Welcome to the 2014 Administration and Finance Annual Report. Our theme this year is connections—an apt emphasis as the university continues its unprecedented spirit of strategic collaboration and partnership throughout the campus.

As the flagship of the commonwealth, the university is a living and learning community dedicated to our land-grant mission of teaching, research, and engagement. We have a reputation for excellence nationally and internationally.

Administration and Finance supports the delivery of services required to advance these world-class endeavors. With more than 30,000 students, faculty, and staff and over 300 buildings spread across approximately 1,450 acres, our campus sometimes resembles a small city more than a New England college campus. Even so, all of us in A&F are interconnected in an extraordinary number of ways, and while we do not teach or conduct research, we are responsible for nearly every aspect of the support services that underlie the workings of this university. We provide the setting and the functionality that go so far in enabling UMass Amherst to make the intellectual contributions for which it is renowned. Together, we provide a highly competitive, innovative infrastructure that advances the institution’s overall success.

As you will see in the following pages, over the past year our strategic priorities have been deeply connected to the overall goals of the university. We are particularly proud of our accomplishments related to some of the highest priorities on campus: Efficiency and Effectiveness, Innovation, Sustainability, Responsible Growth, and Building Community On and Off Campus.

I want to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication over the past year. Your efforts support the entire campus and advance our reputation for excellence.

I look forward to another exciting year defined by connectivity, collaboration, and excellence.

James P. Sheehan
Vice Chancellor
Administration and Finance
Administration & Finance’s 1,362 employees perform the myriad behind-the-scenes tasks that help ensure that the campus runs smoothly. We keep its buildings warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and clean and attractive year-round. We keep its grounds looking their best. We see to it that bills and salaries are paid, students get fed, the lights stay on, and anything that breaks get fixed. In short, we develop, protect, and enhance the university’s human, fiscal, physical, and environmental resources.
... and What We Do

**A&F ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS** oversees and coordinates the development, implementation, and utilization of computer-system technologies in support of A&F and the PeopleSoft Human Resources and Finance modules on the campus.

**AUXILIARY ENTERPRISES** provides essential services to students, faculty, and staff. It is comprised of the Campus Center/Student Union Complex, University Dining and Retail Food Services, University Conference Services, the University Club, and the UMass Five Campus Licensing Program.

**THE BUDGET OFFICE** is responsible for the stewardship and oversight of unrestricted funds and assists in the budgeting of plant funds and restricted state appropriations.

**THE BURSAR’S OFFICE** oversees the student billing and payment system and provides banking and cash-management services.

**CAMPUS PLANNING** guides the development of campus and satellite master plans in collaboration with the campus communities and provides initial facilities programming in support of capital projects.

**THE CONTROLLER’S OFFICE** provides financial reporting and accounting for all campus activities, coordinates all on-campus audits, processes vendor payments and travel reimbursements, manages grant reporting and billing, and maintains property and equipment inventory.

**DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT** manages design and construction activities associated with new construction, renovations, and infrastructure upgrades and repairs, and coordinates with external agencies in implementing capital projects.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY** provides the campus community with services and programs related to fire safety, radiation safety, biological safety, chemical safety, environmental health, environmental management, and emergency preparedness and business continuity.

**FINANCIAL AND COST ANALYSIS** plans, organizes, and provides the campus with financial analysis and develops and maintains special and ongoing cost studies.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** oversees the campus’s personnel and employment services, position classification, salary administration, benefits administration, payroll services, new-employee orientating, staff training and development, employee records, labor relations, and campus-wide employee-recognition programs.

**THE MULLINS CENTER** provides athletic, meeting, and entertainment facilities and services, and also offers racquetball and ice-skating.

**PHYSICAL PLANT** provides operations, maintenance, and repair services for academic, research, and administrative buildings and campus grounds. It also provides and manages utilities and diligently strives for a sustainable, energy-efficient environment.

**PRINT, MAIL, DISTRIBUTION** provides printing, document-preparation, editing, and variable-data services. Mail Services receives, delivers, and processes first-class and bulk mail and provides customized addressing and distribution services. OpScan Services are provided for scoring tests and examinations.

**PROCUREMENT** ensures that the campus receives supplies, services, and equipment in a timely manner and at the best possible value. It conducts public bids, processes campus-managed construction and service contracts, and manages the Corporate Travel and Procard programs.

**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** operates the campus shuttle, fleet services, and special transportation systems for the campus community and provides parking options for faculty, staff, students, and visitors.

**THE UCARD OFFICE** oversees the official UMass picture ID for all staff and students, which functions as a library card, door-access key, meal-plan ticket, time card, and debit card for on-campus and some off-campus goods and services.

**UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES** provides a comprehensive, accredited ambulatory health care center with a focus on student health. Current faculty and staff enrolled in a university-sponsored health plan are eligible for care.
Since 2013 Physical Plant’s Landscape Services Division has designed and installed plant material for commencement stages. For over 10 years such material was “rented.” Now $7,500 is saved annually by growing the plants on campus and then using them after commencement for campus landscaping and beautification.

A comprehensive Facilities & Campus Services reorganization has improved efficiency and effectiveness. The administrative functions within F&CS’s four divisions have been consolidated into a new Administrative Services Division to bring greater consistency to business processes and to allow for better coverage and cross-training as well as the cooperative sharing of resources. The new division is responsible for centralized accounting, budget, communications, human resources, inventory management, procurement and contracts, and records and work management for all F&CS divisions.

Buyways, a new e-procurement system, allows campus users to access catalog vendors through the Internet and obtain contract pricing for goods and services. Nearly 35,000 orders are now placed electronically, and most vendors are paid via electronic funds transfer. The university received a SciQuest Industry Award for the implementation process.

Physical Plant’s Electrical Utilities Division has replaced oil-filled transformers with environmentally safe dry-type transformers at Brooks dorm, Blaisdell House, the photo lab, the Visitor Center, and French and Clark halls. The Blaisdell and Visitor Center replacements transferred the power source from WMECO to the campus’s electrical distribution system.

Having completed all requirements for Payment Card Industry compliance, Dining Services is now taking credit cards via the point-of-sale system rather than a dial-up terminal. This has cut the average time for credit-card transactions almost tenfold, from 30 seconds down to 3 to 5 seconds, allowing more customers to be served during busy mealtimes.
F&CS has launched an ambitious communications program to convey to the campus community vital project- and facilities-related information including a new graphic identity, a catalog of services, and a redesign of all F&CS websites.

To consolidate all vendor information into one consistent database, the Amherst campus maintains the vendor file for the entire five-campus UMass system. It maintains more than 45,000 vendor files in accordance with tax regulations and other reporting requirements.

The F&CS Solutions Center has increased staffing to 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year to serve as the primary point of contact for all non-residential facilities-related issues. Its employees staff the phones and monitor critical building systems to respond quickly and efficiently to facilities issues.

Physical Plant’s Utility Electrical Division installed 17 new LED streetlights on University Drive, including 2,000 feet of underground conduit and wiring.

Human Resources took part in the upgrade of the university’s human resources and payroll administrative system. It went live in October 2014.

UMassTransit put 67 new bus drivers through mandatory training that culminated in their acquiring CDL Class B licenses. In return for their training, drivers agree to work at least two full semesters at 180 hours each semester, or approximately 15 hours a week. UMassTransit has over 170 student drivers.

YINGSHAN XIE’S commitment and dedication to her work are abundantly evident. For two-plus years she has refined the UCard Office’s financial accounting procedures. These refinements, coupled with her strong attention to detail, have greatly improved the timeliness and accuracy of the office’s monthly reconciliations. Yingshan has also worked closely with the office’s on- and off-campus partners to enhance the usefulness of the monthly reports it issues for them.
Environmental Health & Safety and Design & Construction Management continue to make dramatic improvements in campus fire safety through renovations and by retrofitting buildings with automatic fire sprinklers and upgraded fire alarm systems. EH&S also conducts regular inspections and tests of these systems and assists with testing for Amherst Fire Department acceptance.

The university has received a landmark $95-million grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to fit out and equip three floors of the state-of-the-art Life Science Laboratories. During the past year Procurement worked closely with faculty to issue and negotiate more than $23 million worth of high-tech science equipment.

UCard users are enjoying significant improvements, including simplified log-on and mobile apps for androids and iPhones, thanks to the GET program, a hosted website that allows UMass students, parents, and employees to add funds to UCard debit accounts and to view meal and debit-account balances as well as meal and debit-account transactions made during the past six months. GET also allows cardholders to mark their UCards as lost or found and to access information about locations that accept meal plan and the UCard debit account as payment, including 20-plus off-campus merchants. One of those merchants allows cardholders to order and pay for food online using UCard debit accounts.

Tririga, the software used for campus space management, was implemented over the Memorial Day weekend. It tracks preventive maintenance, work management, inventory, and purchasing, integrating with the system’s Space Management modules and with BuyWays to reduce data entry. The program positions Physical Plant to increase efficiencies long-term.

The expansion of the UCard Off-Campus Merchant Program has provided students and employees with more options to use their UCard debit-account funds. During the first full year of the expanded program, the number of participating merchants increased from one to 21, and UCard sales at their businesses rose from $72,000 in FY13 to $328,000 in FY14. Twenty-two percent of UMass students made purchases from one or more of those merchants during the past year.

University Health Services is the new headquarters for the Tobacco-Free Campus Program, which in the coming year will introduce outreach and education initiatives.
The Bursar’s Office provides close to 500 veteran students with top-level customer service regarding their Veterans Administration benefits. The office has a dedicated window where veteran students can submit paperwork and ask questions about their benefits and university bills. It processed more than $1.5 million in benefits for 360 veterans during the past year.

The offices of Workplace Learning & Development and Labor/Management Workplace Education helped coordinate the Chancellor’s Committee on Workplace Climate and Bullying. The committee’s multi-year campaign began in FY14 with a first phase devoted to awareness-building and including a campus-wide symposium on workplace bullying. WL&D and LMWE are jointly delivering a mandatory workshop for all new employees on workplace bullying.

The Workplace Operations module of In FY14 Human Resources implemented Interview Exchange, a web-based SaaS (Software as a Service) job-applicant tracking system. During that year 807 full- and part-time faculty and staff positions were posted on the campus’s account and drew more than 15,000 applications.

After conducting successful pilot programs in the Chemistry and Polymer Science & Engineering departments, EH&S has engaged a lab-coat laundering and management service for the entire campus. External bids were sought and evaluated for supplying researchers with personalized lab coats at an affordable price that includes weekly laundering. Cintas, the chosen vendor, now serves more than 1,500 researchers.

HR has implemented JOBS, an online system for entering job descriptions in a consistent format for leveling, off-cycle, and equity reviews. Highly transparent, it includes attributes related to scope (e.g., independent action) and the Fair Labor Standards Act and contains a dated workflow so that an originator can see at any given time where in the review process a description stands.

AMY DION of Finance & Budget handles travel reimbursements for the Amherst campus. Last year, in helping to ensure that over 6,700 reimbursements were properly documented and paid, Amy had a major role in successfully sending 478 faculty and staff to 78 different countries all over the world to perform cutting-edge research and provide exciting educational programs.

- disposed of 5,959,080 pounds of trash (2,980 tons, or 199 pounds per person)
- composted 100 percent of food waste from the Dining Commons—over 1,200 tons of organic material
- served over 4.8 million meals in the Dining Commons
- sourced 30 percent local produce for Dining Services
- made 857 laboratory safety assessments
Physical Plant’s Utility Electrical Division has installed four solar pedestrian-crosswalk lights on Commonwealth Avenue.

Christopher Phillips, greenhouse technician for the Grounds Department, has brought new efficiency to the planting of tulip bulbs used to beautify the campus each spring. This year the department made its own soil mixture to place in the Governors Drive traffic islands to ensure proper local growing conditions. A sub-layer of the soil was laid and impressions were made in it to place the bulbs and then cover them with more of the soil to an optimum depth. For further efficiency, Phillips invented the Dimpl’r, a device made of angle brackets, fencepost caps, wood, and a couple of ropes. It produces two rows of perfectly spaced impressions, or dimples, into which bulbs can easily be placed. Once the location of the tulips was determined, the Dimpl’r was placed and stepped on, making perfect impressions that were then used to line up further rows, enabling the precise planting of 27,500 bulbs.

Physical Plant’s Custodial Services has purchased high-speed buffers that run at 2000 rpm and bring a superior shine to terrazzo floors. Previously such floors needed to have finish applied and subsequently stripped twice a year. Now no finish is applied and the stone’s natural sheen is brought out with far less labor and material.

Facility and Campus Services funded a graduate student to install a pilot PERCEPT way-finding system for blind or visually impaired users in the Whitmore Administration Building. Developed by Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Aura Ganz and her team in the campus’s 5G Mobile Evolution Lab, it provides users in indoor environments with navigation instructions.

Physical Plant’s Custodial Services has purchased a Windsor Chariot stand-on floor scrubber. The operator rides it as it scrubs and dries floors much faster than hand mopping and uses far less water.

TONY JUNG is one of the nation’s most acclaimed campus-dining chefs. A winner of several gold medals in college-chef competitions, he passionately supports local and regional food producers and always puts students first. His mantra: “I want to make our food look good, taste good, and be good for our customers.”

- conducted 54 laboratory- and fire-safety, 53 biological-safety, and 28 radiation-safety training sessions
- tested 592 drench showers and eyewash units
- recertified 202 biosafety cabinets
- issued and processed 1,371 radiation dosimeters
- reviewed 712 asbestos and lead service requests
Physical Plant Landscape Management staff members and Stockbridge School of Agriculture students planted and grew **225 poinsettias** from plugs that were distributed throughout campus for the holiday season.

In collaboration with the university’s Department of Landscape Architecture, the UMass Permaculture Initiative this year created the Hampshire **Mobile Urban Permaculture Garden**. Students designed and built four planters of perennial herbs that now stand outside Hampshire Dining Commons and serve as a model of how food can be grown in cramped urban environments.

The Permaculture Initiative offers a one-credit practicum to allow students from various disciplines to get hands-on experience with **permaculture and organic gardening**. The students maintain on-campus permaculture gardens at the Franklin, Berkshire, Worcester, and Hampshire dining commons and at Chancellor Subbaswamy’s house.

University Health Services has implemented a novel **text-based waiting system**. Walk-in care patients text the automated system, which then tells them when to come in. Initial results showed wait times being reduced by more than 50 percent. An upcoming collaborative study with the College of Engineering will more precisely analyze patient flow to improve medical resource management and patient care and satisfaction.

UHS is collaborating with the Stonewall Center, the Center for Counseling and Psychological Health, the Psychological Services Center, the Center for Women and Community, Fenway Institute in Boston, and experts from Baystate Health in Springfield to offer on campus an **LGBTQ-affirming healthcare** environment and relevant services.

**GLENDÄ PONS** manages the Chemical Environmental Management System, which monitors and documents the receipt, inventorying, barcoding, and delivery of all chemicals to campus research laboratories. Last year it handled over 18,000 packages, recording each one, issuing it with a material-safety data sheet, and confirming that it complied with the new Global Harmonized System for classifying and labeling chemicals.

- performed 1,476 weekly sprinkler-system inspections, 4,308 weekly fire-alarm inspections, and 110 nonresidential fire-alarm tests
- provided customer service for 168 departmental building coordinators who represent 12,451,690 square feet of campus building space
- renovated 12 classrooms
Physical Plant’s Sustainability Office successfully launched a New2U Reuse Tag Sale in the Student Union Ballroom during the fall-semester Move-In Weekend. Five tons of items collected during the Spring Move-Out were sold to students, saving those items from the landfill, providing gently used furniture, clothing, and dorm supplies to thousands of students (including international students, who received an early-bird discount), and raising more than $6,000 in revenue for the Sustainability Fund.

The UMass Minute Riders Program, a student-run, bike-powered weekly compost pickup service to 19 different offices across campus, has been launched.

Campus Planning and Physical Plant have drafted an energy master plan to explore energy-reduction investments and other energy-supply options to expand the Central Heating Plant.

Students in the Sustainable UMass office, based in the Physical Plant, run the Green Office Program. It provides sustainability consulting services to 59 offices across the campus working with Office Max, the new campus office supplies vendor, to develop a green office-purchasing guide.

Physical Plant’s Landscape Services employs eight Stockbridge School graduates in turf management, floriculture, fruits and vegetables, and arboriculture. One of the graduates, Christopher Phillips first arrived as a student intern.

DAVID SCHOEN, electrical manager at Physical Plant Utilities, during the past 12 months has overseen the ongoing conversion of more than 100 streetlights on Commonwealth Avenue and University Drive to LED fixtures, and this winter Electrical Services is similarly converting the entire Campus Center Garage. These conversions significantly reduce energy usage, increase lighting levels in high-traffic areas, improve pedestrian safety, and beautify the campus.

- added nine new buildings totaling 556,342 square feet and razed five campus buildings totaling 23,763 square feet
- installed 26 security door card-access readers
- installed 4,163 square feet of epoxy flooring
- made 9 bathrooms ADA-compliant
- tested and calibrated 823 fume hoods
The campus now has five **charging stations for electric vehicles**. Their first 272 sessions resulted in a greenhouse-gas reduction of 935.396 kg.

Physical Plant has worked with Northeast Utilities and the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to develop an **energy-reduction project** with a total cost estimate of $4.5 million and anticipated annual savings of $1.2 million. It qualifies for more than $500,000 in rebates, annually reduces the university’s air emissions by 6,920 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, and addresses significant deferred-maintenance issues by replacing outdated building energy-system controls and repairing leaky steam systems.

UMass Amherst and WMECo/Northeast Utilities have formally signed a memorandum of understanding setting specific goals for their continuing partnership, including the **reduction of campus energy consumption** by 3 million kWh per year. WMECo’s assistance under the special partnership includes energy-efficiency incentive funding, technical assistance, and providing outreach and education programs on campus. Under the agreement, plans are being developed to reduce campus energy consumption by more than 2 percent annually for the next three years.

Sustainable UMass and Physical Plant have been awarded a $75,000 Leading by Example Clean Energy Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources for the installation of the first commercial-scale **solar thermal project**, installed at the UMass Central Heating Plant in October 2014. It pre-heats the plant’s make-up water to reduce fossil-fuel consumption during steam production.

A new single-stream (i.e., all-in-one-bin) **recycling system** at Physical Plant’s Office of Waste Management has reduced truck pickups by 50 percent throughout the campus.
RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

The new football training facility and press box at McGuirk Alumni Stadium were completed and operational for the first home game of the fall 2014 season and have received LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Certification Institute. Other major capital projects completed during 2014 included Central Campus infrastructure improvements, Lincoln Campus Center and Blue Wall renovations, the Integrative Learning Center, and a Paige Laboratory renovation.

A new inlet air chiller system for the Central Heating Plant’s gas turbine generator allows for the generation of an additional megawatt of electricity during hot, humid conditions. This will increase electrical-system reliability and significantly decrease electrical supply costs. The system was made possible by a $387,000 Leading by Example Clean Energy Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources and a $240,000 energy incentive from Western Massachusetts Electric Company.

After more than two years of planning and construction costing $15.5 million, the LEED Gold-certified Hampshire Dining Commons reopened in August 2013. Featuring a 12-station oval service area, it was designed with sustainable sourcing and practices in mind. The facility has been awarded a Loyal E. Horton Silver Medal for Residential Dining Concepts, a Loyal E. Horton Gold Medal for Sustainability Practices, and a Food Management Best Concept Award in the Best Renovation category.

Hampshire Dining Commons has been awarded a $485,000 grant by the Henry P. Kendall Foundation to promote sustainability, health, and wellness and provide a defensible, cost-effective example for all campuses to emulate. One year into the grant, Hampshire features healthy, seasonal foods, has hosted dozens of educational events, and is working with small farms in New England to source local produce, dairy, meat, and underutilized fish.

Gary Glazier, manager of Landscape Services at Physical Plant Operations, completed numerous efficiency and effectiveness projects during the past fiscal year. Having completed its second greenhouse, Landscape Services now grows 90 percent of the plant material used on campus, which this year included more than 200 chrysanthemums and 200 poinsettias. It has also established a campus tree nursery that provides a succession plan for campus trees, educational and research opportunities for students and faculty, and the potential to expand the campus arboretum.
To encourage diversity and inclusivity in the campus’s sustainability initiatives, Sustainable UMass partnered with Amalcar Shabazz, the faculty advisor for diversity and excellence, to bring Dr. Robert Bullard, father of the environmental justice movement, to campus to deliver the 2014 Earth Day keynote address. Bullard spoke to a crowd of more than 200 in Mahar Auditorium.

UMass Amherst Emergency Medical Services continues to provide professional-quality pre-hospital care at campus events. With nearly 100 members, EMS made strides last year in adding systems and structures to aid the agency in advancing its mission and for the first time had a dedicated staff advisor.

Physical Plant’s Office of Waste Management has signed a memorandum of understanding with Amherst College that provides for the office to receive and ship the college’s trash under terms beneficial to both parties.

AMANDA RICHARDSON, a junior majoring in English and theater, is Special Transportation co-supervisor at Transportation Services. As such she ensures that the campus is accessible to faculty, staff, and students with mobility limitations. Special Transportation provides on-call and reservation service for passengers with either temporary or permanent disabilities. Amanda’s leadership in the department provides a customer-focused approach to providing all passengers with dignified service.

- processed 435 Digsafe infrastructure-upgrade surveys
- shipped 2,878,180 bulk-mail and 674,144 USPS first-class pieces
- dispensed 209,995 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel for campus vehicles and equipment
- carried 2,947,832 passengers more than 965,133 miles on 37 shuttle buses covering 10 routes
Environmental Health & Safety joined with OSHA, the OSHA Training Institute at Keene, and the American Society of Safety Engineers in hosting the 2014 OSHA Summer Summit. The event brought high-quality safety training to 366 attendees, including many UMass employees. Technical-session topics included workplace violence, active-threat training, ergonomics and the aging workforce, temporary and new workers, fleet safety and distracted driving, electrical safety, industrial hygiene, and reviews of OSHA case studies.

Staff members from Physical Plant’s Landscape Services recently taught fourth graders from Amherst’s Wildwood Elementary School about trees and the keys to identifying different species. The school had contacted Physical Plant to arrange a walking tour of campus trees. Several species of woody plants were examined as guides pointed out the different criteria used for tree identification, including leaf shape and orientation, bark, buds, fruit, seeds, and growth habits. Students collected sample seeds and leaves and were encouraged to crush and smell the leaves of fragrant species.

Environmental Health & Safety assisted in the presentation of an April 2014 full-scale, overnight sheltering exercise at the Mullins Center funded by a grant from the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council. Approximately 375 volunteers took part, including health care professionals from University Health Services, the UMass School of Nursing, the UMass and Hampshire County Medical Reserve Corps, the American Red Cross, the Amherst Fire Department, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the university police, and EH&S. Four months in the planning, the event tested the preparedness of local emergency teams in the event of a tornado or some other such disaster.

- carried 15,655 mobility-limited passengers more than 38,503 miles
- drove campus vehicles 2,067,023 miles
- processed more than 12,000 budget transactions
- issued 81,734 bills and processed 43,076 payments, 6,478 in-person payments, and 27,222 refunds
- issued 122,241 accounts-payable vouchers
RON HUSTED, a Facilities & Campus Services customer service representative, proactively works with campus customers and coordinates with F&CS staff to respond to facilities- and maintenance-related issues. Highly responsive to customer needs, Ron is a reliable resource and an able advocate for approximately seventy campus departments. He is dedicated to seeing that all work for his customers goes smoothly from start to finish, with minimal disruption to their operations. For most of his 12 years at the university, Ron worked in the Facilities Solutions Center, where he gained deep knowledge of how work gets requested and scheduled and how to most effectively and efficiently meet customer needs.

The university’s fifth annual Dining Dash and Dine Run/Walk 5K took place April 12, 2014, to benefit the Amherst Survival Center. Nearly two thousand runners and walkers took part and helped raise $6,000 for the center. Chancellor and Mrs. Kumble Subbaswamy helped start the race along with master of ceremonies Seth Stutman from Channel 22 WWLP.

For the fourth consecutive year UMass Dining Services broke a Guinness World Record, this time by creating a 15,291-pound fresh fruit salad at a Labor Day barbecue celebrating the return of students to campus. The salad was the work of a team including celebrity chef Jet Tila of the Food Network, UMass Amherst executive chef Willie Sng, and Oliver de Volpi, the head chef at McGill University in Montreal, who last year set the previous record by making 11,197 pounds of fruit salad.

University Health Services is collaborating with Five College Consortium stakeholders and Cooley Dickinson Hospital to create on a uniform approach to potential Ebola risk. It will include scientifically based communications, protocols, and hands-on training.
The staff members of the Sustainable UMass team—Ezra Small, Physical Plant campus sustainability manager; Rachel Dutton, Auxiliary Services sustainability manager; Craig Nicolson, director of sustainability academic programs in the College of Natural Resources; and Victoria Rosen, University Relations communications and marketing manager—have each received a prestigious Leading by Example Individual Award from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

UMass Amherst was named state champion in the 2014 Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency Recognition Program. Given by Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, the award honors one institutional energy customer from each state in the Northeast for its commitment to sustainable innovation and for contributions to keeping the region a national leader in energy efficiency.

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For having composted the greatest tonnage of food among all schools nationwide, the university received MassRecycle’s University Recycling Award as well as “Innovation” and “Colleges and Universities” awards from the Environmental Protection Agency’s Food Recovery Challenge Program.

Second Nature, a national nonprofit that works to create a healthy, just, and sustainable society by transforming higher education, presented UMass Amherst with the 2014 Climate Leadership Award. Such awards are presented annually to signatory institutions of the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment that have demonstrated innovative and advanced leadership in education for sustainability and climate mitigation and adaptation.

For the second year in a row, UMass Dining placed third under “Best Campus Food” in the Princeton Review rankings, which are based on surveys of 126,000 students from 378 colleges and universities.

Campus Planning’s UMass Amherst Master Plan received an Honor Award from the Western Massachusetts chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Boston Society of Landscape Architects Western Massachusetts Section.

RECOGNITION

CONNIE SCHWAIGER, DNP, FNP, a nurse practitioner, made a quick, accurate diagnosis of meningitis in a student who arrived at the walk-in waiting room at University Health Services. Thanks to her experience and quick action and the teamwork of the UHS staff, the patient received lifesaving medications, was sent to the hospital within 15 minutes, and made an extraordinary recovery from a usually deadly illness.

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COMPLETED
completed 1,843 employment-verification requests for staff and faculty

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