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UMass Amherst Becomes a Family Tradition

August 15, 2008; Amherst, MA—A recent survey of University of Massachusetts Amherst Alumni Association members indicates that many of those who have attended the university are either part of a family tradition or start a tradition in which family members come back to the campus for their college education.

Twenty-five (25) percent of respondents came from a Legacy family—where more than one generation has attended UMass Amherst.

“My father graduated after the war; I believe it was the first class of the University of Massachusetts, as opposed to Mass Aggie,” said Patricia Leal Welch '75. “My brother, sister, and I all went to UMass Amherst and married people we met there. I also have cousins that attended at the same time I was there. My niece and my daughter both graduated from UMass Amherst as well; my youngest daughter is currently attending.”

Based on good academic reputation, value, and tradition—forty-seven (47) percent of all respondents would send their children to UMass Amherst, as well.

Lynn Iacovelli-Fiandaca, '93G, said “My grandfather (currently 93), father, brother and I all attended UMASS!

“My father and I are both UMass Amherst School of Business grads,” said Chris Paulin, of Mesa, AZ. “My uncle and aunt are also grads, and my brother is currently a student.” Chris has another connection as well—his grandfather was a barber on campus for 30 years!

Another survey respondent said, “I’m in the first generation of family members to attend UMass Amherst. My older brother attended UMass Amherst, and I started two years after him. Then my cousin began two years after me, stayed for her master’s degree and is finishing up her doctorate next year. With 26 other first cousins, it’s only a matter of time before the next one attends...”

“As my daughters are fond of saying, “Why would anyone want to go anywhere other than UMass Amherst?” added Patricia Leal Welch.

The Alumni Association salutes its Legacy families, continuing a proud tradition through generations past—and to come.

The Amherst Alumni Association is a vibrant organization that promotes the interests of the university and its 214,000 alumni throughout the world. The Alumni Association’s mission is to foster a connection between alumni and the campus through programs and services that enlighten, strengthen, and develop alumni loyalty and interests. More information is available at UMassAlumni.com.

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