

UMass Lowell

M A G A Z I N E

Tsunami *at the Tsongas*

FALL 2007
VOLUME 10
NUMBER 3

See you at
the Tsongas!

River Hawks' Hockey: Centerpiece of "a Whole New Culture"



A Message from the Chancellor

I want to reaffirm what I said when I was selected as Chancellor last spring: It is a great honor to have this opportunity to lead the University of Massachusetts Lowell. This campus impresses me more each day as I get to know our extraordinary faculty, administrators, staff and students.

Many people have helped me this past year as I have transitioned to a new position, but I want to mention one person in particular, former Chancellor William T. Hogan. I want to thank him for his commitment to UMass Lowell and for the invaluable advice and counsel he continues to provide to me through this transition.

I bring passion to this job and a special understanding of the character of the campus—now comes the joy of the work. There is much to do, and I will need every one of you to help achieve our lofty goals in teaching, research and service. We begin this fiscal year facing a serious budget challenge—a \$3 million deficit that required us to trim spending and identify ways to operate more efficiently. The financial realities of public higher education demand that we extract maximum value from each dollar spent, and then act as entrepreneurs to grow our resources.

The next few years will be a time of building. We will construct an emerging technologies center to unleash the potential of our research on nanomanufacturing and biomanufacturing. We will make new space for breakthroughs in medical devices research and product development. We plan to relocate the art department close to downtown Lowell. We will plan a new academic building on UML South and explore the best ways to improve the homes of management and engineering. We are going to take UMass Lowell to the next level. We are only months away from breaking ground. The next time you step on campus you will feel the energy and see the changes.

UMass Lowell needs more resources, and I am determined to bring those resources to the faculty, staff and students. I see UMass Lowell as a campus brimming with spirit, a place where everyone, both on and off campus, participates in the life of the university. This fall we will reintroduce the Honors Fellows Scholarship night, as a way of bringing our community together to celebrate this spirit and to demonstrate our commitment to academic excellence. I urge you to help us to build our campus spirit by participating in these events and by taking part in the decision-making process on campus. You can expect accessible, responsive leadership—beginning in the Chancellor's Office. I will use my website (www.uml.edu/chancellor/) to ensure that we have a vigorous dialogue on campus.

We had an extraordinary situation with our hockey team this spring, which you can read about in the pages ahead. The hockey issue proved to be a catalyst for something larger, the coming together of people on campus and our supporters in the area. I am thankful to everyone who helped us reach a good result. I picture hockey games as a high-profile platform for celebrating everything at UMass Lowell. We will make the Tsongas Arena the place to be. If you have ideas about how we can include everyone, please share them with me.

UMass Lowell shapes the economic and social future of our region. What happens here will determine whether or not people choose to live here and what kind of lives they can expect for their children. Higher education took root in Lowell more than 100 years ago, and we will be here 100 years from now. Our work affects lives and fosters hope. I know how important it is. I walked these halls as an undergraduate. I know the value of an inspiring teacher. Next spring, I will celebrate my 30th reunion. What a privilege it will be to attend as Chancellor.

We all want greater success for UMass Lowell. This is a new September, and I ask you to join me at the start in achieving the success we imagine.

Marty Meehan

Chancellor

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FALL 2007
Volume 10, Number 3

The UMass Lowell Alumni Magazine is published by:
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Colleges - Arts and Sciences



Faculty in the College of Management involved in the new entrepreneurship concentration include, from left, Asst. Prof. Steve Tello, Prof. Stuart Freedman and Dean Kathryn Carter.

College of Management Introduces Entrepreneurship Concentration

The College of Management has introduced a new undergraduate concentration in its Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) degree program. As of this fall, students can choose a concentration in entrepreneurship.

“The intent of this concentration is two-fold,” says Stuart Freedman, chair of the college’s Management Group. “One aim is to create entrepreneurs. The other purpose is to provide students with the skills and information to become ‘intrepreneurs,’ people able to create entrepreneurial efforts within corporations. Big businesses need this.

“An innovation-based economy is based on transforming research projects into marketable products,” Freedman points out. “In reality, a very small percentage of those projects become successful businesses. We want to boost the number of people who can help with this process.”

“This is also a way for us to leverage the fact that 80 percent of our students stay in the area,” adds Dean Kathryn Carter. “Our graduates will be helping companies take root in the region.”

Other undergraduate concentrations in the BSBA program include finance, accounting, management, marketing and management information systems. Students may combine the new concentration with any of the existing ones to create a program that meets a wide range of career goals.

Two New Arts Venues Dedicated

Two important arts venues on UML South were dedicated in May amidst an afternoon of artistic events. Ribbons were cut for the Spinola Art Gallery, located in Allen House, and for the Comley-Lane Theatre in Mahoney Hall.

The afternoon began with a reception at Allen House where The Spinola Art Gallery presented an art show titled “Selections by the UML Art Department Faculty,” curated by Prof. William Kaizen. The Allen House Gallery showcased “Landscape Paintings by Charles Herbert Allen (1848-1934),” courtesy of the Whistler House Museum of Art. The ribbon-cutting included expressions of appreciation to Mary Jo and Frank Spinola '66, the gallery’s benefactors.

Following that event, participants crossed the street to the Comley-Lane Theater for a ribbon-cutting there. Students then performed a series of one-act plays, written by David Ives and directed by Paula Plum and Richard Snee. A question-and-answer period followed with Bonnie Comley '81 and Stewart Lane, Tony-award winning producers from New York City, whose generosity helped fund the theater’s makeover.



The Comley-Lane Theatre in Mahoney Hall and the Spinola Art Gallery in Allen House were dedicated in separate gala ceremonies this spring. The theater and gallery were the gifts of Stewart Lane, left, and his wife, Bonnie Comley '81, and of Frank and Mary Jo Spinola, right, both members of the Class of 1966.

See related story on page 44, related photos on page 30.

Colleges - Engineering

Engineering Adds Ph.D. Option

The Francis College of Engineering can now grant Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees, as well as Doctor of Engineering (D.Eng.) degrees.

The Ph.D. will be available in the following engineering options: chemical, civil and environmental, computer, electrical, energy, mechanical and plastics.

“While both programs have the same total number of credits required for thesis and coursework, the Ph.D. is a more recognized, traditional research degree,” says Dean John Ting. The Ph.D. requires all 42 credits to be in approved technical courses, while the D.Eng. requires nine of the course credits to be in approved management or other non-technical coursework. Also, industrial design-oriented theses are done in a D.Eng. degree, subject to approval by the thesis advisor.

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education approved the request based on the professional accreditation of the UMass Lowell engineering programs by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), information regarding program need and demand and the success of program graduates over the past two decades.

Students currently enrolled in the D.Eng. program may choose to switch to the Ph.D. program, if they meet the technical course requirement.

State’s Innovation Institute Funds Medical Device Center



The John Adams Innovation Institute’s chief executive officer, Joseph Downing, center, recently presented a “check” for the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2) to Plastics Engineering Prof. Stephen McCarthy, co-director of M2D2, second from right, and Interim Chancellor David MacKenzie, far right. From left, Rep. Thomas Golden and Sen. Steven Panagiotakos, both of Lowell, received thanks from UMass Vice President for Economic Development Thomas Chmura for their role in funding the Innovation Institute.

UMass Lowell’s ability to address industry’s need for the latest technology goes back a century to the days of the Lowell Textile Institute. That tradition continues—and continues to receive state backing—with a \$150,000 grant from the John Adams Innovation Institute to the Mass Medical Device Development Center (M2D2).

With the funds, M2D2 will help inventors turn new medical product ideas into prototypes likely to secure federal and private funding.

“We’re excited about assisting potential new medical device companies,” said Stephen McCarthy, professor of plastics engineering and co-director of M2D2, when the award was announced at a meeting of more than 150 business executives at the Merrimack Valley Venture Forum, held at Wannalancit. “This is a pilot program. We really expect to grow it.”

Joseph D. Downing, chief operating officer for the Innovation Institute, presented a large display “check” to McCarthy and Interim Chancellor

David MacKenzie. “Everyone likes technology, but you’re really investing in people,” he said. “The involvement of business and industry leaders in this project convinced us of the ‘reputation effect’—that smart dollars will follow the reputation.”

McCarthy’s M2D2 team includes Hooks Johnston, a Smith and Nephew retiree, as chair of its steering committee, and Mark Trusheim, a biotech industry consultant and former interim president for the Mass Biotech Council. Steering committee members represent venture capital firms, large and small medical device companies, UMass and economic development agencies.

Thomas Chmura, UMass vice president for Economic Development, noted that the state’s economic stimulus legislation has provided the funding so that the Innovation Institute can make such awards. He thanked Sen. Steven Panagiotakos and state Rep. Thomas Golden, on hand for the announcement, for their support.

Online

UMassOnline Awarded \$650K National Grant



Working to expand the UMassOnline program are, from left, Catherine Kendrick, director of Corporate and Distance Market Development; Jacqueline Maloney, associate chancellor and Charmaine Hickey, director of the Faculty Center.

UMassOnline has been awarded a \$650,000 grant by The Sloan Foundation, a national association that promotes online learning standards. The funds will help expand access to the UMass system through blended programs, a model that combines classroom and online learning.

“The grant will help UMassOnline develop, deliver and market a new suite of online blended programs and services,” says Jacqueline Moloney, former dean of Continuing Studies, Corporate and Distance Education and principal investigator for the grant.

UMassOnline, which has 22,000 enrollments and offers 69 online degree and certificate programs, has grown dramatically since it was launched five years ago. These programs are offered through the five campuses in the system—Amherst, Dartmouth, Boston, Lowell and the Medical School in Worcester.

The program was launched this summer with a graduate course in healthcare management taught by Prof. James Lee of the College of Health and Environment.

Outlook

UML to Increase Financial Aid by 3.4 Percent

UMass Lowell has increased need-based financial aid to students by 3.4 percent for this academic year. That percent matches the increase in fees approved by the UMass Board of Trustees at its March meeting.

The fee increase adds \$287 to the annual cost of an in-state undergraduate student.

“The campus committed to the financial aid increase,” says Executive Director for Administration and Finance Louise Griffin, “because we know that even this modest fee increase could be difficult for some of our students.”

The percentage increase in aid translates to a total campus financial aid allocation of \$3,805,120 in fiscal year 2008, compared to \$3,680,000 in FY07.

“We have reapportioned campus-based financial aid to effect some significant benefits for students,” says Thomas Taylor, dean of Enrollment Services and Student Success. “We will be reducing the number of hours a student can work, especially during his or her first year, but will increase need-based grant money. This means that students will generally receive the same amount of aid, but work less.”

Aramark Takes the ‘Trans’ Out of Deep Frying Fat

The “trans” has been taken out of the deep fat in all Aramark dining locations throughout the University.

The food service provider has converted to a zero-grams transfat fryer oil in response to research that shows consumers are more concerned than ever with their intake of trans fats.

“After an in-depth product review, it’s clear that this new oil offers the best combination of value, performance, taste delivery and health profile,” the company stated in a news release.

Aramark is now using non-hydrogenated corn and sunflower oil, which it says provides the “same great taste,” for all its deep frying on campus.



Aramark introduces frying oil with no trans fats.

Outreach

UML Among Leaders in Campus Emergency Messaging

The need to communicate quickly with a university community during an emergency became painfully evident after the recent Virginia Tech tragedy. At UMass Lowell, subscription to the UML text-messaging service grew exponentially in the days following the incident.

“Understandably, people want accurate, fast information, preferably via multiple channels,” says Ed Roberts, training manager in the Department of Information Technology Services.

UMass Lowell’s text-messaging capability—combined with a full complement of other instant communication media, including campus e-mails, voice mails, WUML radio, Hawki monitor notices and emergency website messages—place the campus among the leaders in communication technology. UML’s text-messaging subscribers automatically receive emergency notifications and may also choose to get messages about other campus events, including sports scores and updates, academic reminders and housing and residential life information.

According to recent surveys, 90 percent of UMass Lowell students own a cell phone, and 96 percent say they’d like to use them to receive emergency text notifications. As a result, proposals call for compiling student cell phone numbers upon registration, creating a reliable network for instant communication.

Roberts placed UMass Lowell at the forefront of text-messaging technology in 2006 by introducing a system that provides targeted communications to more than 500 subscribers. More recently, he began interviewing vendors that can work with the University to instantly and simultaneously send messages through text-messaging and a variety of other available channels. Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and state lawmakers set aside \$300,000 for campus safety initiatives, including \$250,000 to help UMass Lowell and other state colleges implement text message notification systems.



Members of the executive committee and project staff of the Northeast Network STEM Pipeline Project met recently on campus, including from left, Marjorie Dennis, project manager; Donald Pierson, interim provost and co-director and co-principal investigator for the project; Maryellen Rancourt, director of curriculum and grantmanship for Methuen Public Schools and co-director of the project and Judith Boccia, director of the Center for Field Services and Studies and co-principal investigator for the project. Not pictured are John Hodgman, UML Howard Foley Professor of High-Tech Workforce Development; Susan Grolnic, dean of Business, Mathematics, Science and Technology at Northern Essex Community College and Joyce Tapper-Benham, director of Professional Development for Lowell Public Schools.

UML-Middle School Collaboration Gets Boost

UMass Lowell’s lead role in promoting better science, technology, engineering and math education—the so called “STEM” fields—has been rewarded with a six-figure grant from the state Board of Higher Education (BHE).

The two-year, \$322,986 grant from the BHE’s STEM Pipeline Fund was awarded to the Northeast Regional Pre-K-to-16 Network, of which UMass Lowell is the lead partner. The University will work with teams of middle school teachers from 15 districts—Andover, Beverly, Billerica, Chelmsford, Hamilton-Wenham Regional Schools, the Innovation Charter School, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Lynnfield, Methuen, North Reading, Reading, Salem and Tritown Union (Boxford, Middleton, Topsfield). Other partners include Salem State College, Northern Essex Community College, the Museum of Science, EduTron and the Northshore Workforce Investment Board.

“The success last year of an intensive professional development program for 38 teachers, designated as ‘fellows’ from eight school districts, has generated optimism for the potential impact on student interest and knowledge,” says Donald Pierson, lead partner of the Northeast Network, provost and dean of the Graduate School of Education. “The new round of funding will enable us to replicate and extend this approach to more schools and more teachers throughout the region.”

Nano Program Expands Education, Outreach

“Proactive” could be the motto and mantra of the nanotechnology education and outreach program at UMass Lowell.

Directed by Prof. Carol Barry of the Plastics Engineering Department as part of the National Science Foundation Center for High-rate Nanomanufacturing (CHN), the program reaches undergraduate and graduate students, schoolchildren and teachers, researchers and industrialists.

Undergraduate offerings include the Research Experiences for Undergraduates summer program, which draws students from UML and campuses across the country for 10 weeks of intensive study and research, concluding in a joint conference with CHN partners Northeastern and UNH.

Barry and others have also developed more than a dozen nanotechnology modules that incorporate information into existing undergraduate courses. Several are engineering courses, but other disciplines are represented, including economics, English and philosophy. Barry estimates that the modular instruction has reached more than 600 students.

Philosophy Prof. Eugene Mellican, who incorporates nanotechnology into his Engineering and Ethics course, says, “I enjoy engaging students in a technical area they know little about—it holds intrinsic interest for them.”

Graduate students may choose a certificate program in nanotechnology, consisting of four courses, coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Xiaoqi Zhang of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.

Oral Literacy Project Helps Preschoolers

“Most reading difficulties are, at root, deficiencies of oral language,” says Allyssa McCabe, professor of psychology. “In preschool, we can predict fairly accurately which children will have academic difficulties in fourth and seventh grades.”

McCabe is leading a research project that aims to reverse that prediction for preschool children at risk; the research is part of the UMass Lowell–Bartlett School Community Partnership. Volunteer college students are trained to engage children in the most basic and powerful prerequisite of literacy: one-on-one conversations in English.

“They tell a story to get a story,” explains doctoral candidate and research assistant Mari Beth Bennett, “sharing personal experiences and prompting similar accounts from the children are recorded and read back.” The volunteers help extend the children’s vocabulary, and draw attention to letters and sounds.

More than 30 preschool children, aged two to five, are participating in the intervention group, with a similar number from Lowell’s McAvinnue School in a control group. Pre-tests and post-tests measure a variety of oral language skills, with additional testing planned for fourth grade.

Research funding has included a seed grant from the Committee of Federated Centers and Institutes, the umbrella organization of interdisciplinary research centers on campus, and the Theodore Edson Parker Foundation. Others associated with the research include Dr. Judith Boccia, director of the Center for Field Services and Studies and co-principal investigator on the project; Kelly King, doctoral student, and Pilar Fabery, both teachers at Lowell’s Bartlett School; Dr. Grace Wai, principal of Bartlett; Kelly Clough, principal of McAvinnue and Marion DeLaubenfels, graduate student in community psychology and trainer, along with Bennett, of the student researchers.



From left, Judith Boccia, director of the Center for Field Services and Studies; Mari Beth Bennett, doctoral candidate in education and Prof. Allyssa McCabe of the Psychology Department are working on research to improve the oral language skills of at-risk preschool children.

Think Globally, Help Locally

Many Americans are concerned about losing U.S. businesses to India. Engineering Dean Emeritus Krishna Vedula, on the other hand, has focused on a project that could boost both countries' economies by improving India's undergraduate engineering education.



"India, China and Ireland no longer send their best and brightest to the U.S.," says Vedula. He has chosen to focus on his homeland, India, in part because India sends more graduate students to the U.S. than any other country. "It is in the best interest of American universities to make sure that Indian colleges are offering a high-quality education," he says, pointing out that in comparison to the U.S., India's colleges are under-resourced. He describes many of them as "mediocre." At the same time, engineering students in the U.S. need to receive an education that is globally relevant.

To address this problem, Vedula is working with numerous American and Indian colleges, several U.S. and Indian companies and the U.S. Embassy in India on an initiative started by the American Society for Engineering Education. Hewlett Packard, National Instruments, Dassault Systemes and Infosys, Deshpande Foundation and the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum are among those sponsoring two upcoming summits.

The emphasis will be on building best practices around U.S. and Indian university collaborations, with support from industry, in the following areas: research and development, curriculum and technology-enhanced learning, quality and accreditation and innovation and entrepreneurship. The goal is to improve the quality and global relevance of engineering education in the U.S. and India, thereby improving graduate programs in the U.S.—including UMass Lowell's—and the talent pool for U.S. companies' Asian satellite operations.

Assistive Technology Fair Shows Ingenuity of Teens

They came wearing team t-shirts or jackets and ties. They hauled poster boards and models and prototypes. They were tall and short, male and female, earnest and funny. The donuts were gone in seconds.

These were the participants in the fifth annual High School Assistive Technology Design Fair, a project of UMass Lowell's Future Engineers Center. More than 120 students from nine high schools demonstrated 33 innovative projects designed to help disabled clients tackle everyday tasks. The event was held in Costello Gymnasium.

Each team found a client in its community and worked collaboratively to identify a need that could be met by assistive technology. Students used the engineering design process to help frame the problem and develop design alternatives. Industry sponsors from Tyco Electronics, Philips Medical Systems, Teradyne Corp. and UMass Lowell's College of Engineering met with students to review their ideas and make suggestions. The teams arrived with prototypes they had fabricated themselves.

The Assistive Technology Design Fair program is funded in part by Tyco Electronics, 3M Touch Systems and Philips Medical Systems.



Doug Prime, director of K-12 Educational Outreach, talks with two participants in the fifth annual High School Assistive Technology Design Fair, a project of UMass Lowell's Future Engineers Center.

UML Hosts Variety of Spring Conferences

UMass Lowell was the site of eight conferences—on topics ranging from nanotechnology to poetry—during the spring semester.

The events included:

- The Nanotechnology Summit on bridging the gap between research and commercialization.
- Green Plastics Manufacturing: A Sustainable Materials Conference about breakthrough advances in the production of products from bio-based polymers.
- Intergenerational Voices on Women in Science and Engineering addressed changes that have taken place for women in science, technology, engineering and math.
- I2V, the Invention to Venture conference, described how to become an entrepreneur.
- The Digisonde Forum and Workshop included discussion of the Center for Atmospheric Research's role in the NASA IMAGE mission.
- The Third Annual New England Poetry Conference was sponsored by the Jack and Stella Kerouac Center for American Studies and the UML English Department.
- The International CITA (Committee on Industrial Theory and Assessment) Conference brought together academics and professionals from around the world to discuss university/community partnerships. The conference, called "University Partnerships: How Do We Achieve the Promise?" highlighted the role universities can have in community and economic development.

People



Arno Minkkinen perched on ledges and was suspended on climbing ropes to get the images of women climbers for an assignment for The New York Times magazine, Play.

Minkkinen Photos Featured in New York Times Sports Magazine

For the first photo assignment of his career, Arno Minkkinen, professor in the Art Department and world-renowned photographer, had a doozie.

The call from The New York Times came in on a Thursday. Would he photograph the top women rock climbers in the country? He was delighted and agreed quickly, he says, "because you have to be ready to say yes immediately when opportunities come along."

By Sunday he was on his way to Yosemite Valley, Calif. On Monday, he climbed the 3,000-foot vertical granite face of El Capitan tied to a climbing partner with a single rope. At the top, he tucked himself into a crevice to get a photo of Beth Rodden, one of a number of women climbers, suspended from the mountainside. Then, he rappelled down.

That was the first time he climbed and the first time he rappelled.

Although he had once shot a billboard campaign in Germany, "this assignment was the first time I was doing portraits of people, following a

very tight itinerary and shooting in public places,” the photographer says.

His rock-climbing images appeared in the March 2007 issue of *Play*, a New York Times seasonal sports magazine. Times photo editors called his shots “vibrant and soulful.”

Minkkinen calls his climbing experience “an adventure. It gave me a jolt of adrenaline. At 61, I became like 41.” He adds that his own work may benefit from learning about the use of ropes in climbing “because it opens up other ideas of things I can do that are a little more dangerous.”

O’Connell Wins Prestigious Commonwealth Award

This year, Lowell’s prominence in the state’s arts and culture arena was evident as two of the five recipients of the Commonwealth Awards were given to people with ties to the Mill City.

The Commonwealth Awards, the state’s highest honors in the arts, humanities and sciences, are given by the Massachusetts Cultural Council to outstanding individuals and organizations in five different categories.

Peter O’Connell, the recently retired director of the Tsongas Industrial History Center, received the award at a State House ceremony for his 40-year career in history education. After coming to the Tsongas Center in 1996, O’Connell developed and oversaw educational programs for more than 60,000 students annually, showcasing the City’s resources and role in the industrial revolution. Under his leadership, he also spearheaded teacher training programs that attracted educators from across the country.

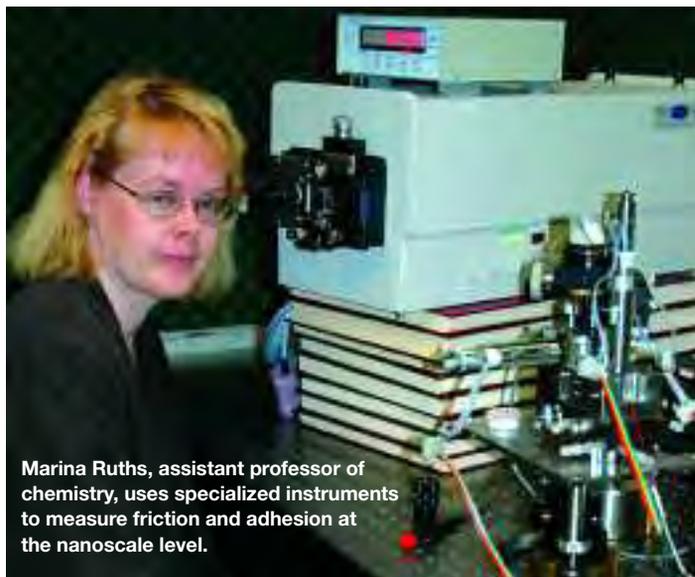


Peter O’Connell, left, recently retired director of the Tsongas Industrial History Center, received the prestigious Commonwealth Award at the State House.

The staff of the Revolving Museum also received the Commonwealth Award. Located in downtown Lowell, the museum was honored for its cultural offerings, which include a wide range of youth programs, public art projects and collaborations with the University.

Ruths Receives NSF CAREER Award

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Marina Ruths a CAREER grant for young investigators. Such grants are designed to support promising researchers early in their academic careers.



Marina Ruths, assistant professor of chemistry, uses specialized instruments to measure friction and adhesion at the nanoscale level.

Ruths, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, is researching the characteristics of adhesion and friction at the nanoscopic to microscopic level—problems that in the macro world might show up in lubrication or manufacturing processes.

“At that level, most real surfaces are rough,” explains Ruths. “They have asperities—isolated points of contact—that vary in size, height and distribution—and the materials themselves have differing properties of elasticity and strength. As materials are pressed or rubbed together, some points and then others come into contact. At present, we typically study just one point, but can’t discuss all the parameters that govern the phenomena we see during friction and adhesions of real surfaces.”

The NSF grant of \$400,000 over five years will fund two graduate students, one full-time and one half-time.

Ruths has been researching friction and adhesion for about 10 years. Other research includes the friction of aromatic, sulphur-containing compounds—similar to ones found in diesel fuels.



Prof. John Duffy is flanked by, from left, Sean Martin of the Massachusetts State Lottery, Gerald Wallace, captain of the Charlotte Bobcats and Paul Pierce, captain of the Boston Celtics, as he is named a Hero Among Us for the project that brings sustainable energy systems to remote villages in Peru.

Peru Project Honored by Celtics, Carter Awards

Prof. John Duffy would say he's only a small part of the effort to supply remote villages in the Peruvian Andes with renewable and sustainable infrastructure.

And that's true. Nearly 100 students and volunteers, all told, have traveled with him twice yearly to install and maintain systems and listen respectfully as local people explain their needs and aspirations. And hundreds of college students have contributed through their engineering design work to the Peru project, now named the Village Empowerment Partnership.

So the participants, contributors and well-wishers were pleased to see John Duffy stand for all their efforts as the project was honored recently by both the Boston Celtics and by the Carter Partnership Foundation.

The Celtics presented Duffy with the Heroes Among Us award on court during half-time of a game this spring, citing his "dedication to the health and well-being of those in need." The Heroes Among Us award is a program of the Boston Celtics, presented by the Mass. State Lottery.

A couple of weeks later, the Village Empowerment Project was honored as a finalist at the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award celebration. The award, sponsored by the Massachusetts Campus Compact, encourages campus-community collaboration on critical social and economic issues, and is given every three years. While the UMass Lowell-Peruvian Ministry of Health program did not win the award, it was one of three finalists from a distinguished field of applicants, which, in itself, was an honor.

Honors Go to Nurse Educator Extraordinaire

For Stephanie Chalupka, there was never a choice.

"I always wanted to be a nurse," she says. "I love nursing and I've loved every job I've ever had as a nurse."

The Boston Globe honored Chalupka's love of nursing with this year's Salute to Nurses Faculty Award. Just three clinical awards and one faculty award are given each year, chosen from nominees across New England.

As professor of nursing at UMass Lowell, Chalupka is especially dedicated to a sub-population of students: those in the RN to BS program.

"These are students who already are registered nurses, who went through a community college or hospital diploma program," says Chalupka.

"Now they are making the transition from staff nursing to management and leadership positions."

About 10 students enter the program each year as juniors and must be full-time for their senior year. Chalupka manages the individualized clinical placements in their target professional areas. "It's an intensive four-month experience for them," she says. "Also, I have an intensive coaching style."

Former student Heather Moore, R.N., agrees. As she wrote in her nomination letter, one of several written by students in the program, "That's the thing about Stephanie, she encourages you to aim high and supports you while you are striving to meet your goals."

Moore adds, "I think that every nursing student needs to experience 'the school of Stephanie.' She is truly an amazing nurse and professor."



Stephanie Chalupka

Two Faculty Members Win MTTC Awards

Two faculty researchers have each been granted the maximum \$40,000 Investigation Awards funded by the Massachusetts Technology Transfer Center (MTTC).

Winners of the awards, which support the commercialization of innovative technology, are Professor Emeritus Arthur Watterson of the Chemistry Department and Prof. Sam Mil'shtein of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

Watterson is developing flame retardant materials using new chemistry based on enzyme synthesis, that are stable,

produced rapidly, are non-toxic when combusted and degrade without environmental harm. These materials would replace fire retardants containing halogens and phosphorus, already banned in Europe.

Mil'shtein is working to improve transistor technology by shaping the electrical field profile along the channel of a transistor. As a result, operational frequency and power are both higher, the breakdown voltage increases, gain is almost constant and linearity is improved.

Chancellor Meehan Announces Senior Appointments

Chancellor Marty Meehan tapped the experience and expertise on campus through his first appointments to his senior leadership team. Dr. Jacqueline Moloney, dean of Continuing Studies, Corporate and Distance Education (CSCE), was named associate chancellor and Patricia McCafferty, executive director of Communications, was appointed Chief Public Affairs Officer. Meehan approved interim appointments in the key positions of provost for Dr. Don Pierson, dean of the Graduate School of Education; and chief information officer, Dr. Thomas Costello, chairperson of the Computer Science Department, until searches can be completed for the permanent positions.

Moloney brings extensive experience to her new position, having worked in many key areas on campus including admissions, academic services, retention programs and faculty development, as well as continuing studies and online education. Under her leadership, CSCE has become a nationally recognized model of how universities can use an entrepreneurial approach to outreach and continuing education.

McCafferty has been a communications professional for more than 25 years, having worked as a newspaper reporter, press secretary and congressional office district director. She has worked at the University for 12 years, in two different stints, serving as a writer and editor from 1986 to 1992, prior to her return in 2001 as a coordinator, then director, of media relations and executive director of communications.

Pierson is the senior dean at UMass Lowell, having headed the Graduate School of Education since 1989. The school has received acclaim from state and national



Members of the transition team include, from left, Patricia McCafferty, Louise Griffin, Paul Marion, Don Pierson, Jacqueline Moloney and Tom Costello.

accrediting agencies for the quality of instruction, use of technology to improve teaching and learning, outstanding performance of graduates on teacher tests and collaborative relationships with elementary and secondary schools and the Lowell National Historic Park. Previously, Pierson served as professor of education and director of the Center for Field Services and Studies. Dr. Anita Greenwood is acting dean of the GSE while Dean Pierson serves as interim provost.

Costello brings more than three decades of technical experience and expertise to his new role. In addition to serving as a faculty member and department chair, Costello was a vice president/vice chancellor from 1983 to 1995. Under his leadership, computer science enrollment increased dramatically, the first campuswide network and digital phone system were established, \$18 million in industry donations were recorded, an ambitious master plan was undertaken and the first six multidisciplinary research centers were created.

Chancellor Meehan initiated an audit of the entire organization, which was reviewed over the summer by an ad hoc committee, with plans to have a new administrative structure in place in September.

Tsunami *at the Tsongas*

See you at
the Tsongas!

The pride and near-frenzy that erupt so often on the ice among players may spill over this season into the stands—all part of the “emotional connection” that Dana Skinner is seeking.

River Hawks' Hockey: Centerpiece of 'a Whole New Culture'

by Geoffrey Douglas

"What we're looking to create here is a tsunami. A spiritual tsunami. Nothing less."

Dana Skinner, UMass Lowell's athletic director of the last 12 years, sits in his office in the Costello Gym building, twiddling a pencil between two fingers, talking about school spirit. It isn't something he's spent a great deal of time talking about in recent times. But the times are different now.

"This is about emotional connection—about creating a stronger emotional connection between the University and its people. It's about *spirit and tradition*. And hockey is going to be the centerpiece."

It is a Thursday in late June. An hour or two from now, the UMass Board of Trustees will give its final, official blessing to the plan it has already endorsed: to do away with the University's yearly \$50,000 use-fee at Tsongas Arena, grant it an even split—with the city getting the other half—of all ad revenue from its exterior electronic billboard; and allow it to keep all food and beverage dollars from the River Hawks' 19 home games. There are also concessions related to maintenance, parking income and same-day booking of games by the city's American Hockey League affiliate, the Lowell Devils.



As a result of the agreement, which has also been approved unanimously by the Lowell City Council, the River Hawks have now

solidified their hold on a berth in Division One's Hockey East—which had been in jeopardy—as well as stemmed the flow of red ink that had marred their use of the 6,500-seat arena.

Now all they have to do is sell tickets. And that is a mission that has claimed the full commitment of the team, the athletic director, the new chancellor and a large and growing share of the Lowell business community. And if the Chancellor has his way,

it will also rank high on the priority-list of the University's alumni, students, faculty and staff.

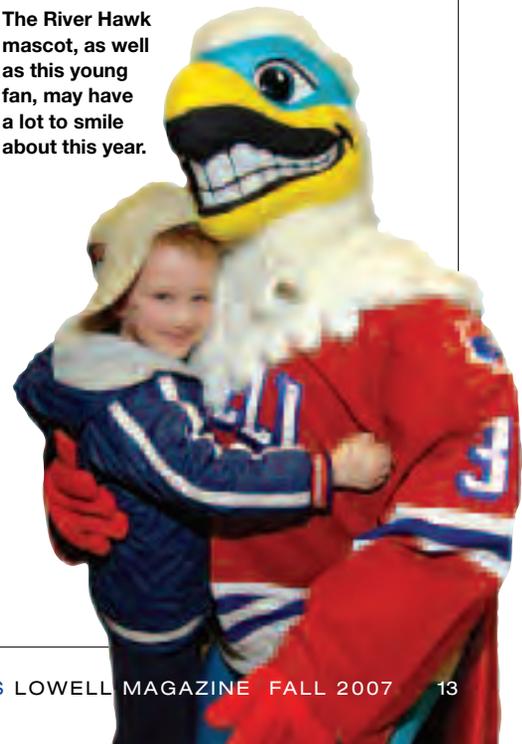
"I'm calling on the UMass Lowell community to join me at the Tsongas Arena this season to support River Hawks' hockey," Chancellor Marty Meehan said in an statement that followed the Board's approval of the arena's new terms. "The Board of Trustees, the city council—they've both done their parts. Bernie Lynch and Billy Martin [Lowell's city manager and mayor, respectively] have done their parts, and then some. As a result of their efforts, not only will fans see the best college hockey in the country—at terrific, family-friendly prices—but they'll help build campus spirit. I want to make Tsongas Arena the place to be."

The Chancellor's citing of campus spirit is more than a throw-away line. It goes to the core, says Skinner,



Twenty four members of the blue-ribbon committee, a mix of University staff and local business leaders, came together this summer to launch a ticket drive for the River Hawks' upcoming hockey season at Tsongas Arena. Among them are, standing in back from left, Mike Kuenzler, Brian Martin and Brian Reece; seated in front, from left: Tom Shanahan, Brian McMahon and Dan Durkin. The group as a whole, as of press time for this magazine, were well on the way to its target of 800 club-seat season tickets.

The River Hawk mascot, as well as this young fan, may have a lot to smile about this year.





“The Wave” will be only one way the crowd will be supporting the River Hawks this winter.

of Meehan’s view of his role as the University’s new leader:

“He’s trying to create a whole new culture on this campus. It’s that basic. He’s looking for more spirit, more tradition, more sense of inclusion, and hockey is going to be at the center of that.”

The near-term goal is clear-cut: to increase the number of season tickets from 800 to 2,000, with close to a fifth of these being the higher-end (\$299), center-ice, “club seat” packages (regular season tickets are \$149 each). The longer-term aim is more amorphous, though more critical by far: to make of Tsongas Arena a gathering place, a game-night venue for students, faculty and staff; and to make of the games and of the team a rallying-point for a diffuse, sometimes distracted school community.

“It’s part of a reassessment, part of a whole new way of looking at things,” says Skinner, who seems tireless on the twin issues of building spirit and filling seats. “And one of the things we need to begin to reassess is the definition of excellence—how do you define excellence? That depends on who you are, it depends on what institution you’re talking about. For some schools you define it by the number of wins in a season. The number of wins, the number of goals, whatever...”

“But for us, right now, this year? Doing 4,000 seats a game—that would be excellence, *that* would be a significant event.”

Even before the final political hurdles had been cleared, the push to fill seats had begun. On the evening of

“I haven’t seen anything to match this level of energy since I was a student here. Back then hockey was where it was at on Saturday nights. It was where you came with your date or your friends, it was the place to be. I think we’re well on our way to recreating that spirit today...”

— Dan Durkin

June 18, three days before the Board voted its approval, a gathering of about 100 hard-core River Hawk supporters—faculty, staff, ticket-holders, members of the city’s business community—came together in Tsongas Arena to pledge their time and share their thoughts. One of these, Mike Kuenzler, president of the city’s All Sports Promotions, was chosen to head the season-ticket sales drive, which began in early July. Goals were identified, mailing lists were drafted, emails were conceived; a cadre of community

leaders pledged themselves to a block of tickets each.

“It was an exciting thing to see,” says Skinner. “You had the feeling that now finally, we’re getting out from under all the troubles, we have control of our own destiny.”

The blue-ribbon committee that grew out of that June meeting, 24 members strong as of press-time for this magazine, was a roughly even mix of local leaders and UMass Lowell coaches, faculty and staff. Members from the region’s business community, in addition to Kuenzler, included Brian Reece, Brian McMahon, Tom Shanahan, Craig Gates, Dean Jenkins, Dan Durkin, Brian Martin, William Rizos, Deb Belanger, Jim Kemos and John Chemaly. The University contingent consisted of Skinner and hockey coach Blaise MacDonald, as well as Brian Andriolo, Caitlin O’Brien, Rich Lemoine, Don Lampron, Steven Rogers, Emily Byrne, Elaine Dalton, Scott Donnelly, Deme Gys, Maryjane Mastrovich and long-time former coach Billy Riley. And there has been



Freshman defenseman Nick Schaus celebrates with fellow players after a River Hawk goal early in the 2006-07 season.

a final, unofficial, member, Mike Kuenzler says: “My wife Cynthia—some people would know her as Cynthia Hargraves, she graduated in ’91 [cum laude, with a degree in marketing]—she’s been incredible, totally involved all the way. She’s been my full partner in this. She’s my partner in everything.”

The group’s commitment to the project, according to at least one of its members, has been beyond anyone’s wildest hopes.

“Some of these people, they’ve committed to selling a few tickets each, they go out and sell 20, even 30—it’s been incredible,” said Lowell’s Dan Durkin. “I haven’t seen anything to match this level of energy since I was a student here. Back then”—in the late 1970s, when ULowell was a national power in Division II hockey—“hockey was where it was at on Saturday nights. It was where you came with your date or your friends, it was the place to be. I think we’re well on our way to recreating that spirit today...”

Largely as a result of the committee’s efforts, the early goal for club-seat ticket sales, which had been set at 375, was more than doubled to 800—and by the second week of August, more than 600 had been sold. “We’re not going to have any trouble reaching the 800,” said Durkin. “This is a group of doers we’ve got here. And the energy behind this is like nothing I’ve ever seen.”

The plans for boosting ticket sales have been as diverse as they are creative. There is talk of a new VIP lounge at the arena; club-seat owners will be given VIP parking passes for every two seats purchased, as well as dinner with the Chancellor at Allen House on south campus. A season-ticket “Plus” package will offer first-chance ticket opportunities for other Tsongas Arena events. And in the meantime, in order to promote a greater sense of intimacy among

Continued



UMass Lowell alumnus Mike Kuenzler and his wife Cindy, a UMass Lowell College of Management graduate in the class of 1991, sold out the top level River Hawk hockey club seats in two weeks.

Kuenzler Accepts Challenge, Sees Quick Results Club Seat Goal Met in Two Weeks

When Mike Kuenzler accepted the challenge to help triple the number of season tickets sold for the UML River Hawk hockey team, he suspected the effort might not be as difficult as some people thought.

“I didn’t believe it was going to be a tough sell,” says Kuenzler, who attended UML in the early ’80s. “I knew people were going to stand behind the University. And I knew we were working with people like (Athletic Director) Dana Skinner and his staff. They are all hard workers.”

Kuenzler’s assessment proved to be an apt one, at least in the early stages of the campaign. The University sold out the 375 top-level club seat tickets in two weeks, with hundreds more sent to a waiting list. As a result, Skinner won approval to increase the total number of club seats, which sell for \$299 each, to 850. Besides a comfy, cushioned center-ice seat, club-seat season ticket holders receive access to a hospitality suite with a cash bar and buffet dinner, parking privileges, dinner with the Chancellor and first dibs on tickets to other events held at the Tsongas Arena.

The strategy to sell season tickets involved tapping into the excitement surrounding the start of Marty Meehan’s chancellorship, and the shock, then relief, of almost having lost Division I hockey in Lowell. Kuenzler and his committee scored success when they approached political and business leaders, friends, relatives—even people who have never attended a River Hawk hockey game before.

“Faculty and staff were some of the first people to buy these tickets,” says Kuenzler. “This showed other people how invested the University community is in making the team a success.”

The campaign still has a long way to go to reach the goal of selling 2,000 tickets overall. Fans have other choices besides the club seats—the basic season ticket for \$149, which includes a holiday skate party and pre-season barbecue, and the season ticket plus, which adds the opportunity to buy tickets to other Tsongas Arena events, including those that are sold out. Children can become members of the UML Kids Club for \$75.

“We’ve got a great plan with a price point for everyone,” says Kuenzler.

The next step will be to deliver on the promise of an entertaining evening at the Tsongas. Kuenzler says a committee is already meeting regularly to discuss theme nights and unique giveaways to keep even the novice hockey fan entertained. They plan to take a page out of the Lowell Spinners’ marketing handbook and create a family-friendly, affordable, entertaining experience.

“The fact that we sold out the first 375 in two weeks has been a real boost for everyone,” says Kuenzler. “It’s one thing to help sell tickets. The next step is to make sure people are happy.”



“We can fill those seats. We give ’em a reason to come, and they’ll come.” — Dana Skinner

patrons, some upper-level seats will be closed off and covered.

Ultimately though, Skinner knows, parking vouchers and giveaway dinners alone aren’t going to put people in the seats: “The future of the program is going to come down to commitment. And the commitment, if we’re going to have it, is going to come out of an emotional connection to the school.”

It can be a hard thing, he concedes, on a commuter campus such as Lowell’s, to build that connection among students and faculty.

“One thing that helps it is tradition—when you have rituals and traditions that get repeated year after year,” he says. “We don’t have a lot of those. We need more. Things like University Day [in April], and the pumpkin carving the [interim] Chancellor did last year. And the convocation we did last fall. Traditions, rituals, sports teams, mascots—those are the sorts of things that can help bring the school community together...”

And they’re fun. A night a week watching hockey at the Tsongas Arena, says Paul Marion of the University’s Office of Outreach, “will turn that place into a big indoor common, a place for everyone. And when you get a packed house like that, with people from the campus and community all sharing in the same thing, it makes for a really terrific time.”

For the Chancellor, a successful season will establish Lowell hockey as a rallying-point for the University and the region:

“A thriving Hockey East team will generate the sort of excitement and enthusiasm that gets more people thinking and talking about the University,” says Meehan. “On game night from October through March, the Tsongas Arena is going to be the place to be, whatever it is you’re looking for—enjoying sports with your family, meeting colleagues or socializing with friends.”

On a warm late-June day, a week or so after we had our talk in his office, Dana Skinner took a drive up Route 3 with Director of Advancement John Davis. They were going to check out a hawk—a large granite hawk—that Davis had seen the week before at a statuary dealer in Nashua.

“It was big,” he says. “Probably eight feet tall, and kind of inspiring-looking. And I got this idea—that maybe it could be our River Hawk. Maybe it could be our mascot. You know, like they have at [Louisiana Tech], where the football team rubs the head of their bulldog-mascot when they run out on the field before a game. That’s the kind of thing we need around here—something to bring us together, something to rally around.”



Returning sophomore forward Steve Capraro, who captained the Avon Old Farms team in Connecticut before coming to Lowell, was named to the Boston Herald Dream Team. Much is expected of him this season.

As of press-time, discussions were still underway with the Nashua statuary dealer. There was even some talk of commissioning a hawk statue directly from the sculptor. But whether these things happen or not, Skinner knows, the task ahead is not going to be easy—and it won’t be accomplished overnight.

The River Hawks, as before, are going to have to compete with the AHL Devils for the fans’ loyalty and entertainment dollars; and the team itself, which finished last season with a losing record, is in a rebuilding phase—not the recipe you would choose for an all-out ticket drive.

Still, there are reasons to believe. Fifteen of last season’s players were freshmen (“They’re talented, and if

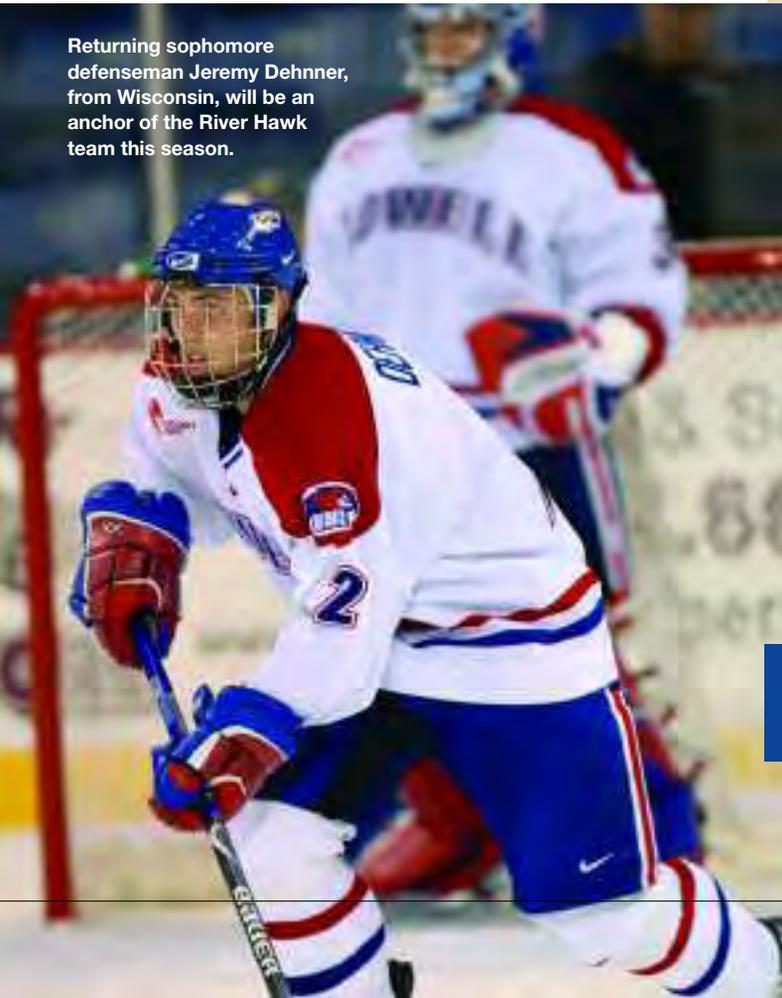


one or two of them caught fire,” says Skinner, “we could surprise a lot of people”). And while the '06 season wasn't what anyone had hoped, it closed with a flourish—only two losses in the team's final nine games—that heralded improvement, and seemed to promise good things.

But best of all, the team's drawing-power has been proven. Toward the end of last season, in a near-upset over Boston College in February, the River Hawks drew 6,400 paying fans to Tsongas arena.

“So it *can* be done,” says Skinner. “We can fill those seats. We give 'em a reason to come, and they'll come.”

Returning sophomore defenseman Jeremy Dehnner, from Wisconsin, will be an anchor of the River Hawk team this season.



2007-08 PRICES AND PACKAGES

There are 19 home games scheduled at Tsongas Arena for the 2007-08 hockey season, beginning Friday, Oct. 26 and ending Friday, Feb. 29.

All games, with the exception of one against Merrimack College on Thursday, Nov. 1, are scheduled on Fridays or Saturdays.

All will begin at 7 p.m.

Season ticket prices and packages are as follows:

Club Seat Package: \$299.00

includes padded, center-ice seats, access to the Talon Club Room—cash bar and buffet— and VIP parking pass for every two seats bought.

Season Ticket Plus \$199.00

all regular-season benefits, plus opportunity to buy seats for all other arena events

Season Ticket \$149.00

includes meet the River Hawks BBQ and holiday skating party

Kids Club \$75.00

includes club hat, t-shirt and hockey clinic with UMass Lowell players

Single Seat Tickets \$14.00

For more information or to order tickets, go to GoRiverHawks.com



These members of the class of 1972, the first graduates of the nursing program at Lowell, were among the celebrants at the Vesper Country Club dinner. They are, seated from left, Miriam Tobin, Mary Torelli, Jacqueline Talbot and Joanne Bushong and, standing from left, Pat Moysenko, Barbara Quirk, Celeste Campbell and Kathleen Lyons.

Nursing Department Celebrates 35 Years of Excellence

By Jack McDonough

Celeste Campbell's mother and two of her aunts were nurses. But she doesn't think that was the main reason she chose the same profession.

It was simpler than that.

"As a kid," she says, "I just always wanted to be a nurse. And I've never regretted it. I've enjoyed everything I've done in nursing."

And she's done quite a bit. She has been a staff nurse, a maternity nurse, a critical care nurse, a head nurse . . . the list goes on. Today, this Tewksbury native, who graduated in 1972 as a member of the first nursing class at Lowell, is a clinical assistant professor in the University's Department of Nursing.

Her success story is not uncommon among the 2,600 students who have graduated from a nursing program that began 40 years ago. It was in 1967 that

Lowell State College President Daniel O'Brien persuaded Gertrude (Trudy) Barker, who had just received a doctorate in Health Education from Boston University, to establish a nursing school on the Lowell campus.

More than 200 alumni, faculty and friends gathered at the Vesper Country Club in Tyngsboro this spring for a dinner celebrating the department's more than three decades of nursing excellence. The event marked the 35th anniversary of the first bachelor of science graduating class, the 30th anniversary of the first master's degree class and the 10th anniversary of the awarding of the first doctoral degrees.

Many of those attending that dinner remember Trudy Barker.

Campbell is one of them.

"There was only one nursing faculty

member that first year—Trudy Barker. We had nursing courses our first year then but we don't now. We took a one-hour nursing course and Dr. Barker taught it," she recalls.

The following year, Barker brought in faculty to teach specialties: Norma McQuade for medical/surgical; Eleanor Shalhoup for community nursing; Pat Tyra for psychology and May Futrell for medical/surgical and gerontology.

The program was off and running.

Karen Devereaux Melillo, professor and chair of the department, described the department's rapid progress one day recently to a visitor in her second floor office in Weed Hall.

"In 1975, May Futrell wrote a successful grant proposal and established the first Gerontological Nurse Practitioner specialty at the master's level. That first



Prof. Karen Devereaux Melillo, chair of the Nursing Department, addresses the dinner audience.

class graduated two years later,” she said.

That was soon followed by the creation of two other master’s programs—Family Health Nursing and the Adult Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialty.

Then, Melillo says, “In 1996 we admitted our first Ph.D. in Nursing students with a Health Promotion focus. We’ve graduated 11 Ph.D. students, and about half of them are now in nurse faculty roles. The other half are in nurse research positions.”

One of those students, who is typical of the quality of graduates the program has produced, is Catherine Read, now an associate professor and associate dean of Undergraduate Programs at the William F. Connell School of Nursing at Boston College.

Read had a bachelor’s and two master’s degrees and had taught in various schools in Massachusetts for 20 years before enrolling at UMass Lowell.

While studying for a master’s at Salem State, Read had a teaching practicum at Lowell. Her mentor was Gwen Gerhard, who had helped



Catherine Read

establish the University’s doctoral program in nursing.

“She was a big believer in doctoral preparation for nurse faculty and she told me I should think about this program,” Read says. “She said it wasn’t just that you need the credentials but that it’s the knowledge base that goes along with it. She turned out to be very right.”

Read entered the program in 1997 and, in the process of earning her doctorate in 2001, received the Graduate Research Scholar Award and the Dean’s Award from the College of Health Professions.

“UMass Lowell was a fabulous experience. I had very good mentors there. My dissertation advisor, Cheryl Cox, was a big influence on me and a great mentor. And there were a lot of other faculty there that I think very highly of and I’m still in contact with.”

— Catherine Read

“The doctorate changed my whole career both in terms of what opportunities became available to me and in my own ability to mentor my students now,” she says.

She chose Boston College because she was looking for a tenure track position and because it had an established doctoral program and an opening in adult health.

She credits UML for contributing to her success.

“UMass Lowell was a fabulous experience. I had very good mentors there. My dissertation advisor, Cheryl Cox, was a big influence on me and a great mentor. And there were a lot of other faculty there that I think very highly of and I’m still in contact with.

“I’m probably responsible for several people who’ve gone there since I graduated because I’ve recommended the school.”

Campbell is on track to get a doctorate at Lowell, too—in education—needing only to complete her dissertation. She has come a long way from the day when she and about 60 other students entered the first bachelor’s degree program in 1968.

Out of that number, only 35 graduated.

“I think the reason we lost half the class is because they selected the wrong major. They didn’t really want to be nurses,” she says. As for the graduates, she says, “We’re all still nurses or we work in a nursing occupation.”

Her Lowell degree prepared her well for a job at the Boston University Medical Center, then as head of the intermediate care floor at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Lowell. Then it was on to Nashoba Hospital in Ayer where—having by then earned a master’s degree in nursing from BU—she became director of nursing before she was 30 years old.

Eventually, she began teaching, first at Worcester State and later at Northern Essex Community College and Simmons. In time, this career path led her back to UMass Lowell and a position on the nursing faculty.

Asked to compare nursing students today to those of her era, Campbell says, “Students today have much more pressure than we did.”

Reaching for a medical/surgical textbook on a shelf in her O’Leary Library office, she says, “Look at this. This is about double the size of the text when I went to nursing school.

“Nurses today have more responsibility and accountability, and because of that we have to teach them at a much higher level, emphasizing the



May Futrell, left, former chair of the Nursing Department, and Jan Stecchi, former dean of the then College of Health Professions, talk over old times at the Vesper dinner.

importance of critical thinking. Nurses today are better educated and they collaborate more with the doctors. Both the nurses and doctors are smarter but the patients are also sicker. The ones we see on the floor now would have been in intensive care when I was starting out.”

But she’s confident that the UML nursing faculty is equal to the task.

“I think we have an awesome faculty,” she says. “Very well educated. Very clinically sound. And we work together extremely well. We like each other and respect each other. It’s a great place to work.”

Department Chair Mellilo agrees.

“This is a fabulous group of faculty,” she says. “They’re enthusiastic about nursing and their roles as educators.

They enjoy student interaction. There’s a lot of scholarship going on. And they’re doing it because they want to. They just really enjoy their faculty role.”

She’s also enthused about the makeup of the student population.

“There have always been serious, dedicated, well-prepared and capable students here since the program’s inception, and these attributes are reflected in current classes as well,” she says. “Students today understand that nursing requires a strong foundation in the sciences and that the actual program is rigorous in its academic expectations.

“What I’m very excited about is that the student body is more diverse in terms of age, prior educational experience and racial and ethnic backgrounds and gender. About 13 percent of our undergraduate student body is racial/ethnic minorities and about 15 percent is male. That enriches all interactions in the classroom, helps all students to be more aware of diversity issues and cultural competency at the bedside, and to understand how to work with peers from different backgrounds.”

There were 268 undergraduate students in the program this year along with 50 master’s degree and graduate

certificate students, and 20 Ph.D. students.

Alumni surveys show that bachelor’s and master’s graduates rate the program as excellent, while employer surveys reveal high levels of satisfaction with the job performance of the graduates.

These successes come at a time when nursing shortages, and the shortage of nurse faculty, exist both locally and nationally. One report issued earlier this year estimates that the national shortage of registered nurses will increase to 340,000 by the year 2020. And a recent report by the Massachusetts Association of Colleges of Nursing predicts “an unacceptably dangerous shortage” of nurses within the next three years.

The single most important factor contributing to this situation is a shortage of faculty, blamed in part on low academic salaries.

The UMass Lowell program is doing its best to deal with this problem.

“The nursing shortage today is critical, but even more critical is the nursing faculty shortage,” Melillo says. “Because we have a program that prepares nurses at all three levels, we hope we’re contributing to the needs of nursing in the future.”



The Class of 2007 and faculty members convene for a group photo in connection with a luncheon celebrating National Nurses Day. The event was sponsored by the Student Nurses Association.

Three Nursing Leaders Give More Than Time to Students

UML is fortunate to have three academic leaders who have financially supported nursing students through the years: May Futrell, Jan Stecchi and Gertrude (Trudy) Barker. Three important endowment funds established in their names provide support for scholarships and discretionary funds.

Futrell, who retired in 2005, has helped 16 students since she established the May Futrell Scholarship Endowment for Graduate Nursing Students. Valued at more than \$200,000, the fund provides scholarships to students enrolled in the full-time graduate nursing program. Preference is given to nursing students pursuing a doctoral degree who are in the dissertation stage, focusing on gerontological nursing.

Stecchi's endowment provides need- or merit-based scholarships aid to undergraduate or graduate students in the School of Health and Environment's Expanded College of Health Professions. The recipient must demonstrate a desire to be actively involved in health care. Since 2006, five students have received scholarships.

Trudy Barker's daughter and son-in-law, Diane Barker Carr and Bart Carr, and Trudy's grandson and his wife, Scott and Rebecca McMullan, are establishing an endowment in her name with a combined gift of \$20,000, which will be matched with a \$10,000 contribution from the state. This



Retired Prof. May Futrell and Brian Andriolo of UMass Lowell's Advancement Office pose with a check supporting the nursing scholarship endowment.

endowment will support discretionary funding in the department of nursing. Barker was the founder and first dean of the College of Health Professions.

Alumni who would like to contribute to any of these endowment funds, or establish other endowments to support the Nursing Department, should contact the Office of University Advancement at 978-934- 4805.

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UMassLowell

Engineer, Researcher, Philanthropist, Renaissance Man: The Many Lives and Passions of Aldo Crugnola

by Geoffrey Douglas

Back in the days when Aldo Crugnola, now in his 39th year as a member of the Engineering faculty, first became interested in the replacement of body parts—30 years ago, more or less—it was often necessary that he interact with people in the medical field. He enjoyed those interactions, he says.

“They required that I be able to talk across the table, to talk a different language sometimes. I liked the exposure of that.”

It’s not surprising that he would. This is a man who talks well across tables—who envisions sculpture in extruded plastics, describes tissue regeneration in metaphors of crustaceans (“Wouldn’t it be nice to be a lobster?”) and dreams of a world in which engineers write poetry and run for public office.

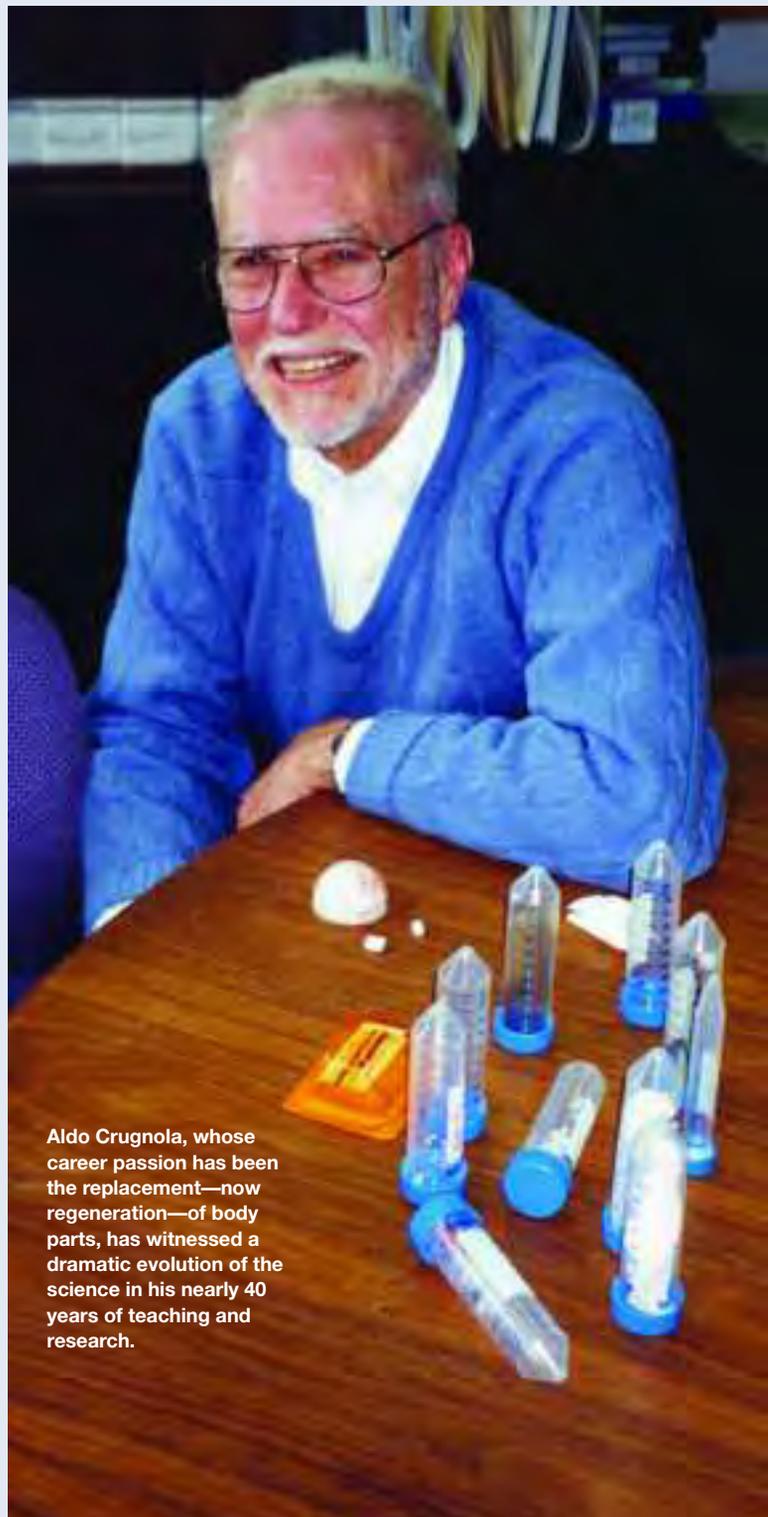
“He isn’t like other engineering people,” says UMass Lowell Plastics Engineering Chair Robert Malloy, who has known him 30 years. “He sees the world in broader terms than other scientists. He makes connections between science and the arts, he crosses over into the medical field; he thinks in terms I couldn’t imagine thinking in.”

When the two first met, at ULowell in the mid-1970s, Bob Malloy was a student in one of Crugnola’s classes, The Mechanical Behavior of Polymers. Crugnola at the time was the chair of Plastics Engineering (the same post held today by Malloy), and would soon be named Engineering dean. Even then, remembers his former student, he was a hard man not to like:

“He was warm, and very welcoming. But at the same time, a lot like he is today—very professional, and kind of reserved. An almost stately sort of person, I thought.”

At just about that time, 1975 or ’76, Crugnola, who had been on the faculty seven or eight years by then, was approached by some researchers from MIT and Children’s Hospital in Boston, who were seeking his collaboration in a study of the longevity of artificial hips. This was to be the beginning of his involvement with the replacement of body parts—an involvement that would deepen almost as dramatically as the field itself would change.

“Back then, when they first got in touch with me, the idea was that, for an artificial hip to be effective, it had to be able to last a long time,” he recalls. “That was how you measured its effectiveness, by how long it would last in the body.”



Aldo Crugnola, whose career passion has been the replacement—now regeneration—of body parts, has witnessed a dramatic evolution of the science in his nearly 40 years of teaching and research.



Aldo Crugnola, in the 1980s, became a devotee of the work of sculptor Mico Kaufman; one of his works, over his right shoulder, resided in his UMass Lowell office.

That was before tissue engineering, which would not come for another 20 years. But since its arrival, says Crugnola, the field of prosthetics—and of plastics engineering—has been turned almost on its head:

“It has changed everything. Now, instead of looking for materials to last in the body, you look for them to biodegrade. Then they become the catalysts, through seeding from living tissue, for the regeneration of new tissue and bone.” (It is at this point that he digresses briefly into his rhapsody on the wonders of the lobster.) “It’s really remarkable what’s happened. Hips, kidneys, liver tissue, blood vessels that won’t clog—these can all be produced with biodegradable polymers.”

But if body-part replacement (and now regeneration) has been his overarching passion these last 30 years—and it’s fair to say that it has—it is a very long way from being his only one. And some of the others (as any friend or colleague, like Bob Malloy, would tell you) are far, far afield of anything you’d expect from a scientist or engineer.

Modern sculpture, for example. About 20 years ago, midway through his tenure as dean of the College of Engineering, Crugnola became inter-

ested in the work of Romanian sculptor Mico Kaufman, perhaps best known locally for his six-foot bronze likeness, located on the UMass Lowell south campus, of the composer Claude Debussy. Over the course of time, the two men got to know each other’s work. They became mutual admirers. The sculptor, after learning through Crugnola of the malleability of heated, extruded plastic—as well as the 30-second speed with which it then cools and hardens—opened a new phase in his career when he began using it in his work.

“The challenge is to produce something that you intend to do in 30 seconds or less,” Kaufman remarked to a reporter at the time. “It turns you into the animal you always suspected you were.”

“I think that engineers should develop and promote their lives in other areas—government, social studies, the arts—not only for themselves, but for the world.”

— Aldo Crugnola

In the last four or five years, though, since departing from his post as engineering dean—a job he held for 20 years—to return to full-time teaching, Crugnola has embarked on yet another venture. This one, as philanthropist to the University he has served and enriched for nearly 40 years, seems a wonderfully fitting coda to his legacy.

It is fitting only partly because of the generosity of spirit it reflects, a quality cited by almost anyone who has spent time in his company. What is even more apt about it is the target this very generous man has chosen for his giving:

The scholarship to be endowed by the six-figure gift, according to the

description provided by the University Advancement Office, is to be available to “UML students entering their junior year in any engineering major involved in an activity from the humanities, social sciences or fine arts area”—students, in other words (though he would never put it this way), who, like Crugnola himself, choose to go outside the boundaries of their education or professional endeavors to enrich themselves and their world.

“I think that engineers should develop and promote their lives in other areas—government, social studies, the arts—not only for themselves, but for the world. There is a particular kind of discipline, I think, a particular way of thinking, that engineers tend to apply to solving problems. It is not better or worse than other ways, only different. But I think it is valuable. I want to do what I can to advance it.”

If all it should accomplish were to seed the world with another half-dozen Aldo Crugnolas, that might be more than enough.



“I think that engineers should develop and promote their lives in other areas,” says Aldo Crugnola, whose generosity to the University is designed to further this aim.

For Industry and the World, UML Helps Make It Easier to be Green

by Geoffrey Douglas

On the Thursday before Labor Day in 2004, two workers, both Vietnamese immigrants, were refinishing a wood staircase inside a Somerville home when, without warning, the vapors from their solvent detonated into flames. The doors to the house were closed; the men had no time to escape. One of them, Toan Bui, 37, was killed almost instantly, his body burned beyond recognition; the second, Ha Vu, 35, died a day later in Massachusetts General Hospital. Two coworkers were treated and released.



Ten months later, in July 2005, another Vietnamese floor finisher, Tinh Huynh, this time working in a single-family home in Hull, was killed when the pilot-light from a gas hot-water heater ignited his solvents. A second worker sustained injuries.

A spokeswoman for the Vietnamese-American Initiative for Development (Viet AID) in Dorchester, a local community group for Vietnamese immigrants, told reporters that her agency had interviewed many floor-finishing workers in recent months—it is a popular job among the Vietnamese community—and that few of them were concerned with the risks:

“They’re close to the chemicals, which are flammable and produce noxious smells,” Huong Nguyen told *The Boston Globe*. “That’s not a big priority to them. Their concern is, ‘This is a lucrative business for us.’ They can make anywhere from \$60 to \$80 a day.”

Such were the realities—the difficulty of making Vietnamese workers more aware of the perils of their work, compounded by language barriers—that informed the study by UMass Lowell Work Environment Prof. Lenore Azaroff. The study, which began even before the accidents that claimed the workers’ lives but gained urgency in their wake, was coauthored by the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health, by Viet AID and by the non-profit New Ecology Inc.

“Fire is a constant threat in a work setting that combines highly flammable solvent, large quantities of airborne wood dust, electrical equipment, heat and friction inside old homes,” wrote Azaroff and her coauthors. “Immigrant workers, who perform a large quantity of this work, are at special risk.”

The flammability (or low flash-point) of the sealants the workers were using was the critical issue. And it was because of this issue, as well as several others, that the University’s Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI)—through a \$12,000 grant it provided for the work—joined Azaroff in the initiative. In lab-testing the products being used by the workers, as well as recommending safer alternatives, TURI emerged quickly as a key partner in the process.

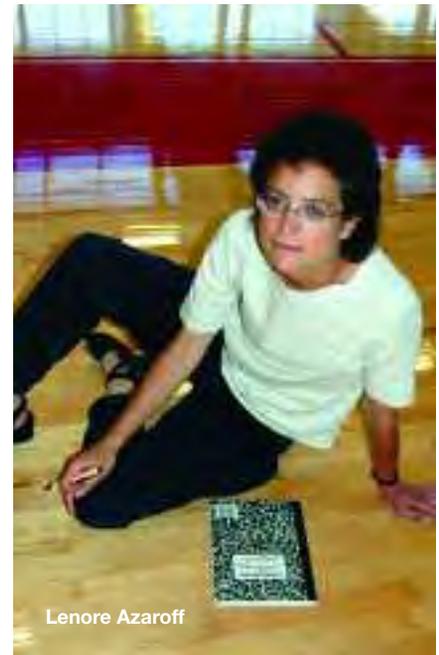
In the fall and summer of 2005, in the wake of the fires and the three lives they had claimed—and armed now with Azaroff’s study and TURI’s research results—the immigrants’ community group, Viet AID, hosted a series of day-long training sessions for Boston-area floor workers. Safety procedures were addressed, along with information about ventilation, electrical exposure, and safe-versus-hazardous lacquers. At the same time, a brief but dramatic series of media accounts drew further focus to the problem.

The results, two years later, have been heartening. Several distributors have agreed to stop stocking flammable floor sealants; another has

“UMass Lowell has been critical to our success, They helped us with product design, mold design, plastics formation—virtually every step along the way.”

— Eric Hudson

provided training. A pending state law, likely to see passage this year, would require finishers to be trained and registered before they could work in the industry; another would ban the sale of flammable sealants. The Vietnamese community in general is more aware, and more respectful, of the risks.



Lenore Azaroff

“This is one those very rare situations where the technical solutions are straightforward,” says Azaroff of her work on the project. “Between that factor, and the community partnerships we were able to forge with Viet AID and others, I’d like to think we turned our knowledge into real results on the ground—and in the process, hopefully, saved some lives.”

The incentives for change are not always so cataclysmic. More often, as in the case of two Massachusetts-based businesses, it’s less a matter of day-to-day hazards than long-term economic competitiveness.

The first of these companies, Recycle of Waltham, a manufacturer of recyclable toothbrushes, razors, tableware and other household products, would like to be known—as its website will tell you—as “the name consumers think of for high-quality, innovative and environment-friendly products.” But the science of this can be elusive:

“You can put a degrading agent into ordinary plastics,” says Eric Hudson, president and founder of the company.

Continued



UMass Lowell Prof. Daniel Schmidt, left, worked with Teknor Apex to reduce the company's use of toxic chemicals. He is pictured here with several principals of the company, including its president, Jonathan Fain, second from right, at a ceremony honoring Teknor at the State House this June. Pam Cive of TURI, who worked with the company in the early stages to make it aware of impending legislation and assist in its compliance, is at center, holding the certificate with TURI Director Michael Ellen Becker.

"But then you know what's going into it—you don't know what's coming out."

To address this problem, as well as others, Hudson turned to the UMass Lowell Plastics Engineering faculty, which was an early advisor to the company on both the manufacture and design of its plastics.

"UMass Lowell has been critical to our success," Hudson says today. "They helped us with product design, mold design, plastics formation—virtually every step along the way."

Another local company, Metabolix Inc., a bioscience firm based in Cambridge, has agreed to a licensing agreement for a process developed by a UMass Lowell faculty member that has put it, effectively, in partnership with the University.

The patented-material method, for the production of improved, high-performance, biodegradable plastics, allows for the blending of different materials to make each one more usable. Developed by Stephen McCarthy, plastics engineering professor and director of the Biodegradable Polymer Research

Center, its potential seems enormous: More than 350 billion pounds of plastic are produced each year—almost none of it from renewable resources—accounting for close to 10 percent of all the oil used in the U.S. To convert all or most of this material to a renewable, non-petroleum source



Stephen McCarthy

would make an impact almost beyond calculation.

"This agreement reflects our mission to translate the wonderful inventions produced by our faculty into the marketplace, into products that serve people and improve efficiencies," says Dr. Anne-Marie Baker, managing director of the Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property office, which brokered the agreement with Metabolix.

"Our faculty has a long tradition of working with companies in either product development, prototyping or in workforce development," says Associate Chancellor Jacquie Moloney, "and they are being tapped more and more to help companies to respond to a continued emphasis on green technology."

The new chancellor is just as enthusiastic. "This agreement is an important step in making plastics that don't harm the environment," Marty Meehan said on the occasion of the licensing agreement. "It reflects our mission at the University, to translate innovation into marketable products that serve the Commonwealth."

For Teknor Apex, a plastic and rubber compounder, it was neither workplace hazards nor competitive strategy that provided the incentive—although both, at least indirectly, were factors. The first, probably unnoticed, catalyst for change took place almost two decades ago: in the summer of 1988, with a piece of paper drafted at a meeting in Western Europe, several thousand miles from the company's New England home. It was a resolution by members of the European Union, non-binding and largely unreported at the time, calling for a "community action programme" to combat cadmium pollution. No one in the U.S. paid much attention. The company may not even have known.

Nothing happened for a while. Then, in 1996, the EU, in a follow-up to its earlier resolution, identified the need to “reduce certain hazardous substances” in manufacturing—cadmium being only one. Four years later, it commissioned a paper endorsing a series of “precautionary principles,” calling at the same time for the restriction of hazardous substances (RoHS). It was at that point that the

University—once again through TURI—got involved.

“We were already working with the larger electronics companies on RoHS, but the wire and cable companies weren’t aware of it yet—no one had thought about the lead contained in wire insulation and jacketing,” says Pam Civie, an industry research program manager at TURI. “So, in 2000, we contacted regional members of the

wire and cable industry”—there are many such companies in the area—“and sat down with their representatives and told them what we knew. We told them that changes were on the way, that sooner or later they were going to have to reformulate their materials or they’d risk losing customers as a result.”

The companies, initially, were reluctant to make changes. “Wire and cable

A SIDE NOTE...

At centers and departments all over the UMass Lowell campus, projects are underway to ensure a greener world. Some are in the form of research grants; others are happening more quietly, in classrooms, labs and offices. Some involve studies to test possibilities. Others push the limits of realities on the ground: large-scale projects with whole communities, like the initiative taken with Vietnamese immigrants to improve worker safety (see accompanying article); or smaller ones, like the efforts of a single Boy Scout troop to educate fishermen on the dangers of lead sinkers.

At any moment, there are literally scores of such initiatives happening on campus—with impacts that range across the spectrum of our world. Three examples are profiled in detail in the accompanying article. The following is a brief synopsis of another four:

- **“The Benefits of Building Green,”** a new study by the Center for Family, Work and Community (CFWC) argues that Lowell city officials could take the lead in fostering more green building practices—through example, as well as education and economic incentive.

The study calls for a three-year plan to reduce energy consumption, improve efficiency in new and future buildings and upgrade air quality in existing ones. It was the work of UMass Lowell researchers David Turcotte, Julie Villareal and Christina Bermingham, aided by a 15-member advisory commission.

The study enjoys the backing of city officials. “We’re looking to ‘green up’ the city,” says Lowell city manager Bernie Lynch, who says the CFWC findings have his full attention. “We want to be a leader in that regard. But also, it’s important because it’s good for the environment.”

- **The Sustainable Hospitals Program,** a program of the Department of Work Environment and the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, provides technical support to the healthcare industry in selecting products and work practices that eliminate or reduce occupational and environmental hazards and maintain quality patient care, at the same time that it contains costs.

The program works in collaboration with clinicians and healthcare institutions, as well as environmental and healthcare advocacy groups. Its members include faculty, staff and students of the departments of both Nursing and Work Environment. It also collaborates routinely with other University programs and departments.

- **The Chemicals Policy Initiative,** a project of the University’s Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, has at least four separate but interrelated objectives: to advance debate on reforming chemicals policy within the U.S.; assist in the making of policy outside our borders.; encourage the development and use of safer alternative chemicals worldwide and aid in the advancement of green chemistry initiatives and safer supply-chain management.

To further advance these objectives, UMass Lowell researchers Joel Tickner and Ken Geiser, both of the Center, have held a series of regional training sessions across the U.S. on how industry can comply with recent EU requirements that limit toxicity in commercial products.

- **The Sustainable Materials Conference in Green-Plastics Manufacturing,** sponsored jointly last spring by UMass Lowell and the Plastics Institute of America (PIA), was designed as an aid to companies worldwide that are seeking a shift to green plastics.

More than 100 participants were registered for the event—and nearly all appeared, despite a nor’easter that shut down the University. Engineers, scientists, marketing executives, chemists and entrepreneurs, some from Fortune 500 companies, others from the smallest of start-ups, were on hand to learn more of the process of making the transition from the traditional, petroleum-based model to the newer, eco-friendly prototype, which relies on renewable resources such as corn.

“The demand in the marketplace is here. And now the technology is here,” said Plastics Engineering Prof. Aldo Crugnola, executive director of the PIA, in addressing the conference. Crugnola and fellow UMass professor and PIA executive Nick Schott were co-directors of the event.



A research project underway at the TURI lab on the UMass Lowell campus, where the initiative, whatever the specific challenge, remains unchanged: to work toward a greener world.

is a low-margin industry,” says Civie. “You add a penny a pound to their costs, it could throw them for a real loop. So before they’re going to make any large-scale changes, they’re going to have to see the need for them, from the standpoint of the bottom line.”

The need was made clear soon enough. Not long after TURI’s first sit-down with the companies, word came that some of their biggest global customers—Lucent, Motorola and several others—were planning to abide by the EU directives, reducing or eliminating the use of lead, mercury, cadmium and three other substances in the products they bought from suppliers. Teknor Apex, which was using both lead and cadmium in its Attleboro colorant plant, was among the first to react:

“They took the lead,” says Civie. “They reformulated their chemicals, and made it possible for their customers to stay compliant with the EU rules. And in the process they stayed competitive—and that was the key to it all.”

“Focusing on a cleaner environment doesn’t have to be a hardship,”

“Our faculty has a long tradition of working with companies in either product development, prototyping or in workforce development, and they are being tapped more and more to help companies to respond to a continued emphasis on green technology.”

— Jacquie Moloney

Teknor’s president, Jonathan Fain, said after it was over. “Our customers are willing to pay a premium for products made from safer chemicals. By developing a family of lead-free wire-insulation products, we now have the competitive advantage.”

But it didn’t end there. Partly as a result of the relationship it had formed with TURI, Teknor Apex agreed to a partnership with a member of the UMass Lowell Plastics Engineering Department, Prof. Daniel Schmidt, who began work with the company in 2006 to improve its reformulations still

“It is likely that the electronics and the electrical-equipment industries, as a whole, will find it easier to manufacture affordable and safer products for use in Massachusetts and the world.”

— Pam Civie

further. As a result of this research partnership—which was funded by TURI and continues today—together with its own efforts, Teknor has reduced its use of reportable toxic chemicals by more than 90 percent.

At the same time, aided by Teknor’s cooperation and technical knowledge—the company, among other things, was indispensable in the information it provided about the use of toxic substances in everything from electrical wiring to medical devices—Prof. Schmidt and his research team have been developing new formulations for the wire and cable industry that are free of both lead and the chemical DEHP.

As a result of the collaboration between Teknor Apex and the University, Civie said this June at a ceremony at the State House in Boston honoring some of the companies and organizations with which TURI has worked:

“It is likely that the electronics and the electrical-equipment industries as a whole will find it easier to manufacture affordable and safer products for use in Massachusetts and the world.”

Senior Capstone Project Gives Power to Paralyzed Girl's Voice

by Kristen O'Reilly

Her picture piqued his interest at first. Senior Michael Darish, saw 3-year-old Anna's expressive eyes and heart-melting smile and wanted to know more about this tiny stranger from Italy who was paralyzed from the neck down from a car accident at the age of two. He read e-mails from her father, who was using the Internet to scour the world for a way for Anna to click and drag a computer cursor using just her voice.

Darish was looking for a senior capstone project, and also a sense of purpose. In Anna he found both. He immediately jumped into the project, spending three semesters and thousands of hours on his mission, driving himself with the thought, "I always knew that I was meant to do something. I've found what I've been looking for."

He successfully delivered his project to Anna, who is now 5, traveling all the way to Italy to finally meet his inspiration and her family. Over the course of a week, Darish spent an hour or two each day introducing her to the device, adjusting his software for unanticipated obstacles and marveling at the resiliency of youth.

"I've had a lot of great experiences in my life. This tops them all," he says.

Darish's is just one of the 60 or so assistive technology projects that senior electrical engineering students complete each semester as a graduation requirement. These projects, delivered free of charge to clients, demonstrate what students have learned over three and a half years in the program. The projects help physically or mentally challenged people improve their quality of life, and can range from a simple toy to a complicated wheelchair,



Michael Darish, standing at left, visited Turino, Italy, over spring break to deliver his senior capstone project to Anna Magliano and her family. Pictured in front of Michael are Anna and her brother Davide. To his left are videographer Valerie Parker, who filmed Michael's trip for a documentary project, and Anna's father, Andrea.

depending on the commitment and skill of the student.

For Darish's project, he used a voice recognition chip and wrote software to create the stand-alone device that will also turn on three different toys and even allow Anna to use the telephone in the future. The compact box is smaller than a toaster oven and houses its own microprocessor, which sets it apart from typical voice-recognition devices that rely on a separate desktop computer.

Anna already was using a tiny infrared camera that followed a reflective dot stuck to the end of her nose that allowed her to move a cursor around a screen with head movements. This technology required her to master a complicated technique to click and drag, which frustrated the 5-year-old. With Darish's device, she speaks into a small microphone to command the cursor to click and drag. After about an hour of practice, Darish says, Anna was successfully turning on a toy and play-

ing a computer game that involved picking up balls and putting them into a box on the screen.

Actually meeting Anna meant a great deal to Darish, who is a nontraditional student returning to school after working in industry for 20 years.

"It helps put life into perspective," he says. "Her parents were happy, thrilled, with the experience. I'm planning to continue to develop things for her. She'll be my lifelong mission."

Darish hopes to take his project to the next level, and perhaps develop a marketable device for the general public. He already has received national recognition—his design was selected as a finalist in the annual nationwide Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America student design competition.

Darish doesn't plan to rest on his laurels, however. He already has ideas on how to improve Anna's device.

"I just can't let it go," he says.



The second annual Clinical Lab and Nutritional Sciences reunion dinner was held this spring hosted by the department and its chair, Prof. Kay Doyle. Pictured from left are Donna Rogers '80, Karen Hanson Suvalskas '82, Cheryl Wilson Callahan '82 and Tom Suvulskas '82.



UMass President Jack Wilson, left, greets UML alumnus Charlie Hoff '66 at this year's UMass Night at the Pops, Symphony Hall, Boston.



UMass Lowell alumni at the Atlanta Braves vs. Boston Red Sox game at Turner Field on June 20. The group enjoyed a barbecue prior to the game.



Cutting the ribbon for the new Spinola Art Gallery at Allen House on UML south are, Mary Jo Spinola '66, Chancellor Marty Meehan, Interim Chancellor David MacKenzie and Frank Spinola '66.



Cutting the ribbon for the new Comley-Lane Theatre in Mahoney Hall are, from left, Chancellor Marty Meehan, Bonnie Comley '81, Stewart Lane and Interim Chancellor David MacKenzie.



Back on campus to "Celebrate the Arts" with their friend and former classmate Bonnie Comley '81, center, are Lisa Guidaboni and Bruce Arakelian '82.



Reunion committee members from the classes of 1957 and 1967 presented the University with a check for more than \$250,000 during the homecoming luncheon as part of reunion weekend festivities. This gift is the total giving from reunion classes over the last year. The committee includes, front row, from left, interim Chancellor David MacKenzie, Richard Santos '57, Pauline Dyer-Cole '57 and Therese Polak Keenan '57; second row, same order, Raymond Masse '57, Kathleen Davis Petruzzello '57, H. Kenneth Cohen '57 and Robert Keenan '57; and back row, Jeffrey Cosiol '67, Hank Brown '67, and Brian Andriolo '95 '97, university advancement.



Nuclear Engineering celebrated the 40th anniversary of the American Nuclear Society student section at Lowell on June 26 at the annual ANS conference held at the Boston Copley Marriott Hotel. From left, are Prof. Gil Brown, Ron Tooker '97, Shirley Gill from Areva, and Bob Holland from the Shaw Group. The evening was sponsored by UML corporate friends Areva, the Shaw Group Inc, FPL Energy and Entergy.



Back to celebrate his 40th college reunion with fellow classmates is Jeff Cosiol, center, pictured with Steve Rogers of University Advancement and UML friend Ana Zadoff.



Members of the class of 1957 Lowell Tech, gather for a 50th reunion dinner.



State Teachers music alumni from the class of 1957 include, from left, John Higby; Ann Gardella; Lillian Chevalier Coppeta; Priscilla Hoar Higby; Nancy Meunier Leclair; Pauline Dyer-Cole; Joyce Mowat Simon and Dick Santos.

The fourth annual LSC/LTI reunion at the Spinners game in Lowell was held on June 21. Pictured as follows:

4th row: Jack Wolstencroft '69, Ralph Pearse '66, Dennis Canney '68, Charlie Pelly '61

3rd row: Bob Boehm '70, Roger Landry '67, Kevin MacLaughlin '64, Fred Leahy '67

2nd row: Doug Anderson '68, Ralph Bennett '67, Don Bennett '68, Hank Brown '67, Bruce Byam '67

1st row: Bucky Boehm '45, Joe Sacoco '70, Jim McGuirk '69, Gary Hunt '69

Present but missing from photo:

Frank Georges '62, Walter McGrail '70, Jack McSwiggin '70, Jim Mooney '69, Leo Panas, Bernie Shapiro '56, Chuck Buzzell '72 and Dana Skinner, UML athletic director.

The group's annual dinner is planned for the fall. For information, call Bob Boehm at 978-458-3692.



Members of the class of 1957 State Teachers gather for a 50th reunion dinner.



Former classmates from Lowell Tech's class of 1967, shown from left, Don Hadfield, John Walkinshaw, Kenneth Brewer, Dennis Dunbar, Hank Brown, Stanley Wozniak, Jeff Cosiol, John DeFrancesco, Ronald Gentile, Richard Driscoll and Joe Guzzi Jr.



Members of the State Teachers College of Lowell's class of 1967 gather together: from left, Bonnie (Murray) Moore, Marilyn Fowler, John Moore, Susan (Doyle) Ober, Barbara (Shufro) Reilly, Robert Gilman, Elizabeth (Tyburski) Yargeau, Marjorie (Murray) Landry, Beth (Harrigan) Hughes and Roger Landry.

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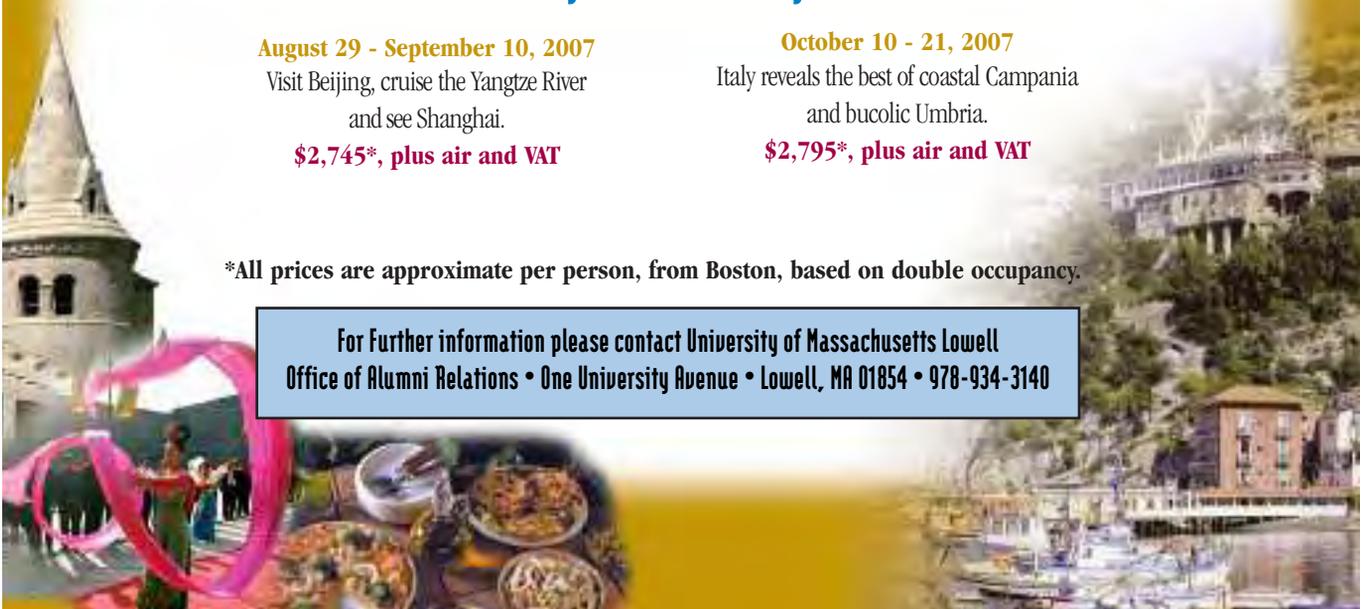
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Computer Science

UMass Lowell's Computer Science Department Holds 25th Anniversary Dinner



Joining in the festivities are, from left, Prof. Tom Costello, Computer Science Department chair, Linda Abraham '84, David Shulman '85 '87 and Cathy Saba '85.



Sharing a moment are, from left, Linda Abraham '84, Lisa Panagopoulos '84 '88, Kay Merrill, UML staff, David Shulman '85 '87 and George Walk '84.



Computer science students alumni and friends enjoy the evening together. From left, Yolanda Thomas, Chris Thomas '02 '03, Assoc. Prof. Jim Canning, Patrick Hoey '01 and Yan Tran '02.



Enjoying conversation are, from left, June Odongo '05, Prof. Georges Grinstein and his wife, Janet.



Classmates and friends gather during dinner. Shown seated, from left, Paul O'Meara '87, Pam (Davis) O'Meara '90, Sheila Kelley '90, Laurel (Wood) Fernald '90, UML friend and Kerri (Jump) Montgomery '90. Shown standing, from left, Tracey O'Neill, Brian O'Neill '90, Robert Breton '90, Robin Hughes and John Hughes '91.



Members of the LaTorre family gather to honor L. Donald LaTorre, president of L&G Management Consultants and UMass Lowell honorary degree recipient. They include, from left, Brett, David and Jordan LaTorre, John Mattessich, Gloria, Don, and Craig LaTorre, Chancellor Marty Meehan, Megan LaTorre, Amy and John Mattessich with daughter Olivia.



Lowell State Teachers class of 1957 members include Pauline Dyer-Cole, seated left, and Dorothy Santos; standing, from left, Nancy Meunier Leclair, Dick Santos, Phyllis Anderson Staples and Patricia Allen Burn.



Additional members of the State Teachers class of 1957 include, seated, from left, Therese Rousseau Morin, Theresa Rochette Pomerleau and Barbara McGovern; Standing, from left, Rod Ricard, Frances Gomes Ricard, Raymond Masse, Lois Milliken Wroble and Robert Wroble.



Members of this group from the Class of 1957 from both State Teachers and Lowell Tech 1957 include, seated, from left, Rita Narkiewich Maguire (STCL); H. Kenneth Cohen (LTI); standing, from left, John Maguire, Robert Smith, Miriam Sullivan Smith (STCL), Carol Cohen, Jean Dunn and Raymond Dunn (LTI).



Lowell Tech graduates from the class of 1957 include, seated, from left, Yvonne Goddard, Joyce Chingros, Frank Major and Therese Polak Keenan; standing, from left, Warren Goddard, Chris Chingros and Robert Keenan.



Other reunion class members include, seated from left, Shirley Pazelka Duclos, class of 1967; Robert Dever and Elaine Murphy Dever, class of 1957.



Civil Rights Leader Urges UML Grads to 'Get in the Way'

Meehan Friend and Colleague Delivers Commencement Speech

When John Lewis was a small child, he asked his parents and grandparents why there was segregation. They told him simply, "that's the way it is—don't get in the way." Thankfully, he didn't listen.

"John Lewis has spent a lifetime devoted to fighting for what's right," said Marty Meehan, longtime friend and colleague of Lewis, who accepted Meehan's invitation to speak at UMass Lowell's 2007 commencement ceremonies. Lewis, a noted civil rights leader who led the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., and is serving his 11th term as congressman from Georgia, delivered a rousing speech to 3,500 graduates and attendees at LaLacheur Park.

"Get out there—push, pull—get in the way," Lewis urged the crowd during his speech. "Stand up for what you believe in—it's the struggle of a lifetime, but that's what it takes to build a love of community."

In addition to receiving Rep. Lewis' advice, graduates and their families were also congratulated by a number of local,



Chancellor Marty Meehan and House colleague and commencement speaker Rep. John Lewis.

city and state dignitaries including Sen. Steve Panagiotakos, who called on graduates to "make sure, between the pats on the back and the congratulatory phone calls, to say thank you to those who've helped you."

Honorary degrees were conferred to L. Donald LaTorre, president of L&G Management Consultants and Philip Leder, professor and chair of the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School. In addition, an honorary degree was given posthumously to Lowell native and world renowned Beat writer, Jack Kerouac, fifty years after publication of his most famous book, "On the Road." Kerouac's brother-in-law, John Sampas, accepted the degree on his behalf.

Mark Saab '81, president of Advanced Polymers Inc., was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of his excellence in the plastics industry. Student honorees included class valedictorian Christopher C. Evans of the College of Arts and Sciences, one of seven recipients of the Chancellor's Medal for Distinguished Academic Achievement.



Lowell native and literary icon Jack Kerouac was presented a posthumous honorary degree 50 years after the publication of his most famous book, "On the Road." Shown, from left, Paul Marion, UML's executive director of outreach and editor of Kerouac's "Atop an Underwood," a collection of his early writings, Audrey Sprenger, State University of New York professor, John Sampas, Kerouac's brother-in-law and executor of the literary estate, and Joe Oslan '02, Sampas family friend.



Celebrating commencement, from left, Alease Bruce, professor in the Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences Department, Diana Prideaux-Brune, executive director of Facilities, Susu Wong, licensing associate in commercial ventures and intellectual property, Michael Belcher, director of outreach and recruitment, commencement speaker and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, Frank Andrews, director of undergraduate programs, Kathryn Carter, dean of the College of Management, Joyce Gibson, former associate vice chancellor and John Ting, dean of the College of Engineering.



Chancellor Marty Meehan congratulates honorary degree recipient, left, Donald LaTorre, president of L&G Management Consultants and Distinguished Alumni Award Winner Mark Saab '81, president of Advanced Polymers Inc. of Salem, N.H.



Honoring the class of 2007, from left, are Interim Chancellor David Mackenzie, UMass President Jack Wilson, Rep. John Lewis and Chancellor Marty Meehan.



Philip Leder, center, professor and chair of the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School, accepts an honorary degree from Interim Chancellor David Mackenzie and Robert Tamarin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



Associate Chancellor, Jacqueline Moloney



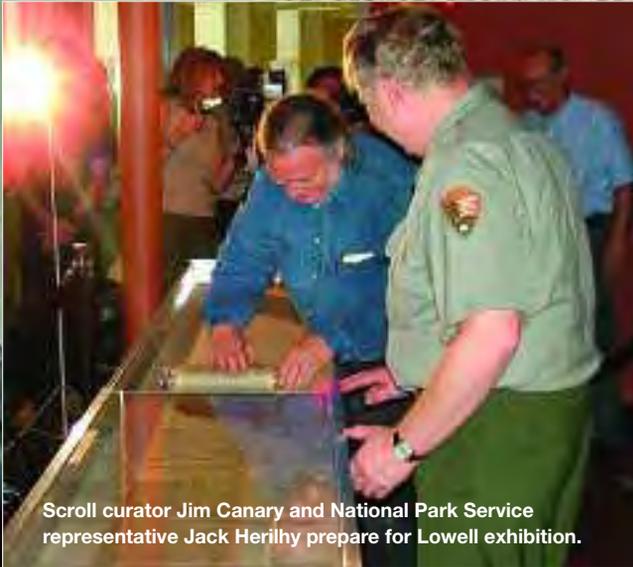
Massachusetts Sen. Steven Panagiotakos

Friends and family enjoy the first commencement under Chancellor Marty Meehan. The ceremony, under misty skies, was held at LaLacheur Park as the Tsongas Arena underwent renovations.



Lowell City Manager Bernie Lynch '78, left, joins Lowell Mayor Bill Martin.

Doctor Jack: Gown and Town Honors for Kerouac



Scroll curator Jim Canary and National Park Service representative Jack Herilhy prepare for Lowell exhibition.



This past spring Jack Kerouac received major hometown recognition as UMass Lowell posthumously awarded him an honorary degree and Lowell opened a blockbuster museum exhibition featuring the legendary “On the Road” scroll manuscript.

This year is the 50th anniversary of Kerouac’s highway quest novel that is now considered a classic of American literature.

The honorary degree, a first for Kerouac, was accepted by his brother-in-law John Sampas, executor of the Kerouac Literary Estate and a generous donor to Kerouac-related programs at UML, including the Jack and Stella Kerouac Center for American Studies.

More than 1,500 people poured into the Boott Cotton Mills Museum of Lowell National Historical Park on the first day of the scroll exhibition in mid-June. At the opening reception, UML Chancellor Marty Meehan compared Kerouac’s Lowell to James Joyce’s Dublin and urged both campus and community to expand Kerouac activities in the city. Meehan was instrumental in getting Lowell



Chancellor Marty Meehan was instrumental in getting Lowell included on the national tour of the scroll.



John Sampas is executor of the Kerouac Literary Estate.

included on the national tour of the scroll, which will be in the city through mid-October. Prof. Hilary Holladay, director of the Kerouac Center, and Paul Marion of the UML Office of Outreach, an editor of Kerouac’s early writings, were key advisors on the scroll exhibition.

Concerts, literary readings, panel talks and art shows filled the summer schedule with scroll-related events. Lowell will have the scroll on the 50th anniversary of the publication of “On the Road,” Sept. 5, which will be marked by a marathon community reading of the book. Among the fall events are “Visions of Kerouac,” a music and spoken word performance by Normand Guilbeault’s jazz ensemble from Montreal (Sept. 6); a concert of Kerouac’s jazz with the David Amram Trio (Sept. 7); and “The Beat Goes On” with the New England Orchestra led by UML Prof. Kay Roberts (Sept. 9).

Visit www.ontheroadinlowell.org for details. The biennial Kerouac Conference on Beat Literature is set for early October. For speakers and schedule, visit www.uml.edu/college/arts_sciences/kerouac_center.

1944

Milton Jay and his wife Jayne celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 4, 2007. Congratulations!!

1949

Alex Coleman has been married since 1960 and has two children. He lived in New York City until 2001. In 1998 he retired as president of Glentex and Mickey Unlimited, divisions of Honey Fashions, an accessory conglomerate in NYC. Alex has been a member of the Alpine Country Club (NJ) for 35 years and Longboat Key Club (Sarasota) for 15 years. At age 79 he is still an avid golfer, but gave up skiing in 2006 after 58 years. He would love to hear from classmates at walrus711@aol.com.

1953

Don E. Finegold's fourth mystery novel is due to be published in the fall. He invites interested readers to visit his website at www.donefinegold.com. A screenplay of his second novel is in the works.

1956

David Killam writes that after having contributed articles for years to both New Hampshire and national music publications, he now has a regular column, "Killam Corner" appearing in The Vermont Music Educator. The content deals with all aspects of teaching music and often tends toward the humorous.

1958

Paul Roussel and his wife Mary Ann will celebrate their 50th anniversary next August. 2008 is also the 50th Reunion of Paul's class from Lowell Tech. He retired as vice-president, general manager of James

River Corp., now Georgia Pacific. Paul won the Senior Olympics Singles Tennis Championship for the state of New Hampshire last year. He is now serving as director of Christian after Ministries of New Hampshire, helping men and women released from prison find jobs, apartments, clothing, food, etc. This is a volunteer position and he and his board of directors have helped over 400 people thus far. Paul and his wife have four children and 10 grandchildren. Their son, Paul, is a 1981 graduate of ULowell.

1961

James L. Swartz recently retired from a career in the paper industry spanning nearly 40 years. He is now pursuing a second career in medical physics (medical imaging) in upstate New York.

1963

We apologize to **Thomas C. McAvinew P.E** for an error in his class note from the previous issue of the magazine. Tom has been named vice president of the Standards and Practices Department of ISA, the Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation Society, an international, 30,000 member, 62-year-old engineering, technical, educational and sales professional organization, which is located in Research Triangle Park, N.C., not Louisville, Colo. as we previously reported. You can check out ISA at www.isa.org.

1964

Marilyn (Pawlak) Pinschmidt is moving this summer from Allentown, Penn., to the Chapel Hill, N.C., area where her husband Bob will be taking a position at UNC-Chapel Hill.

1965

Jose D'Arruda, a 32-year member of the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, was named recipient of the 2007 UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence. A physics professor, Dr. D'Arruda vigorously promoted science education in the region and, while chairing the Department of Chemistry and Physics for 23 years, launched UNCP's major in physics. He founded the Region IV Science Fair in 1980 and remains a co-chair. He was also instrumental in the construction of the University's new observatory. The award carries a \$7,500 prize, and the Pembroke winner serves as grand marshal for University events and as keynote speaker at Winter Commencement 2007.

1972

Thomas Proctor writes that although Alfred Publishing Co. purchased Warner Bros. Publications in June of 2005, he has stayed with the company as an acquisitions editor in the band department, and is now working from his home in Miami. He celebrated his 30th wedding anniversary with his wife, Genessa, this July 4.

1973

Ellen Stokinger and her husband, Chuck, have started part-time teaching in their fields. He is at the Manchester campus of Mass College of Pharmacy and she is at UML for clinical nursing. They love to travel. Last year they went to Brazil for their son's wedding, and this year a Mediterranean cruise is awaiting them.

1977

Joseph DeVirgilio received his M.S in systems management from USC in 1980. He is a retired civil engineer and is

a graduate of the 4th Civilian Police Academy in the Town of Grafton.

Marcia Ullal was married June 10.

1980

Kevin J. Sullivan, senior vice president of Sovereign Bank, has been appointed as director of the Government Banking unit. Based in Boston, Sullivan will oversee all activities related to providing banking services for local, city and state governments and agencies through the Northeast. Prior to joining Sovereign, Sullivan spent 18 years in public service. From 2002 to 2003 he served as secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance. He previously served as secretary of Massachusetts Transportation Department from 1999 to 2002. From 1996 to 1999 he also served as commissioner of the Massachusetts Highway Department. In addition, he is the former mayor of Lawrence, serving in that role for more than seven years. An active member of the community, Sullivan is a director of Lawrence General Hospital and is a member of the Massachusetts State Transportation Finance Commission. He resides in Merrimac, with his wife and two children.

1981

Duane L James was recently named chief financial officer of ECI Biotech Inc., a privately held developer of diagnostic protein sensor technologies. He was previously vice president and treasurer at Inverness Medical Innovations Inc. and its predecessor Inverness Medical Technology Inc. for more than 20 years.

David Laurello, president and CEO of Stratus Technologies, Inc. has been elected to the board of directors of the

United Way of Tri-County. Tri-County serves the needs of 34 Massachusetts communities with 51 programs in Middlesex, Norfolk and Worcester counties, and this year is marking 75 years of service to the area. Laurello has been a top executive with Stratus since 1999 and was named president and CEO in 2003. At Stratus, Laurello has overseen the company's securing \$470 million in financing, the acquisition of two companies and the expansion of its global partnerships, among other accomplishments. In his nearly 30-year career in the Bay State's technology community, Laurello was a long time executive at Digital Equipment Corp. before joining Stratus Computer and Lucent Technologies. He lives in Westford with his wife, Lauren.

George Lerra was recently promoted to the rank of lieutenant with the Miami Beach Police where he has been for more than 23 years. He plans to retire in a few years and move back to Massachusetts, at least for the summer and fall. George credits his law and justice degree from UL for helping him attain his rank he. He misses Massachusetts and looks forward to the day he can be back. George says that "Miami is a nice place to visit, but you would not want to live here."

1982

Cheryl (Wilson) Callahan recently returned to full-time employment in the biotech market. She was eagerly awaiting the 25th reunion, April 13, 2007 with Kay Doyle and the Department of Clinical Lab Science at the Westford Regency. She writes, "We had a great class and expect many classmates to return for this fun filled evening!"

1983

John W. Traphagen, Ph.D. is associate professor in the Departments of Asian Studies and Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin, where he teaches and conducts research on Japanese culture and society. He is the author or editor of six books and numerous journal articles. He has spent several years in Japan, including more than a year as a Fulbright Scholar. After graduating from UML, Traphagan received an MA degree from Yale University and a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh.

1984

Robert Peirent was recently promoted to position of senior vice president and government services market leader at Tighe & Bond, a 185-person consulting environmental engineering firm headquartered in Westfield, with local offices in Worcester and Pocasset, and Middletown, Danbury, and Shelton, Conn.

1985

Stacy Cahoon is in demand as a freelance accompanist and has appeared throughout the Northeast, including the Lincoln Center Library and St. Peter's Church in New York City. She has had the distinct pleasure of being a choral club accompanist since 1995. As a soloist, Stacy has performed recitals in Hartford, most recently at Center Church, and throughout Cape Cod. Stacy is a staff accompanist for the Hartford Conservatory and is an independent piano teacher. She received her master of music degree in piano accompanying from the Hartt School of Music.

Philip M. Papoojian has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the National Small Business Association (NSBA) of Washington, D.C. He is also chairman of the NSBA Environmental and Regulatory Committee and a member of the NSBA Washington, D.C.-based Legislative Action Committee.

Richard Sarnie is group director of Risk Management for Ryder System Inc., a Fortune 500 global transportation and logistics company headquarter-



Richard Sarnie

tered in Miami. He is responsible for all aspects of Ryder's program, which includes 75 Ryder risk, insurance and claims professionals in Miami, Atlanta, Denver and London. He is also president of Ryder's captive insurance company, Road Master, based in Bermuda. He has more than 20 years of risk and safety/security management experience in the transportation, chemical and food industry. He resides in Weston, Fla., with his wife, Susan, and his two children.

Stephen "Max" Schneider has been appointed as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's senior resident inspector at the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth. Schneider previously served as senior resident inspector at the Millstone nuclear power plant in Waterford, Conn. Schneider joined the NRC's Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas, as a reactor engineer in 1999. In 2000, he was assigned as a resident inspector at the River Bend nuclear power plant in

Louisiana and then in 2002 was promoted to the Millstone position.

1986

Deanna Leroux relays phone calls for the deaf and hard of hearing full-time, and works part-time at Goodwill in Beavercreek, Ohio. She loves both jobs for now, and is saving to move to Raleigh, N.C., in two years or less. One daughter, 18, is attending Kent State on a full scholarship and her other daughter, 16, was inducted into the National Honor Society this year.

1987

Mark Webb recently moved from Newton to Westwood and planned to be married this summer.

1991

Paul Roux has been named a vice president of Woodard & Curran, where he has been working since 1997 with the



Paul Roux

firm's water and wastewater facilities throughout the Northeast. He has over 20 years of experience and a working knowledge of desalinization and reverse osmosis systems with the U.S. Army Reserves.

1992

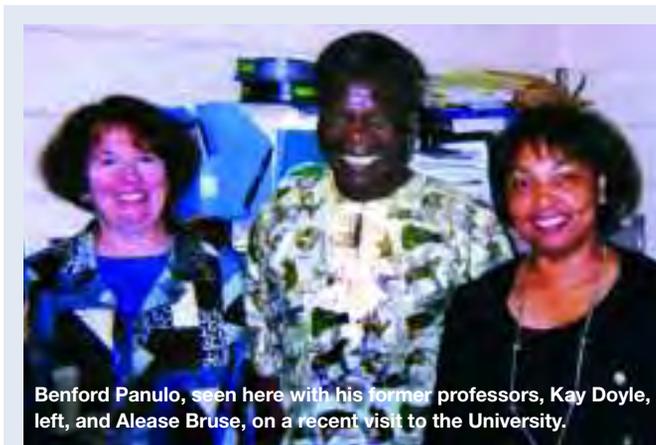
Rayanne Drouin has accepted a new position as director of Enrollment Services at Nichols College.

1992

Lisa (Carnevale) Thompson received an MBA in International Business from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in 2003. The following year, she and her husband Cliff celebrated the birth of their daughter, Ava Catherine Thompson. In 2006, their son, Joshua Nicholas Thompson, was born. Presently, Lisa has taken a break from her career in high tech to raise her children and is thoroughly enjoying it!

1993

Kerri (Parent) Westburg served in the Air Force after graduation as an engineer/acquisition officer and later as a reservist. While in the Air Force she earned her M.S. in Astronautical Engineering from West Coast University. Kerri is currently an associate with Booz Allen Hamilton,



Benford Panulo, seen here with his former professors, Kay Doyle, left, and Alease Bruse, on a recent visit to the University.

1994

Benford Panulo, a master's degree recipient in clinical and laboratory sciences, was recently appointed a department chairperson at the University of Eastern Africa in Kenya. He was formerly working at the Malamulo Hospital in Malani, Nigeria.

providing project management and test and evaluation services to the DOD. She has had the opportunity to lead and advance programs supporting aircraft, ships, space launch systems and communication satel-

lites. Kerri was married in 2001 and has two sons. She still enjoys any activity that gets her outdoors, especially with her family.

1996

Rick Santiago is pleased to announce the birth of his son, Shan, on March 27, 2006.

Kevin Whitney, RN, MA, CNAA, was recently appointed vice president of patient care services/chief nursing officer at Emerson Hospital. Whitney was selected by representatives from the board of directors, medical staff, senior leadership and the nursing department. He assumed the role of interim vice president for nursing while the search was under way. Whitney began his career with Emerson in 1990 as an EMT-paramedic and



Kevin Whitney

later transitioned to a nursing role. Since that time, he has served the hospital as a nurse in the emergency department, an administrative supervisor, an associate nurse manager and nurse manager in the emergency department and director of nursing services. Whitney earned a master's degree in healthcare administration from Framingham State College. He is an active member of the Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives and has also been a nursing advisory board member to both Middlesex Community College and University of Massachusetts Lowell.

1997

Dawn Baniewicz married Ari Press on June 23 at their home in Windham N.H.



UMass Lowell's Athletic Department raised \$6,000 for the Make a Wish Foundation in support of Alana Delisle, who was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma. Alana, shown here with parents **Joe '98 and Melissa '98**, will realize her wish to visit Disney World in October.

1998

John Daniels, a master's degree recipient in civil engineering, who also earned a doctorate in mechanical engineering in 2001, was recently appointed to



1994 and 1995

Keith Poirier and Amy Crowley-Poirier '95 recently held a UMass Lowell alumni party at their home in Hudson. Amy and Keith have three children, Natalie, 8, Patrick, 5, and Ella, 9 months. Keith is an engineer with Intel in Hudson, and Amy is a stay-at-home mom.

Pictured at the reunion party are alumni Pete Parziale '94 with wife Christina, Carlos Morales '93 with wife Gloria, Mark Davis '93 with wife Janet, Jeff Woodward '93 with wife Mary, Amy Crowley '95, Keith Poirier '94, and Dave Dileo '94 with wife Pam.

the National Science Foundation through a science and technology fellowship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. While at the NSF, he will work in the Engineering Education and Centers Division of the Directorate of Engineering.

1999

Kristin Costa and her husband **Derek '01** recently left UMass Lowell after five years of employment and accepted new jobs at UMass Dartmouth where Derek is the operations manager for the Campus Center and she is a police officer.

Jennifer Desrosiers and her husband had their first baby, a son, Aidan Jack, in August 2006. They are expecting a girl in the fall of 2007.

Jarrold M. MacKinnon is a contract consultant for High Point Consulting and Staffing in North Carolina and also works from his home in Florida. He still loves golf and also plays goalie occasionally at a local arena. His son Cameron just turned 6. Jarrold writes that he was married in August of 2006.

2000

Matthew Carlone has been a plastics engineer with the United States Surgical Division of Tyco Healthcare in North Haven, Conn., for the past two years. He is also an adjunct professor of mechanical engineering in the Department of Engineering at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. Matthew and his wife, Mary, and their four daughters live in East Haven, Conn.

Ian Cowper was recently engaged to **Kristen Bilapka '04**. No date has been set for the wedding.

Joel Kaplan recently joined BLUE WAVE Marketing & Promotions as partner and vice

president of Sales and Marketing. Kaplan brings a proven and extensive track record to BLUE WAVE with more than 20 years of experience, most recently at Cramer as senior account executive and Fiction as vice president. Kaplan's sales and marketing experience will serve as an asset to BLUE-WAVE as it further expands to develop and manage integrated marketing solutions of events solutions of events, video, interactive media, print and premiums by challenging the ordinary.

2001

Derek Costa and his wife **Kristin '99** recently left UMass Lowell after five years of employment and accepted new jobs at UMass Dartmouth where Derek is the operations manager for the Campus Center and Kristin is a police officer.

George Dristiliaris graduated from the New England School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in May.

2002

Andrew Saati received his masters in clinical science from the University in 2006. He has worked for two pharmaceutical companies as well as a medical device company in analytical/bioanalytical chemistry positions. Currently, he is exploring the possibility of returning to school to pursue either a degree or certificate in Clinical Research.

2003

Kathryn Lee was engaged last summer and was to be married this August on the Cape. Her fiancé, Matt, is from the New York area, but she met him a few years ago at her sister's wedding. Katy is a senior media manager at iCrossing in New York City.

Ralph Navarro writes, "In 2005, my position in my company had been outsourced. For five months, I struggled to find work. Interviews ended up being close but no cigar. I heard that the UML Alumni Career Services provided individualized counseling and immediately made an appointment. They helped me to improve my interviewing techniques and resume. Shortly afterwards, the response was overwhelming. So many recruiters and companies contacted me that I had to turn many away. Soon I was able to choose higher paying contracts where I could use the skills learned from my UML training. Presently, I am self employed; automating the software quality assurance process for my customer's products. UML has been instrumental in my success. The up to date continuing education certificate program and the career assistance they offered was just what I needed to get back into the job market quickly. Thank you UML."

Evangelos Pouloupoulos completed a juris doctorate degree at Massachusetts School of Law this spring. He belonged to Sigma Phi Omicron fraternity while attending UMass Lowell and would like to take part in any of their activities.

2004

Robert Allen received his master of science, Computer Information Systems (security sub-concentration) from Boston University in May.

Kristen Bilapka was recently engaged to **Ian Cowper '00**. No date has been set for the wedding.

Robert Blatt was married this year to Amber Santos. Rob writes that "the project I worked on 'The Blood of

Yingzhou District,' along with another Lowell alumnus, **Keith Chirgwin '92**, won an Oscar this year." This is the first Oscar they have won since they began working together in 2004, but they have won two Emmys and have been nominated for more than a dozen other awards.

2005

Sarah Maldonado was commissioned in the Air Force after graduation. She is a second lieutenant and works in the 5th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Minot AFB, N.D. Sarah was planning a July wedding in Las Vegas.

2006

Dave Masse has joined CrystalVision as web application developer. Masse brings nearly a lifetime of programming experience to the talent pool, having been involved with computers and web programming since childhood. In his previous employment as web developer for a regional computer manufacturer and retailer, he acquired extensive experience with dynamic web site languages and utilizes his knowledge of a variety of web languages to produce an organized, functional product within elite programming standards. A native of New Hampshire, Dave is an avid conservationist. He is an active volunteer and donates his programming and development skills to the Lake Wentworth Association, a watershed protection agency.

Jennifer (Atkisson) Wellman was recently married.

Faculty and Former Faculty

Prof. Curtis Hinckley writes that "I continue to enjoy retirement on the Sun coast of Florida and to be affiliated with another academic institution, Eckerd College."



Teacher of the year Patrick Moeschen '95 with students.

Patrick Moeschen '95, is a lot of things: music teacher, mentor, and international speaker and lobbyist for Muscular Dystrophy. Diagnosed with a serious but non-fatal form of Muscular Dystrophy at age 11, he was able to continue walking during his four years studying music at UMass Lowell. Moeschen became a music teacher, and has been instructing middle school band in Salem, N.H., for 12 years.

Recently, a former seventh grade student nominated him for Teacher of the Year in a contest sponsored by Walmart. "I received \$1,000 in goods for the band, and was humbled and honored to have been nominated by a student." In addition, Moeschen received Teacher of the Year kudos from his local Rotary Club.

Students obviously love him, often donating money to Muscular Dystrophy research from their own pockets. "Students of mine have shoveled driveways, then turned the money over to me to help further research into

this disease." Students also developed a DVD depicting Moeschen's difficult daily routines, and submitted it to YouTube.

Moeschen has traveled extensively to increase awareness of Muscular Dystrophy, most recently visiting Perth, Australia, to deliver a keynote address. He's been featured on New Hampshire "Chronicle" and promises to continue to speak, lobby and teach anyone he can about his disease in an attempt to further progress for a cure.

"The older you get, the more you realize everyone's got baggage," says Moeschen. "Some is emotional, some is financial. Mine is physical."

To see Moeschen's YouTube video, log onto YouTube and search for nhmulletman. To learn more about MD, or to help, please visit parentprojectmd.org. Moeschen can be reached at pmoes@comcast.net.

Josselyn Mroz will always root for UMass Lowell, except when they play against her new favorite team, the Bryant University Bulldogs.

Mroz, a four-year starting field hockey defender, helped lead the River Hawks to an NCAA Division II championship in 2005. During her tenure, UML twice set the school record for lowest goals against average in a season, and boasted 31 shutout games. Now, she'll use her on-field savvy as she becomes assistant coach of the Bulldogs' field hockey team.

"We're excited to have Joss join our Bulldog staff," says Bryant head coach Coni Fichera. "During her playing career, she was one of the most tenacious defenders in the conference and we know she'll bring the same passion to her coaching."

Mroz, a 2007 UML graduate, says she's not surprised at her career path. "I've got to stay close to the sport," she says. "I love field hockey, and it's great to have a job that keeps me on the field." Mroz was named Academic All-American as a freshman, First Team All-American by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association in 2005, and earned honors as First Team All-American for the Northeast-10 Conference.



While her field hockey career alone is impressive, she also found time to be a standout player on the River Hawk's softball team, helping to secure a Northeast-10 Conference Championship while serving as assistant field hockey coach for the Endicott College Gulls.

Mroz joins other UML field hockey greats who've chosen coaching careers, including Mary Ruggles and Nikki (LeBlanc) Green '01 who coach at Nashua South High School, Jen (Brown) Quinn '94 from Walpole High School, and Mroz' friend Abby Dennehy '04 from Timberlane High School.

Mroz holds a degree in business administration and marketing.

From Teller to Trouper, UML Alum Bonnie Comley Earns Tony Award

As a new graduate struggling to find career satisfaction in business during the lengthy 1980's recession, Bonnie Comley '81 did some time in jobs she detested. First, there was a brief stint as a bank teller, then a painful experience as a "cold caller" charged with selling newly offered mutual funds over the phone.

"I thought long and hard, and decided the business world wasn't for me," says Comley. "I'd always been attracted to the entertainment industry—movies, television, theater—so I decided to go for it."

Comley complemented her UML business degree with one in communications, and began acting in numerous off-Broadway and regional productions.



Turns out, the move from teller to performer was a good one. Comley and her husband (noted New York City producer and playwright Stewart Lane) recently received the 2007 Tony Award for Best Special Theatrical Event for producing *The Two and Only*, a play about ventriloquism.

Comley's Tony caps a successful career as an actor, producer and production company founder. She and Lane live in New York City with their five children, but she's never forgotten UMass Lowell.

Earlier this year, Comley and her husband were honored for funding the renovation of the theater in Mahoney Hall and an endowment for ongoing maintenance.

For more information about Bonnie's career, go to www.bonniecopley.com.

(See related story on Page 2.)

Where Sole Meets Science

The computer and electrical engineering classes James Biggins '03 tried to sign up for were full, so he registered for some plastics engineering courses instead. That decision translates to good news for avid runners who don't know enough to change their shoes.

"I loved it at UML—the professors treated me like family, and I was especially inspired by teachers who've earned patents for their discoveries," Biggins says.

Four years later, he and a business partner are poised to earn their own patent for a device that will alert runners when their old shoes pose health risks.

"Running in old shoes is a leading cause of injury in runners. Our invention consists of several electrical components that determine when a pair of running shoes has passed its useful life, alerting the runner to buy new ones," he says.

Biggins and his partner financed the venture from an \$11,500 grant from the National Collegiate Inventors & Innovators Alliance and prize money from the North Shore Business Plan Competition.

The inventors have established requisite "proof of concept" by creating two prototypes—one that would be incorporated into the design of an athletic shoe, and another that would be attached to a shoe like a lace race chip.



Jim Biggins' invention helps avid runners replace aging sneakers before injuring themselves. Biggins, shown here with a prototype of his creation, is negotiating with shoe manufacturers and working with patent attorneys.

They are currently in the process of raising product development funds.

The pair consulted a patent attorney, who has completed a prior art search and helped with a patent filing, and they continue to refine their prototypes as they negotiate with several running shoe manufacturers.

Biggins, a research and development engineer for a local medical device company, can be reached at James.Biggins@sentialcorporation.com.

Dr. Michael Lane '75 Named President of Emporia State University

Joins Esteemed Group of Alums in University Leadership

Emporia State University (ESU) in Kansas recently chose Dr. Michael Lane '75 as its 15th president. Lane, a Melrose native, had served as vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost at the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith prior to accepting his new position.

In 1863, ESU was founded as the Kansas State Normal School, 31 years before UMass Lowell began as the Massachusetts State Normal School at Lowell. Throughout the 1800's, normal schools were created to educate teachers. ESU, known nationally for its teacher preparation program, has grown to a student population of more than 6,000.

In addition to a bachelor's degree in finance from UML, Lane holds a master's in accounting from Northeastern University and a doctorate in accounting from Texas A&M University. His academic career has included a variety of positions at Northeastern University, Bradley University (Illinois), Indiana University-Purdue University, Berry College (Georgia) and Mansfield University in Pennsylvania.

Lane joins a select group of UML alumni who've risen to leadership positions at universities around the country,



Dr. Michael Lane '75 was recently selected as Emporia State University president. Kathryn Carter, dean of UMass Lowell's College of Management, joined Dr. Lane to help celebrate his inauguration during ceremonies at Emporia's Kansas campus.

including Frederick Obear '56, who served as chancellor of the University of Tennessee for 16 years before retiring in 1997 and UML's newly appointed Chancellor, Marty Meehan '78.

Lane has served on the Midwest region of the American Accounting Association, and as faculty vice president at Northeastern University and Bradley University, where he was named one of five "Outstanding Faculty Vice Presidents" by the national organization.

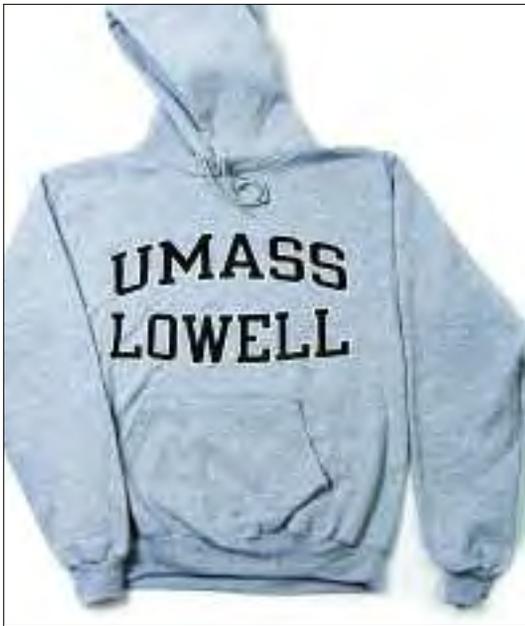
Lane lives with his wife, Dr. Peggy Lane, associate professor in ESU's School of Business. For more information, visit www.emporia.edu.

Blair Bettencourt '70, '76, '91 has been named Kiwanis 2007 Person of the Year. After devoting 36 years to teaching music at Westford Academy, Bettencourt was recognized for his musical contribution to the area. "During his time at Westford Academy, he was very passionate about what he taught, and it had a wonderful impact on his students," says Westford Academy principal Ellen Parker. Nominated by a local Kiwanis member, Bettencourt was honored at the Westford Apple Blossom Festival in May. Bettencourt, a Westford resident, continues to teach as an adjunct professor of music at UMass Lowell, and plays clarinet with the New Yankee Rhythm Kings.

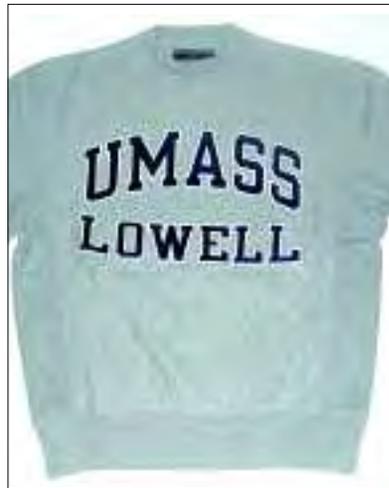


Several alumni gathered to celebrate the recent wedding of Deborah Primeau '98 and Richard Mahoney. Shown back row, from left, are Heather (Farrand) Coit '98, Nobuko (Natsuo) Cootey '97, Patrick Coit '98, Phillip Cootey '97, Scott D'Amour '96, Ross Acucena '99, James Heelon '98, Adrien Grise '95, Andrew Stone '98, Joseph Pendergast '96, Brian Andriolo '95, Robert (B.J.) Bottomley '87 and Karen (Cotter) Clark '98. Front row, from left, are Kimberly (Farrand) Flynn '98, George Davis, former UML track coach, Deborah Primeau '98, Richard Mahoney, Deborah Russo '97 and Tammie (Brooks) Robie '96.

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)



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



Heavy Weight Golf Shirt.

Navy golf shirt with embroidered left chest logo. Available with Lowell Tech or University of Lowell logo. S-XXL. \$29.98 Item #4



Champion Crewneck Sweatshirt
Screen-printed logo on 50/50 blend fleece.
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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



Champion Alumni Tees

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



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



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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.



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



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MA residents add 5% tax to all non-clothing items

Add shipping and handling + \$25 for mailing chairs

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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://umlowell.bkstore.com>.

 Cut along dotted line and return to above address.

Calendar of Events

FALL '07

September 8

Red Sox vs. Baltimore Orioles
Game and Alumni Gathering
Baltimore, MD

September 15

Criminal Justice Alumni Reception
The Brewhouse Café and Grille
Lowell, MA

September 17

Cape Cod Golf Outing & Barbecue
The Ridge Club
Sandwich, MA

September 22

Boutin Memorial Golf Tournament
Sky Meadow Country Club
Nashua, NH

October 6

Homecoming 2007
"Celebrate the Spirit"
UML North

October 21

University Open House
Tsongas Arena
Lowell, MA

November 10

Lowell Fund Hockey Night
UMass Lowell vs. UMass Amherst
Tsongas Arena
Lowell, MA

November 15

"Legally Blonde" Theater Night
Alumni Chapter Theatre Event
New York, NY

February 8

Faculty/Staff Hockey Night
UMass Lowell vs. Boston University
Tsongas Arena
Lowell, MA

February 16

All Alumni Hockey Night
UMass Lowell vs. Boston College
Tsongas Arena
Lowell, MA

SAVE THE DATE

Oct 25, 2008

College of Management
50th Anniversary Gala

Visit the alumni website at www.uml.edu/alumni for a listing of all events and detailed information.

For information regarding UMass Lowell Athletic schedules, please visit www.goriverhawks.com

For information regarding The Discovery Series or STARTS Program, please contact the UMass Lowell Center for the Arts at (978) 934-4444.

In Memoriam

Deceased Alumni, Faculty and Staff 3/16/07- 8/01/07

1923

Josephine O'Neil

1931

Ethel Spofford Cole

1932

Marion Carroll

1937

Harry Churchill

Doris Doran Correia

1939

Geraldine Seaver Remley

1941

Margaret Mason

1942

Helen Lynch

1945

Elsbeth Ohlson McIlvin

1947

Warren Pettengill Jr

1949

Clifford Harvey

1950

Therese Commerford

Marcia Lovering Tatarunis

1952

Earl Goven

1953

Leonard Goodman

1955

Floyd Frank

1955

Herbert Karp

1956

Donald Coates

1957

Philip Burgess

1961

Joyce Merrifield Craft

1963

Douglas Wilson

1965

Paul Perreault

1968

John Ferrillo

1972

Francis Gryszkiewicz

1973

John Payelian

William Scott

Milton Taylor

1974

Deborah Richardson Rowntree

1975

Eileen Payne

1976

Roger Floyd

JoAnn Malchow

1978

John Demarco

Rosemary Joseph

1979

Michael Melancon

1983

Daniel Dempski

1984

Elaine Chute

Christopher Webber

1989

Clifford Raimond

1995

Alfred Nigro

2005

George Pantazopoulos

2007

Nolan Webster

Faculty and Staff

Richard Barrett

James Busch



Improving the Workplace
A \$5 million grant from the National Institutes of Occupational Health will create a center to promote health in New England workplaces.



Smart Student-Athletes
Thirty-five UML athletes were named to the Northeast-10 Conference 2005 Honor Roll, and 12 were named to the Gold Scholar List (top 5 percent in GPA).



Promoting Safer Chemicals
UML's Toxics Use Reduction Institute identifies safer, less toxic alternatives for industries dependent on hazardous chemicals such as formaldehyde.



Improving Drug Delivery
Drugs will be administered more efficiently thanks to Encapsion, a biopharmaceutical company spawned by UML research and nurtured in the University's incubator program.



National Champions, Again
The UML field hockey team won the Division II National Championship in 2005, the sixth national championship in the University's history.



Encouraging Scientific Kids
Middle schools receive invention kits to encourage after-school science and technology programs in this pioneering UML program.



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