor Meehan, Jamie Lesnever, Greg Eley ’80, Bill Wallius ’89, Marcia Ullal Rodriguez ’77 and Tom Giants ’81.

Alumni in San Francisco enjoyed a lovely evening overlooking the bay at the home of Carole and Ned Barrett ’58. They included, from left, Ted Dudziak ’73, Ned Barrett, Brian Scappaticci ’79, Chancellor Marty Meehan ’78, Ed Borowiec ’67, Ellen Murphy Meehan, Ron Jabba ’84, Lisa Rucks ’91, Dean Carson ’83, Bridget Sheehy ’99, Kunal Sampat ’04, Caroline Cote ’80, Kerry Howell ’80, Ellen O’Donohue ’72, and Sumita Sood ’02.

Plastics engineering alumni Johnathan Whitney, Melissa Egan, Kevin Kalish, James Biggins and Cristina Emphasis, all Class of 2003, enjoyed a reception at Jillian’s Boston before a Red Sox game.

Members of the State Teachers College Class of 1958 toured campus during reunion festivities in June. From left, Jo Ann (Moore) Elder, Deborah (McCarty) Harlan, Joseph Sexton, Maureen (Burke) Richard, Elizabeth (Conway) Sullivan, Harriet (Rabias) Anagnostopoulos, Irene (Tunilli) Bourne, Marjorie (Crossman) Signorelli, Joan (Cunha) Corey.
Members of the State Teachers Class of 1958 gathered here are, front row, from left: Edward Barrett, Paul Sheehy, James McMahon, Beverly (Axon) Anderson, Mary (Gallagher) Quinn, Marjorie (Crossman) Signorelli, Robert Hunter, Joseph Sexton, Priscilla (Bancroft) Titus; middle row: Mary (Peroney) Bzdzik, Elizabeth (Conway) Sullivan, M. Theresa (McGuire) Lambert, Judith (Brockway) Kavanaugh, Anne (Hayes) Parsons, Patricia (Witmore) Hughes, Anne (Garnder) Kahlilanen, Stella (Sperounis) Sutherland, Irene (Tuili) Bourne, Beverly (Peloian) Koltookian, Joan (Cunha) Corey. Back row: Maureen (Burke) Richard, Jo Ann (Moore) Elder, Dolores (DePetrillo) Smith, Carol (Yannafo) Neville, Debora (McCarty) Harlan, Kathleen (McQuade) Riley, Ann (Miskell) Lafort, Harriet (Rabia) Anagnostopoulos, Florence (Blades) Gallagher, Patricia (Mooney) Parks, Anne (Seminatore) Guzzo, Rita (Lomard) Owen, Lois MacElhiney.


Members of the Lowell State Teachers College Class of 1968 celebrating their 40th reunion in June were, from left, Kathleen DeRoche Desmarais, Beatrice Stankard, Gertrude Carey, Lynne McSheehy and Jean Corcoran Nelson.

**1950**

Norman Gale and his wife, Peggy, who were married while he was a student at Lowell Textile Institute, recently celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. Norman attended LTI after serving in the armed forces in World War II. He is retired as president of Sun & Surf, Inc. The Gales live in Ballwin, Mo.

**1953**

Don E. Finegold, who lives in Salem, Mass., and Boynton Beach, Fla., has published four mystery novels, with a fifth due out in November. His website is wwwDONEfinegold.com.

**1955**

Bob Walshaw, an Oklahoma naturalist, maintains a 100-box trail in rural areas surrounding Coweta, Okla., He has been “bluebirding” for fifteen years and routinely fledges over three hundred birds per year. He gives thirty-plus presentations each year, reaching more than 1,000 individuals. He aggressively promotes House Sparrow control and is open to new ideas to improve his trail results. Bob is very involved on the All Experts website lending educational advice to all who inquire. He is a NABS member and is on the Speakers Bureau. He actively shares his knowledge of bluebirds with schools, garden clubs, and retired/service groups.

**1958**

Joining Chancellor Marty Meehan at commencement while celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Lowell Technological Institute are, from left, Toby Koffman Hodes, Paula Molloy Petrone, Athena Letsou and Kathryn Connors Tymorek.

**1964**

Michael J. Cahill, a music education major who went on to become director of music and/or bands at several high schools and was assistant director of the UML marching band, has been inducted into the 2008 Class of the Massachusetts Drum and Bugle Corps and Music Educators Hall of Fame. To be honored by this selection, one must be nominated by peers and approved by the Hall of Fame board of directors. Over the years, Mike was a director at Xaverian Brothers, Ursuline Academy and Quincy high schools, and an assistant director of the UML, UNH and Coast Guard Academy marching bands. He says that aside from having very successful programs at each of these institutions, he is credited with starting the “corps-style” marching band in New England, which combines the styles of marching bands with that of drum and bugle corps. He also was the percussion writer for the Hal Leonard Publishing Corp.’s Corp Impact Series. He also has been an adjudicator at major drum and bugle corps events nationally and has been a percussion instructor.

**1977**

Alison Mynick has been elected to the board of governors for the Maine Trial Lawyers Association. She received her undergraduate degree in nursing from the University and her law degree from Yeshiva University’s Cardozo School of Law. In addition to Maine, Alison is admitted to practice in the state and federal Courts in New Jersey, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the state courts of Pennsylvania. She began practicing in Maine in 2004 after working for twelve years in personal injury law firms in New Jersey. She has participated in multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements on behalf of patients and their families, drawing on her experience as a registered nurse. Alison is an associate at the law firm of Briggs & Counsel in Rockport and she lives in Tenants Harbor.

**1979**

Thomas J. Soucy has been appointed an independent member of the board of directors of Nascent Wine Company, Inc. (dba Nascent Foodservice, Inc.), the only nationwide distributor of imported products in Mexico. He also was appointed to the board’s audit committee as a financial expert. Chief Executive Officer Sandro Piancone says, “Tom is a great addition to our board of directors.”

**Former Music Professor Turns to Crime Writing**

Susan Fleet, who taught trumpet and played in the Music Department’s Faculty Brass Quintet from 1977 to 1981, has made a name for herself in the years since, not only as a trumpeter, but also as a music historian — and lately a novelist. Her 2008 New Orleans crime thriller “Absolution” was lauded by Kirkus Discoveries recently for its “sharp writing” and “relentless tempo.”

“Male writers tend to feature mobsters or hit men in their novels,” Fleet says in explaining the seeming oddity of a feminist-turned-crime-writer. “Women writers are more aware of the violence against women in society. In real life, all too often, the bad guys get away. In my novels, the bad guy always gets punished.”

During a ten-year stint at the Berklee College of Music, where she created and taught a course featuring 20th-Century female musicians, she also made a 1993 solo CD, “Baroque Treasures for Trumpet and Organ,” which received widespread critical praise.
through 49). CMS captured in the Mastersage group (40 Championship. Competing Mountain Running National

She lives in Sutton with her husband and daughter.

2008 USA Track and Field cross-country and track team -

He lives in Cary, N.C., with his wife of twenty-four years and their three children: Jeffrey, 18, now a freshman at UNC Chapel Hill, Stephanie, 16, and Darrel, 12.

Karen J. Longo has been appointed vice president of Fallon Community Health Plan, a nationally recognized health care services organization. She will continue to direct Summit ElderCare™, which, under her leadership, has expanded to a multi-site program offering seniors an alternative to nursing home care through an integrated program of services. In addition to her B.S. in health services administration from Lowell, Karen also holds a master’s degree in health care administration from Clark University. She lives in Sutton with her husband and daughter.

Kate M. Miles has accepted a position as chief financial officer at the Regional Hospital Company in Alpharetta, Ga. He lives in Cary, N.C., with his wife of twenty-four years and their three children: Jeffrey, 18, now a freshman at UNC Chapel Hill, Stephanie, 16, and Darrel, 12.

Karen J. Longo has been appointed vice president of Fallon Community Health Plan, a nationally recognized health care services organization. She will continue to direct Summit ElderCare™, which, under her leadership, has expanded to a multi-site program offering seniors an alternative to nursing home care through an integrated program of services. In addition to her B.S. in health services administration from Lowell, Karen also holds a master’s degree in health care administration from Clark University. She lives in Sutton with her husband and daughter.

Stephen Peterson and former cross country and track teammates Dave Quintal ‘85, and Dave Dunham ’87 were three of the five scoring members for the Central Mass Striders (CMS) running club at the 2008 USA Track and Field Mountain Running National Championship. Competing in the Masters age group (40 through 49), CMS captured the gold medal at the race that ascended Mt. Washington in Gorham, N.H.

Christopher Scholl, director of health, safety and environmental affairs for Saint-Gobain High Performance Materials in Worcester, has been elected to the board of directors of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM). A native of Northboro, Chris is active in business and civic affairs, coaches youth sports, and is president of the New England Chapter of the National Environmental Management Association. AIM is a nonprofit, nonpartisan employer association of more than 7,000 Massachusetts businesses and institutions.

Brad Schott is the owner of Schott Financial Services, a financial advisory firm specializing in retirement planning, asset management and portfolio design. He divides his time between Nashua, N.H., and Kennebunk, Maine, with his wife, Andrea, and their two children, Andrew and Abigail.

Kimberly Sawyer, who earned a master of science degree in applied mathematics at the University, has been named vice president of technical operations for Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems and Sensors (MS2). As head of MS2’s largest functional team, Kim will partner with the company’s line of business leaders to ensure successful program execution, oversee all MS2 product development, develop engineering talent, and establish technology strategy to ensure that the company offers creative technical solutions to customers. She is based in Manassas, Va.

1992

Chris Brown writes that after graduating he worked in corrections for a police department in northeast Ohio. He then obtained his M.A. at Kent University in 1999 and was hired by the FBI in January of 2001. Since then he has been assigned to the San Francisco field office and is now the coordinator for the FBI gang task force in Oakland. The primary function of his job is the apprehension of fugitives. He has recently remarried, and has two children from his first marriage.

Kevin Cleary has been appointed to a two-year term as DPW commissioner in the town of Whitman. Kevin, who has a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering, is also a state-licensed construction supervisor.

Karen L. Dawson has put her education to work for her, and for the past fifteen years has been an IT analyst, primarily in financial and government services. She returned to UMass Lowell to complete the Technical Writing program in the spring of 2001. She completed her M.B.A in August of 2007, obtaining her education without any commute. She found that completing the master’s online really complemented the way the world works today — on virtual teams in global corporations. She says she enjoys the flexibility and variety of ways that her work as a consulting business analyst provides, and plans to pursue adjunct teaching opportunities and grant writing. This year, Karen and her husband, Carl, are facing the challenges of preparing their 11-year-old son, Eric, for middle school. This July, Karen and Carl celebrated their twenty years of marriage.

1994

Norm Bazin, former assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Colorado College, has been named the head hockey coach at Hamilton College. Norm played varsity hockey at UMass Lowell under then coach Tim Whitehead, a Hamilton graduate who now is the head coach at Maine. Norm, who began his coaching career as an assistant to Whitehead at Lowell, had been at Colorado College since 2000.

1995

James M. Harris Jr. has joined the Derry Medical Center as director of Diabetes Healthcare of New Hampshire where he works with patients of Derry Medical Center and Londonderry Family Practice on all aspects of diabetes management. He earned his master of science degree in nursing and has American Nurses Credentialing Center board certification. Prior to joining the Derry Center, he was with the Cardiovascular and Diabetes Center at St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua, where he helped develop a comprehensive diabetes care program. He also founded Diabetes Healthcare of New Hampshire, LLC, a company dedicated to the management of diabetes.

1998

Sean Gaffney has joined nSight, Inc., a leading Boston area communications services firm, as vice president of sales and business development. Sean has fourteen years of sales, management and consulting experience in such high-tech areas as wireless technologies, software, outsourced e-business development, business intelligence and electronic data integration. At nSight, he will build and lead the company’s new Sales and Business
Development group, established to further the company’s growth in the IT, corporate and publishing markets.

1999
William F. Wyman IV, director of health information management and patient access at Lowell General Hospital, has been named a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the nation’s premier professional society for health care leaders. Wyman, who has a master’s degree in health services administration from UML, has been at Lowell General Hospital since 1994.

2000
Christopher J. Bartley, head men’s basketball coach at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), has received the Institute’s Denise Nicoletti Trustees’ Award for Service to Community. Presented during WPI’s Honors Convocation this spring, the award recognizes passion and action in serving the needs of a community. In addition to Chris’s success as a coach, he has served on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass/MetroWest and is a mentor to WPI students.

Michael Bosch and Michell Ramos, who met while working on a group project in a College of Management class, have recently become engaged. Michell has earned an M.B.A. with Distinction and is now an assistant treasurer of the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA). Michael left his career as a contract negotiator in the IT industry to tour as a guitarist and songwriter for many well known artists. They are now living in Florida. A fall wedding is planned for 2009.

2002
Plenty of alums were on hand this summer for the wedding of Pat Smulligan and Jenn Richard ’03, foreground. Joining them in this photo are Alexandra Horelik, Jim Lemieux, Melissa Heroux, Mikins Elan, Brian Pendergast, Dan Donaghey, Kenneth Spinale, Carolyn Rolfe, Pat Smulligan, Justin Zubricki, Kristin Zeman, Roger Lamarch, Jason LeBlanc, Nikki Zoufaly, Jenn Smulligan, Amy Urbowicz, Jim Neville, Josh Smith, Alyson Renaud, Mark McDermott, Jason Corbett, Ryan Sawyer and Mark Kimball.

2005
Kimberly Ducharme and Lee Knesek were married in July 2008. Kim is assistant director of the Lowell Fund in the University’s Advancement Office.

Michelle L. Farrell is married to her boyfriend of three years, Thomas J. White of Roslindale. Their wedding was held on Aug. 16 at Gladtings Pentecostal Assembly in Mattapan.

Matthew C. Roux has been employed by the city of Lowell for two years. On May 30, he bought his first home, in Tewksbury. The residence is currently undergoing renovation and remodeling. He says his dog and long-time girlfriend will be living with him once all renovations are complete.

2007
Orlando M. Pena is pleased to inform the UMass Lowell community that he began a job as a field engineer at Double Engineering in June. He says this is a great opportunity for his engineering career as he looks forward to taking the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam this fall en route to obtaining his PE licensure. In July, Orlando and his wife became parents of their first child, a healthy baby girl.

2008
Kevin Delaney, who graduated with a degree in criminal justice, has joined the Nashua, N.H., Police Department as a patrol officer.
SRT Alum, Recent Grammy Nominee, Piles up the Honors

Adam Ayan is a man who knows where he's going. It seems he always has — and he's getting there pretty fast.

It's been eleven years since he got his degree from UMass Lowell, a graduate of the program in sound recording technology. For the last ten of those years, he's worked for the same employer — the Gateway Mastering Studios in Portland, Maine — which, if mastering albums is your thing, is about as good a place to work as any in the country.

“We average [Grammy] nominations in the double digits every year,” Ayan told a reporter this February, around the time he learned of his own most recent nomination, for Album of the Year. The nod was in recognition of his work on Vince Gill’s “These Days” album, which also won a nomination — and ultimately, the Grammy — for last year's Best Country Album.

Ayan, who won his first Grammy two years ago, for Best Historical Album — in tribute to his work on a boxed set of hits by jazz legend Jelly Roll Morton — has also been awarded two Latin Grammys. He is currently at work, he says, on albums by Sugarland and the Foo Fighters, as well as by Canadian singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan.

The University’s SRT programs, Ayan says, provided him with a “really incredible foundation” for the field he entered and the success he has enjoyed: first, by preparing him for the rigors of the music industry; then — and perhaps even more importantly, he says — by training his ear in how to listen and what to listen for.

“It opened [me] to listen to music as an audio engineer as opposed to a lay listener, or even as a musician,” he told a reporter last winter. “You learn to listen, as an engineer, in a very different way.”

Gail Beaudoin ’83 ’92 Wins Elder Services Award

Gail Beaudoin ’83, ’92 was one of the first female officers hired by the Chelmsford Police Department in 1985. During her career, she has investigated child, sexual and elder abuse cases, and was chosen as lead elder abuse investigator.

“I investigate crimes against the elderly that involve emotional, physical and financial abuse, resulting in numerous convictions,” says Beaudoin, who has been an adjunct professor in the Criminal Justice Department since 2003.

Her work was recognized recently by Merrimack Valley Elder Services with the 2008 Heroes and Icons Award, presented annually to a police officer who has made a difference in the lives of the elderly in their communities.

“Since I was a small child, I’ve always been drawn to this population — they are vulnerable, and are often forgotten,” she says. Beaudoin’s work with the elderly in Chelmsford is two-fold: she seeks justice for crimes committed, and, as a Chelmsford Housing Board member, she helps to coordinate important housing and medical needs.

“The elderly are misunderstood. Society doesn’t do enough for them – emergency personnel need to be trained on issues facing elders, especially those suffering from Alzheimer’s and dementia. I love the idea of creating more elderly housing – often the elderly are alone, but by living near each other, they’d have someone looking out for them.”

When asked about the best part of her job, Beaudoin says, “If I’ve made a difference for the elderly, then I’ve done my job. It’s very rewarding. It’s a way to give something back to a wonderful university.”

Colene Blanchet ’04 Has Designed Success

“The graphic design professors I had while I earned my bachelor’s degree in fine arts were so passionate about teaching — they were real motivators for me and always kept me looking for new opportunities,” says Colene Blanchet, senior packaging designer for West Elm, a Williams Sonoma, Inc. brand.

“I met some amazing people at UMass Lowell — both students and faculty. The relationships I built have lasted — I still talk to many classmates and professors, and really value having made these connections,” she says.

In addition to her work at West Elm, Blanchet has started several blogs (www.lamedrain.blogspot.com) and is launching a business specializing in handmade art, books, stationery and self-published magazines.

To view samples of Blanchet’s design work, go to http://coroflot.com/coleteillustration/craft.
Thirty years ago, when George Condo was still a student at the University of Lowell, the New York art world was being turned on its head with the overnight arrival of the expressionist, often comic-book style, “New Image” school of painting. The Old Masters, though still venerated by art school students, were viewed by much of the rest of the art community — when they were viewed as anything at all — as vaguely comical.

Within ten years of this, Condo, barely out of his twenties at the time, had returned them to respectability, almost singlehandedly — but with an almost entirely new twist.

Often referred to as “the artist’s artist,” Condo, through his unflagging commitment to his personal vision in the face of changing styles, has gained a reputation as a model for younger, more iconoclastic members of the profession. That legacy began taking shape as early as the mid-1980s, when he reintroduced the Old Masters’ techniques into contemporary painting, mixing the methods of Raphael, Goya, Velázquez and others with his own distinctive style — a blending for which he coined the term “artificial realism.”

It was in recognition of these achievements that Condo was presented with the prestigious National Artist Award by the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass, Colo., earlier this year.

“The Social Entrepreneur award cemented our belief that renewable energy, poverty reduction and sustainability can go hand in hand,” says Hande. “In the early 1990s UMass Lowell was one of very few universities that was offering courses on renewable energy and sustainability. Professors Jose Martin and John Duffy and Dr. Bill Berg were the people who pushed me to change my thinking, from technology to the socio-economic aspect. Their influence has helped me to create SELCO in the form it is today.”
Raytheon Names Mark Russell ’83 to New Vice Presidential Post

Mark Russell ’83, who credits his Lowell education for being “the foundation for my entire career,” has been named vice president of Engineering, Technology and Mission Assurance at Waltham-based Raytheon.

In his new role, Russell provides corporate leadership in the areas of technology and research, engineering, operations, performance excellence, Raytheon Six Sigma and Mission Assurance. This includes company-wide responsibility for 45,000 people working on more than 8,000 programs.

Prior to this appointment, he had been vice president of Engineering for the company’s Integrated Defense Systems business.

Russell joined Raytheon in 1983, after graduating from the University of Lowell with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. He then attended UMass Amherst under the Raytheon Advanced Study scholarship program, earning a master’s degree in the same field.

“I was hired by Raytheon directly from Lowell, so one could say the University provided the foundation for my entire career,” he says. “I began as a design engineer, and my education had prepared me with an understanding of the importance of hard work. This enabled me to take on new challenges with increasing responsibility and expand into the areas of operations, field testing and project management.”

According to Russell, his education helped him contribute to important programs related to the country’s national security, such as air and missile defense systems like the Patriot, the THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) and the SBX (Sea-Based X-Band Radar). “The requirement to continually strengthen our nation’s security is a major reason why we must support STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] education at UMass Lowell and throughout the country,” he says.

Among the many ways Russell has engaged with UMass Lowell is his involvement in University programs that promote education and opportunities for middle and high school students and encourage them to pursue STEM careers.

“My favorite activity is my participation in the Francis College of Engineering’s Industry Advisory Board,” he says. “It gives me the chance to see everything that is going on across engineering, and allows me to contribute to the University’s vision of high-quality engineering education.”

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Russell serves on the Board of Directors of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering and is an associate fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He has been awarded multiple U.S. patents and has published numerous peer-reviewed technical articles. Russell received the Distinguished Alumni Award from UMass Amherst in 2006, and was inducted into the Francis Academy of Distinguished Engineers at UMass Lowell in 2001.

Bonnie Comley and Stewart Lane Honored With Drama Desk Award

Bonnie Comley ’81 continues to rack up awards in her successful career as Broadway actor, producer and production company founder. Comley and producer-playwright husband Stewart Lane recently earned a Drama Desk Award for their production of “The 39 Steps” on Broadway. “The Drama Desk Award is special because the pool of talent is so diverse – this is the only award that includes productions from Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Off-Off-Broadway,” says Comley. “To have our show chosen from such a wide pool of worthy productions is tremendous.” Drama Desk Award winners are nominated by theater critics, writers and editors. This year’s nominations were judged in more than thirty categories, with Comley’s production besting four other shows in the Unique Theatrical Experience category.

Comley and Lane have received numerous awards and honors, including a 2007 Tony Award for Best Theatrical Event for producing “The Two and Only” – a play about ventriloquism. Comley and Lane funded the renovation of the theater in Mahoney Hall, and have created an endowment for its ongoing maintenance. They live in New York City, and have five children. For more on Bonnie Comley’s career, go to www.bonniecomley.com.
Big Shoes to Fill, But She’s Coming Home to Fill Them

She was captain of the 1998 UMass Lowell women’s basketball team, and before that the all-scholaristic anchor of the team at Norwood High. After college she went on to coaching — first as an assistant at Braintree High and Wheaton College, then back to Norwood to take over, for the last two years, as head coach of the school’s JV team.

And all the while, she has stayed in close touch with her old coach and mentor, UMass Lowell women’s coach Kathy O’Neil, who, she says, has been “an absolute godsend for me — I call her all the time.”

Now, finally, Maureen Jennings has reached the peak she had aimed for from the start: to be named head coach of the Norwood Girls varsity squad, following in the footsteps of 35-year near-legend Giles Parker.

“I’m so excited — almost delirious, really. This is what I’ve always wanted, an absolute dream come true. I’m a Norwood girl. I grew up here, I played for this team. I played under Coach Parker. I learned a lot of what I know from him. And now, to be able to come back and coach the team all these years later — I just couldn’t ask for anything more.”

It will not be easy, and she knows it. Parker amassed 462 wins and twelve league championships in his thirty-five years at the school, building a legacy of respect throughout the state and leaving a trail of protégés behind him, including several college standouts and at least one other head coach. And she takes the stage at a difficult time: the team loses six seniors from last year’s squad, which finished with only four wins in eighteen games.

“They’re going to be large shoes to fill,” says Jennings, who spent part of the summer setting up summer leagues to keep her team members sharp. “We’re going to have a lot of hard work to do, and it won’t be an overnight process. But [Coach Parker] instilled that Mustang pride in me — which goes a long way. Plus, I’m from Norwood. I know the town, I know the team and I know the tradition here.”
Five Plastics Engineering Alums Featured in Industry Magazines

Five plastics engineering alumni have been featured in cover stories for two leading medical-device industry magazines.

Donna Bibber, B.S. ’88, James Dandeneau, B.S. ’80, Mark Saab, B.S. ’81 and G. Lawrence Thatcher B.S.’71, M.S. ’77, were among those named in the article “100 Notable People: Who matters, and why, in and around the medical device industry” in the June issue of MD&DI.

The list includes corporate executives, health professionals, university researchers and representatives from government agencies, including the commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

“This is quite an honor. I am very proud to be listed in such prestigious company.”

— Donna Bibber

Eamonn Hobbs B.S. ’80, was spotlighted in an interview in the May/June issue of MX magazine.

“This is quite an honor,” says Bibber. “I am very proud to be listed in such prestigious company.” Bibber is president and CEO of Micro Engineering Solutions, a consulting firm based in Charlton that specializes in the design, manufacture and assembly of miniature to micro components for the medical industry.

Dandeneau is president of Putnam Plastics in Dayville, Conn. “Our company has been a leader in advanced extrusion techniques and has assisted many engineers and medical device companies in their efforts to develop novel catheters,” he says.

Saab is the founder and president of Advanced Polymers in Salem, N.H. “Since its founding in 1989, our company continues to produce the world’s thinnest, strongest and smallest heat-shrink tubing,” he says. “Advanced Polymers is also a key OEM manufacturer of medical balloons, as well as custom balloon catheter subassemblies and extruded tubing.”

Thatcher, president of TESco Associates in Tyngsborough, says, “It’s especially gratifying to have been recognized for my work with bio-absorbable polymers and implants, as this exciting arena has provided opportunity not only for advancing biomaterials and materials manufacturing technology but also for continued teaching.”

“I am very proud of the fact that these industry leaders are all graduates of UMass Lowell’s Plastics Engineering program.”

— Robert Malloy

In the MX interview, Hobbs, president and CEO of AngioDynamics in Queensbury, N.Y., talks about his company’s strategic market focus and its plans for continued growth. AngioDynamics is a leading provider of innovative devices used by radiologists, surgeons, and other physicians for the minimally invasive diagnosis and treatment of cancer and peripheral vascular disease. “What I enjoy most about this job is the pride I take daily at how our products help improve patient care, and even save lives,” he says.

“I am very proud of the fact that these industry leaders are all graduates of UMass Lowell’s Plastics Engineering program,” says Department Chair Robert Malloy. “Our graduates are clearly very capable engineers who have strong entrepreneurial spirit. This also speaks to the importance that plastics have in the medical device industry. Their versatility as a family of materials makes many of these life-saving medical devices possible.”
UMass Lowell Alumni Gift Items

Champion Hooded Sweatshirt
50/50 fleece hooded sweatshirt
Sizes: S/M/L/XL/XXL
Color: Gray $34.99 Item #1

Champion Heavy Weight Sweatshirt
Screen-printed collegiate sweatshirt available in gray only.
S-XXL. $49.98 Item #2
(Available in November-January)

Golf Wind Jacket
Gear For Sports durable navy embroidered wind jacket. Available with Lowell Tech or University of Lowell logo. Available in M-XXL. $49.98 Item #8

Tackle Twill Hooded Sweatshirt
50/50 blend fleece with wool patch “UML” and 3-color embroidery. Available in sizes S-XXL. Oxford gray. $49.98 Item #3

Club Colors Polo
Navy golf shirt with embroidered left chest logo. Available with Lowell Tech, Lowell State or University of Lowell logo. S-XXL. $29.98 Item #4

Baseball hat
Our most popular cap. Wool blend, stretch-to-fit with embroidered Riverhawk on the back. $19.98 Item #10

University Chairs
Black with cherry arms and back lasered seal
Item #12A Armchair $409.98
Item #12B Boston Rocker $409.98
For UPS shipping to your residence, please add $25. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. Available with University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell Textile Institute, University of Lowell, Lowell State College and Lowell Technological Institute seals.

Champion Crewneck Sweatshirt
Screen-printed logo on 50/50 blend fleece. Charcoal. S-XXL. $24.99 Item #5

Champion T-Shirt
UMass Lowell imprint. Available in gray, red, light blue. Sizes S-XXL. $14.98 Item #9

Champion Alumni Tees
Grey tees available in Lowell Tech, ULowell, and Lowell State imprint. $14.98. M-XXL Item #7

Alumni Keychain
UMass Lowell logo alumni metal keychain. $5.98
Postage & Handling on this item is $1.95. Item #14

Alumni Decals
UMass Lowell Alumni River Hawk decal. UMass Lowell Alumni square decal. University of Lowell Alumni decal. $1.49 each Postage & Handling on this item is 50 cents. Item #13

University Picture
Framed picture available with picture of Southwick, Cumnock or Coburn Hall. Available in 10x12 pen & ink style for $85 or full color painted for $140. Personalization is available on the pen & ink drawing for an additional $10. Item #6

For UPS shipping to your residence, please add $25. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. Available with University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell Textile Institute, University of Lowell, Lowell State College and Lowell Technological Institute seals.
UMass Lowell Alumni Gift Items
Order Form

Name ____________________________
Day Phone ________________________ Class Year ____________
Address __________________________
City/State/Zip ______________________

☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Amex ☐ Discover ☐ check enclosed (payable to UMass Lowell Bookstore)

Credit Card # ______________________
Exp. Date __________________________
Signature __________________________

Item # ____________________________ Quantity ______________
Description ________________________
School/Building ____________________
Color _____________________________ Size _______________ Price ____________

Item # ____________________________ Quantity ______________
Description ________________________
School/Building ____________________
Color _____________________________ Size _______________ Price ____________

Merchandise Total
MA residents add 5% tax to all non-clothing items
Add shipping and handling + $25 for mailing chairs

Total Amount
Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.
Prices subject to change.
Shipping and Handling:
$6.95 for the first item.
$1.95 for each additional item.
University chairs $25.

For questions on merchandise please call the UML Bookstore at (978) 934-2623 or e-mail us at bksumassnorth@bncollege.com. You may also order merchandise directly on our website at http://um Lowell.bkstore.com.

For additional merchandise, visit us online at http://um lowell.bkstore.com

Mail or fax all orders to:
UMass Lowell Bookstore
One University Avenue
Lowell, MA 01854
Fax: (978) 934-6914

Thank you!

We Want News About You!

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

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

Name: ____________________________________________
Please include your graduation name, if different.
Class Year: ____________________________ Major: ____________
Home Address: ______________________________________
City: _____________________________________________
State: ____________________________ Zip: __________________
Home Phone: ____________________________
E-mail Address: ____________________________
Employer: ______________________________________
Title: ______________________________________
Business Address: ____________________________
City: _____________________________________________
State: ____________________________ Zip: __________________
Business Phone: ____________________________
Fax: ____________________________

News about you:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

For additional merchandise, visit us online at http://um lowell.bkstore.com

Thank you!

Please send to:
UMass Lowell
Office of Alumni Relations
Southwick Hall
One University Ave.
Lowell, MA 01854-3629
Fax: (978) 934-3111
E-mail: Alumni_Office@uml.edu

Cut along dotted line and return to above address.
You may have received a call from one of our students asking for your support of the Lowell Fund. Each year a team of 40 students call more than 40,000 alumni. Here are answers to the top three questions these students are asked:

1. **WHAT IS THE LOWELL FUND?**
   The Lowell Fund is the University's annual giving fund that supports the many campus services that broaden academic experiences and enrich campus life.

2. **WHY SHOULD I MAKE A GIFT?**
   Help the next generation of students benefit from the same great education you received. Only 37 percent of the UMass Lowell budget is state assisted. Private support is essential to keep tuition and fees affordable for every qualified student.

3. **WHY IS MY PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT?**
   Every gift makes a difference. Grant funding and college ranking are often based on the participation level of alumni to gauge the effectiveness of, and satisfaction with, a UMass Lowell education.

   *Lowell Fund gifts, no matter what the size, are put to immediate use to help meet current on-campus priorities, such as scholarships, faculty development, library and computer upgrades, special research projects and campus facility improvements.*

---

### Calendar of Events 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>All Alumni Hockey Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UMass Lowell River Hawks v. Boston College Eagles Tsongas Arena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15-19</td>
<td>Florida Alumni Gatherings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>East and West Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Spring Concert Durgin Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 29 – 30</td>
<td>Reunion Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 23</td>
<td>Antec/NPE Alumni Dinner Chicago</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

“Our University of Massachusetts Lowell Fund Calling…”

---

The Lowell Fund: Building a New Vision Together

Your gift makes a difference. Give today. 978-934-4821 or www.uml.edu/givenow