

# UMass president honors\* professor from Leyden

A Leyden resident has been named a distinguished professor by William Bulger, president of the University of Massachusetts.

Derek Lovley of West Leyden Road is head of the department of microbiology at UMass. The board of trustees has approved the appointment.

When I asked Lovley what it meant to be a distinguished professor, he laughed.

"It's just a type of honor that the university can bestow on you," and then he said proudly. "I'm the first person ever in the college of food and natural resources to receive this honor."

Robert Helgesen, dean of the college said, "This is an outstanding honor for Professor Lovley, one that not only recognizes the international prestige his work generates for himself and the university, but also one that sets a standard of excellence for all faculty members."

Lovley is an international authority in the field of environmental microbiology. His research focuses on unusual forms of anaerobic microorganisms ...bacteria that transform their food into energy without using oxygen.

He told me he and his family are living in Leyden because his wife, Marie, "loves old houses and she found just the one she wanted in this town."

The couple has three children, Erika, 15, Zak, 12, and Cole, 9. Their father is a coach in the Hampshire/Franklin Soccer League.

Lovley joined the UMass faculty in 1995 following an 11-year career as a research hydrologist with the United States Geological Survey. He was appointed department head in 1997.

"Marie and I are both from western Connecticut. We both specifically wanted to return to New Eng-

land. That's why I came to the University of Massachusetts," said Lovley.