



A FEW OF OUR **Points of Pride**

the University of Massachusetts Amherst



UMass offers exceptional opportunity at a great value. A distinguished, award-winning faculty and a tremendous range of academic and extracurricular offerings create unlimited possibilities for personal growth and professional development.

The University's excellence and value are increasingly recognized. In 1999 *U.S. News & World Report* listed UMass as one of the nation's "Great Schools at Great Prices." UMass was **No. 10 of public national universities**. UMass was chosen by guidance counselors around the country as one of the top colleges and universities that give **"Best Value for the Tuition Dollar."** The First National Guidance Counselor Survey was published in *Kaplan's Newsweek College Catalog 2000*. In "State Universities to Cheer About," an annual listing published by *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine*, UMass was described as **"a great value."** And *Insider's Guide to Colleges*, written by students at Yale, said: **"UMass has programs that can typically be found only at private schools."**



Highly Recommended A recent survey of 1,900 graduates from the UMass system, 615 of them from the Amherst campus, shows overwhelming satisfaction with their education. More than 96 percent of UMass Amherst alumni who graduated between 1960 and 1995 reported they are "very satisfied" or "satisfied" in four key areas: quality of education; preparation for career; preparation for further education; and career progress.

More Top State Scholars Nearly 100 valedictorians and salutatorians entered with the Class of 2003. A "growing number of top Bay State students are choosing public education," the Associated Press reports. **"UMass is stepping out of the shadows of the state's more prestigious private colleges,"** the *Boston Globe* says.

Best of the Best

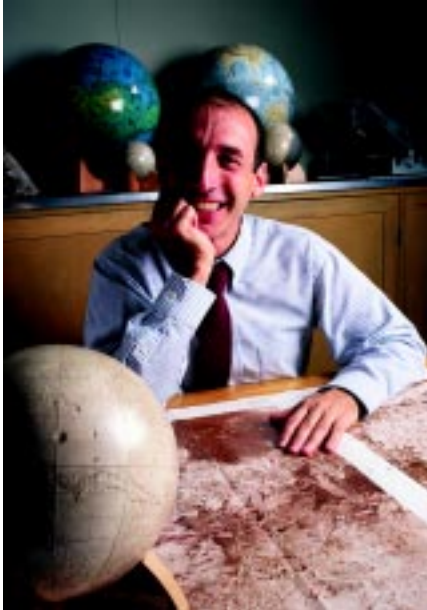
Commonwealth College, the state's new honors college located at UMass Amherst, admitted a first-year class of approximately 600 students in the fall of 1999. The students had an average SAT score of 1314, a median high school grade point average of 3.9 (on a 4.0 scale), and an average high school rank in the top 6 percent. Another 125 sophomores are in Commonwealth College, and another 1,900 students are in the campus honors program.



Renaissance Woman

Jill Meyers, star volleyball player and an honors student, was one of *Glamour*

magazine's Top Ten College Women for 1999. Profiled in the October 1999 issue, she was the first UMass student to be selected for the award. She was a summer intern with the Los Angeles American Civil Liberties Union in 1998. Her senior thesis project compares the levels of detention for juvenile delinquents with the degrees of punishment for sinners in Dante's *Inferno*.



Gold Medalists The New England Spring Flower Show has a long tradition, and so do the outstanding students and graduates of the UMass Stockbridge School who regularly take many of the show's top honors, while competing against many professionals. In 1999, the seniors in the Stockbridge School's landscape contracting major won five top awards, including a gold medal, for their landscape display at the show.

Seasoned Space Traveler Astronaut Catherine "Cady" Coleman (Lieutenant Colonel, USAF) was mission specialist aboard space shuttle *Columbia* on its historic July 1999 mission to deploy the Chandra X-ray Telescope. She received a doctorate in polymer science and engineering from UMass in 1991. Coleman has logged more than six million miles in space, and she set several endurance and tolerance records while in training.

X Marks the Spot Biochemistry Professor Anne Simon is the author of a book about her experiences as an adviser to *The X-Files*, evaluating the scientific plausibility of situations presented on the TV show. The book is titled *The Real Science Behind The X-Files*. Simon also served as an adviser to *The X-Files* movie. She teaches biochemistry and molecular and cellular biology.

Exploring the Red Planet Paving the way for manned missions to the planet Mars, the chief scientist for NASA's Mars Pathfinder Mission, geosciences alumnus Matthew P. Golombek '81Ph.D., has been instrumental in identifying what surface features astronauts will find when they arrive on our nearest planetary neighbor. "It doesn't get any better than being among the first geologists to investigate the surface geology of Mars," says Golombek.

Top Brass It's common knowledge that UMass has produced graduates who have gone on to command extensive corporate resources. These include Jack Welch, CEO of General Electric, and Jack Smith, CEO of General Motors. Few know, however, that 19 UMass graduates have risen to become general officers in the U.S. armed forces, 18 with distinguished careers as generals in the Army and Air Force, and one a Navy admiral.

Genius Rewarded UMass Professor of Economics Nancy Folbre is one of 29 winners of 1998's prestigious John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation "genius grants." Past MacArthur Award winners with campus ties include: English professor and fiction writer John Edgar Wideman; former faculty members Max Roach, music, and Marc Shell, comparative literature; and three alumni who received master's degrees in regional planning.

Applause for All That Jazz

When *Down Beat* magazine announced its prestigious Student Music Awards for college jazz soloists and ensembles in 1999, UMass students, alumni, and ensembles were winners in four categories. Over the past 12 years, students in the music department's African-American music and jazz program have garnered 18 *Down Beat* Awards.

Memorializing Shame

UMass English Professor James E. Young was the only non-German on the committee that selected Germany's national memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, to be located in Berlin. Young, an international authority on depictions of the Holocaust throughout the world, chairs Judaic studies at UMass.

Revolutionizing Art History 101

UMass Art History Professor Laetitia La Follette is creating a CD-ROM that may rewrite the teaching and learning of art history. She predicts that in the twenty-first century this electronic resource will take the place of the traditional art history textbook.



Rider on the Storm UMass electrical engineer Andrew Pazmany '86, '88G, '93Ph.D. tracked the monster tornadoes that ripped through Oklahoma in the spring of 1999. Pazmany constructed the specialized radar that produced the highest-resolution data ever available on a tornado. He is a researcher with the College of Engineering's highly regarded Microwave Remote Sensing Laboratory.

Some Holds Barred Legal Studies Professors Ethan Katsh and Janet Rifkin have created a unique online resource for policy making and dispute resolution. The Center for Information Technology and Dispute Resolution is funded by \$350,000 received from the Hewlett Foundation.

Programs at the Pinnacle The authoritative National Research Council ranked several UMass programs among the nation's very best in its most recent reputational study (1995). The linguistics department was No. 1 and polymer science and engineering No. 2 (in their fields) in their effectiveness in educating research scholars and scientists. Sharing the spotlight in the top quartile were the departments of chemical engineering, electrical and computer engineering, computer science, and psychology.

One of Three The UMass Ph.D. program in Afro-American Studies is one of only three in the country in this young discipline. It was begun in 1996.

Mapping the Universe UMass astronomers are leading an ambitious \$40 million project to map the entire sky using a pair of specially built infrared telescopes. The 2Mass survey will look for stars and galaxies up to 80,000 times fainter than those recorded in the last survey, which was conducted by Caltech in 1969. <http://www.ipac.caltech.edu/2mass>

First Class The highly regarded *Fiske Guide to Colleges* has cited the UMass College of Food and Natural Resources for its outstanding offerings, including "the highly touted hotel, restaurant, and travel administration program (HRTA)." The HRTA program is considered one of the five best in the nation, according to industry sources.

Batting 1,000 Commemorating the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball, UMass scholars recently created the Jackie Robinson Educational Archives Website, which highlights important aspects of Robinson's life and times. <http://www.umass.edu/pubaffs/jackie>

Business Mergers The Isenberg School of Management is committed to integrating interdisciplinary ties between management and non-business disciplines such as computer science. Each year, \$70,000 in scholarships is available to students who excel in the cross-disciplinary study of business, science, and technology.

Clearing the Air When the U.S. Navy needed expert advice on monitoring air quality in submarines, it asked UMass to help because of its expertise in environmental health sciences. UMass faculty and hundreds of its distinguished alumni are considered among the nation's top experts in assessing just what's wrong with industrial or institutional environments and in designing cost-effective remedial systems.

Feeding a Hungry World The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has designated the UMass food science department as a Center of Excellence for food safety and nutrition. Through the center, the department assists in efforts to promote agricultural development and improved nutrition, food quality, and safety and standards.



Turning Up the Heat Climate researchers at UMass have written one of the most cited reports of 1999 on the topic of global warming. The study, co-authored in part by Ray Bradley, head of the geosciences department, and former adjunct faculty member Michael Mann, suggests that the 1990s were the warmest decade of the millennium, with 1998 the warmest year so far. The report appeared in the March 15, 1999, issue of *Geophysical Research Letters*.

Totally Wired Neuroendocrinology is the young interdisciplinary science that studies the interactions between the nervous system and the hormone-producing endocrine glands. Three UMass departments — biology, psychology, and veterinary and animal sciences — helped establish the Center for Neuroendocrine Studies on campus. This group has quickly become one of the most visible and productive in the nation, attracting \$3 million in federal funding and five prestigious “career awards” from the National Institutes of Health.

The Write Stuff The UMass M.F.A. program in Creative Writing is one of the oldest and best in the country, regularly ranked among the top 10 by *U.S. News & World Report*. Faculty include Pulitzer Prize-winning poet James Tate, acclaimed novelist John Edgar Wideman, and Jewish Book Award-winner Jay Neugeboren. Alumni include Valerie Martin, author of the bestseller *Mary Reilly*; Brett Lott, author of *Jewel*, a recent selection by the Oprah Book Club; Herman Fong, winner of the 1999 Cohen Award for poetry from *Ploughshares* magazine; and acclaimed short story writer Judy Doenges, author of *What She Left Me*. UMass M.F.A. students are regularly chosen for inclusion in the annual Best of the Writing Programs series.

Taking It to the Top In one of the most amazing turnarounds in college football history, the UMass Minutemen went from a 2-9 record in 1997 to a 12-3 mark in 1998, winning the 1998 Division 1-AA National Championship.



Woman Power Former UMass soccer star Briana Scurry, hero of the 1999 Women's World Cup championship, is one of five U.S. women's soccer players to be featured on Wheaties boxes. Scurry is also an Olympic athlete, as is former UMass softball player Danielle “Harry” Henderson, who was named 1999 Honda Player of the Year as the best collegiate softball player in the country. UMass ranks among the best schools nationally in participation rates for female students on athletic teams.



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