From the Dean

As we begin 2010 we are half way through an academic year which has so far proven to be extraordinarily successful for the Graduate School of Education. In particular, two events were significant: first, the launch of the undergraduate minor in education and second, our national accreditation review. In September, we enrolled our first cohort of undergraduate students in the new eighteen-credit minor. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Clearly, a lot of UMass Lowell undergraduates are already thinking about entering the teaching profession. In October, the Graduate School of Education underwent its national accreditation review. This review occurs every seven years and examines our educator preparation programs to ensure that state and national standards for the preparation of new teachers and the professional development of experienced teachers are being met.

While the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) will not officially vote on the Board of Examiners’ (BOE) report until March, the exit interview with the chair of the visiting team indicated that all standards had been met. I am extremely proud of the work of the education faculty who are wonderful teachers and scholars. Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our newest faculty member to you. Dr. Stacy Szczesniak joins the faculty this spring having received her Ed.D. from Harvard University where she worked on the “Project on the Next Generation of Teachers.” I am delighted to welcome Stacy to the GSE.

A happy and successful 2010 to you all.

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Office of School Partnerships Hosts Superintendents’ Forum

Dean Anita Greenwood, Asst. Superintendent Susan Nicholson (Andover), Asst. Professor James Nehring and Superintendent Chris Scott (Lowell) described partnership activities between UML and local schools, at the Annual Superintendents’ Breakfast. Chancellor Meehan opened the meeting and welcomed the superintendents to UMass Lowell’s new Inn and Conference Center. Dr. Judith Boccia, Director of the OSP, coordinates much of the university’s work with school districts and can be contacted at 978 934 4650.
Undergraduate Minor in Education is Launched

In September, the first two courses in the new undergraduate minor in education were offered. “Understanding Education” co-taught by Dr. Judith Davidson and Dr. Kerry Donohoe, helped the undergraduates to explore their own educational experiences in order to become aware of what makes an effective teacher. In “Educational Psychology” Dr. Jill Lohmeier focused on understanding how learning occurs and the difficulties that many students experience if the learning environment does not meet their individual needs. Dr. Vera Ossen, Director of Educator Preparation, is the advisor to all undergraduates in the minor. Dr. Ossen has been delighted with the response from students “I receive inquiries about the education minor every day and my door is always open to meet with our undergraduates who are showing a real interest in and passion for teaching.”

In the spring, two more education courses are offered: “Exploring Teaching” taught by Dr. David Lustick and “Education for Cultural Diversity” taught by two teachers who are assistants in the Graduate School of Education, Dr. Sumudu Lewis and Mrs. Bindu Sunil. Both courses are at near capacity. UMass Lowell undergraduates who declare a minor in education may apply to the fifth year M.Ed. Initial License program in their senior year. They are not required to take the GRE if they have maintained a GPA of 3.5 or better.

For more information contact Dr. Ossen at 978 934 4604 or go to http://www.uml.edu/minors.html

Tsongas Industrial History Center Expands Its Focus

Inspired by Paul Tsongas’s vision of Lowell as a classroom not only for Lowell students but for all students, the Tsongas Industrial History Center (TIHC) opened in the fall of 1991, offering a variety of experiential learning opportunities. The TIHC is a joint venture of the National Park Service and UMass Lowell’s Graduate School of Education, with both park and university employees developing and teaching the various programs. The TIHC uses the industrial development of Lowell as a case study for a wide variety of topics, ranging from engineering and science to humanities and social sciences. Increasingly, UMass Lowell faculty are working with the TIHC on unique programs that provide undergraduate and graduate students with a context for their studies and with opportunities to apply disciplinary skills and knowledge. For example, College of Engineering faculty members David Willis and Stephen Johnson use the TIHC to introduce first-year engineers to the history of engineering, while history professor Chad Montrie has recently developed (with TIHC staff) a program exploring the impacts of industrialization on the Concord River. The program draws heavily from Dr. Montrie’s research. Undergraduate students in Dr. Carole Salmon’s course “Francophone Communities in America” use TIHC resources on the immigration of French-Canadians to Lowell, and a partnership with a Québec college is planned. For more information on the Tsongas Industrial History Center Programs, contact Sheila Kirschbaum, Assistant Director, 978 970 5080.
Collaboration with the University of Haifa, Israel

In the summer of 2009, Dean Greenwood was a member of the delegation which visited Israel as part of UMass Lowell’s focus on international partnerships. UMass Lowell officially launched its new Center for Middle East Peace, Development and Culture in the fall with a visit by University of Haifa President Aaron Ben-Ze’ev. Dr. Paula Rayman heads the center and has been working with Graduate School of Education faculty to develop a series of institutes for US, Israeli and Irish educators. Dr. James Nehring and Dr. Stacy Szczesiul, whose research interests are in establishing professional learning communities within schools to address issues of school culture, teaching and learning, are proposing summer and spring week-long institutes in each country, followed by on-line collaboration. Participants will examine and address student achievement gaps which occur between different groups of students in each country. The focus on similar problems will enable educators to examine the issues broadly and develop solutions which are revealed from diverse perspectives presented at the institutes.

UML delegation (left to right) Professor Susan Braunhut (Biology), Dean Anita Greenwood (Education), Vice President and Dean of Research Majid Al-Haj (Haifa), Dean Robert Tamarin (Sciences), UML Provost Ahmed Abdelal, Prof. Paula Rayman (RESD), Prof. Stephen McCarthy (Engineering) and Allegra Williams (Graduate Student)

GSE is a Partner in Readiness Center

Dr. Vera Ossen and Dr. Judith Boccia will work with other colleges as UMass Lowell’s representatives to the northeast region’s Readiness Center, launched by Governor Deval Patrick and Secretary Paul Reville at Salem State College in December. “A highly knowledgeable, well trained and dedicated teacher in every classroom is the key to all of our education reform efforts,” said Patrick, in announcing the program. “Readiness Centers will help us support our teachers as we seek to give every student access to a quality education.”

Students continue to show high levels of satisfaction with the Graduate School of Education’s programs.

I have to say I have never worked so hard in a graduate course; I also have to say I have never learned so much. Nor have I have ever come away from a course with so much information that I can actually use in the classroom.

(Student enrolled in a Reading and Language online course)
Recent Faculty Projects and Accomplishments

**Early Childhood Literacy** - Dr. MinJeong Kim is engaged in studying language and literacy learning in early childhood classrooms at the Bartlett School in Lowell.

**i-SENSE and i-CODE (NSF Funded)** - Dr. Fred Martin (Computer Science) with Dr. Michelle Scribner-MacLean (Education) work together on two related projects which engage science teachers and middle school students in the use of micro-computers and sensors in order to gather and share data through a web-based system.

**Assessment Fellows** - Dr. Patricia Fontaine, Dr. Jill Lohmeier and Dr. Michelle Scribner-MacLean were selected to receive UML assessment fellowships. Fontaine and Lohmeier will assess information technology literacy.

**K-12 Literacy Project** - Dr. Elizabeth Ambe serves as the PI for a K-12 Literacy Professional Development Partnership Grant awarded by the Massachusetts DESE.

**Mentor Award** - Dr. James Carifio was awarded the Thomas F. Donlon Memorial Award for Distinguished Mentoring from the Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA)

**Book Published** - Dr. James Nehring’s book, The Practice of School Reform: Lessons from Two Centuries, was recently published by SUNY Press

Alumni News

Edward Barrett ('58) serves as the chair of the GSE’s Advisory Board. He is seen here with Dean Greenwood accepting a photograph of Lowell Normal School’s graduating class of 1926 of which his mother was a member.

Lois Haslem, who graduated with an Ed.D. from the GSE in 1989, received the Nicholas P. Tillinghast Award from Bridgewater State College for her achievements in the field of education.

Patrick Kaplo graduated from the M.Ed. Initial Licensure program in 2004 and now teaches Physics in Litchfield, NH. He recently received the Miliken National Educator Award. He recently returned to the GSE to show aspiring teachers how he integrates technology into his teaching.

Alumni giving is an important means by which we provide scholarships for deserving students. If you would like to make a donation, please send your check to the Graduate School of Education, O’Leary Library, 61, Wilder Street, Lowell, MA 01854, made payable to UMass Lowell—GSE or [www.uml.edu/givenow](http://www.uml.edu/givenow) to make your gift online.