IS LOWELL THE NEXT BIG COLLEGE TOWN?
A Message from Chancellor Martin T. Meehan ’78

UMass Lowell is an increasingly global university. We have partnerships with more than 110 top educational institutions in 40 nations. Enrollment of international students has grown to 1,390—a 176 percent increase since 2008. Our more than 70,000 alumni are spread all over the world. And we just opened a campus in Kuwait (see Page 47).

But as they say, home is where the heart is—and that is certainly the case for this university. Lowell is a wonderful place in which to live and work, and it is quickly becoming part of the reason our 17,000 students choose to spend their college years here.

But there’s still work to be done. That’s why the university has teamed up with the City of Lowell to make this place a true “college town.” Lowell already has many of the elements typical in university towns like Ann Arbor, Mich., and Burlington, Vt.—and others that are in the works.

You can read about some of them in our cover story on Page 32.

The rest of this issue is filled with stories of the special people and businesses that make Lowell and this campus exceptional. From the compassionate folks at Backyard Hall (Page 42), to our visionary partners at Raytheon (Page 46), to a group of generous alumni close to my own heart (Page 69)—the people in our community are making a difference in the lives of others.

Read on to find out how.

Martin T. Meehan
Chancellor

WINTER 2014-15
UMass Lowell
MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Cover Story

IS LOWELL THE NEXT BIG COLLEGE TOWN?

Shortly after he was sworn in as Lowell’s new city manager, Kevin Murphy proclaimed that making the city’s downtown a “college town” is his number-one priority. What exactly does it mean to be a college town? It means that a higher educational institution seeps into every pore of the economic and social life of a city or town. As far as we’re concerned here at UMass Lowell, we’re well on our way. But what will it take to go all the way? Find out on Page 32.

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KEROUAC SAT HERE

LOVE MAKES A HALL A HOME

RAYTHEON + UMASS LOWELL

WHEN GIVING IS PERSONAL

ALUMNI LIFE

QUICK TONG '93, ’99

ON THE COVER

Award-winning U. illustrator Brett Ryder created the cover art for this issue, woven together elements of the campus and the museum to show a progression from past to present. Ryder’s work has appeared in dozens of publications, including the Economist, Fast Company, GQ, The New York Times and Time Magazine.

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Calendar of Events

Lowell Day: River Hawks vs. Providence Friars: College of Sciences Alumni Night, Friday, Jan. 23, Tsongas Center, 6 p.m., Reception, 7 p.m., Game.

River Hawks vs. Merrimack Warriors: College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Night, Saturday, Jan. 24, Tsongas Center, 6 p.m., Reception, 7 p.m., Game.

River Hawks vs. Boston University Terriers: College of Health Sciences Alumni Night, Friday, Feb. 6, Tsongas Center, 8:15 p.m., Reception, 7:15 p.m., Game.

River Hawks vs. UMass Amherst Minutemen: Francis College of Engineering Alumni Night, Saturday, Feb. 14, Tsongas Center, 6 p.m., Reception, 7 p.m., Game.

Plastics Engineering 50th Anniversary at NPE2015, Tuesday, March 24, Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Fla., 5:30 p.m., Networking Reception, 6:30 p.m., Dinner.


Commencement Eve Celebration, Friday, May 15, and Commencement, Saturday, May 16.

For more information on events, go to www.uml.edu/alumni, call 978-934-3140 or email Alumni_Relations@uml.edu.

ON THE COVER

The UMass Lowell Alumni Magazine for Alumni and Friends is a 2013 winner of platinum and gold Hermes Creative Awards, a Silver Bell Ringer, a CASE District I Silver Excellence Award, an APEX Award of Excellence and honorable mentions in the PR Daily Awards and the PR Daily Nonprofit PR Awards.

FOR MORE ABOUT THE PUBLICATION, VISIT www.uml.edu/alumni.

EDITORS’ NOTE: Please send comments to Editor Sarah McAdams-Corbett at sarah.corbett@uml.edu. Submit class notes at www.uml.edu/advancement/classnotes.

WINTER 2014-15
UMass Lowell
MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
THE SECRET LIVES OF PROFESSORS

PROF. SUSAN BRAUNHUT, graduate coordinator in the Department of Biological Sciences, focuses on improving the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients, limb restoration and regeneration, and counter-terrorism biosensors. An avid researcher and popular lecturer, Braunhut received UMass Lowell’s most prestigious recognition in 2008 when she was named University Professor. But when she’s not in the lab or classroom, she’s usually behind a camera lens in an exotic locale requiring her passport for entry. Braunhut took this shot of a hiker in Dune Alley in Sossusvlei, Namibia last summer. “My photographs have won competitions, have been published in photography journals and Nikon uses one of my iguana shots in their manual for a new camera,” she says. Braunhut and photographer husband Dennis have traveled the world on photo trips, to places like Cuba, Iceland, Costa Rica, Madagascar and South Africa. In the next six months, they plan to hit Ecuador and Indonesia.
As a massive burst of balloons rained from the top of the four-story atrium into the lobby of University Crossing on Sept. 16, UMass Lowell officially opened the new, $95 million student-engagement center and with it, a new era in the institution’s history. More than 200 people—UMass Lowell students, faculty and staff, along with University of Massachusetts, state and local leaders—celebrated the opening during an event at the foot of a large latticework installation that hangs from the ceiling.

A vibrant space for the campus and community, University Crossing is the hub that links UMass Lowell’s South, North and East campuses with the city’s downtown business district and cultural attractions. For UMass Lowell students, the center brings together under one roof all the services they need to complement their classroom experience. With its sustainable and contemporary design, dramatic glass front and views of the Merrimack River, the complex is as beautiful as it is functional. The building also includes features for the public, such as a new flagship bookstore, the River Hawk Shop, the Crossroads Cafe and 500-seat Moloney Hall (named after Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney and her husband, Edward, in appreciation of their lifetime of generous giving to the university).
Piper Kerman
Aims to Make Orange
Last Year’s Black

Piper Kerman looked guilty.

As 500 fans waited on the other side of the green room door at University Crossing, the star of the show is pilfering two tea bags from the snack table set for her. “I can’t help it!” she said. The petty theftery is understandable, given the dearth of basic goods—think toothpaste, soap—available to Kerman during her yearlong stay in Connecticut’s Danbury Federal Correctional Facility for a few years ago.

The unlikely ex-con, having traded her orange tarpaint for a blue wrap-around dress, heels and ready smile, has parlayed her incarceration experience into the New York Times best-selling memoir “Orange is the New Black” and blockbuster Netflix adaptation by the same name. She has also become an articulate and outspoken critic of the U.S. correctional system, using opportunities like the campus book signing to inform public opinion.

Kerman was raised in Brookline—her parents were both public school teachers there. After graduating from Smith College—“the first women’s institution in which I was held”—she wofled. Unsure of her future, she worked in a brewery until she met an “exciting, worldly, sophisticated woman” who also happened to be involved in the narcotics trade.

When that woman, desperate, asked her to carry a suitcase full of drug money from Chicago to Brussels, Kerman said yes. Just months after her first and only active participation in illegal drug trade, she says “self-preservation instincts kicked in” and she ended the relationship and moved to California to get her life on track.

Ten years later—after a move to New York City and the maturation of a serious relationship with her now husband, Larry Smith—Kerman answered a knock at the door to find two U.S. customs officers with an arrest warrant. Soon thereafter she was indicted in federal court in Chicago on criminal conspiracy and money-laundering charges.

During her talk at University Crossing, Kerman shifted from detailing her own experience to addressing the critical faults in the country’s corrections system, which she has spent the last five years challenging through nationwide speeches and advocacy work.

Kerman cited an 800 percent increase in incarceration of women in the past 10 years, and noted that two-thirds of them are mothers. “When a dad goes to prison, the effect on kids is awful. When a mom goes to prison, the effect on kids is seismic,” she said. —SE

Ourworld

Author Series Brings the Public to University Crossing

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren brought her newest best-selling book to the UMass Lowell campus in the fall, christening a free author series at University Crossing.

“UMass Lowell is where it’s happening,” she said shortly before taking a stage in the dramatic atrium. “I love this new building, which is representative of the UMass Lowell experience of serving its students while really opening up to the community.”

Warren spoke to the crowd of more than 200 people about “A Fighting Chance,” her newest best-selling book to the UMass campus in the fall, christening a free author series at University Crossing.

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ALUMNA HGTV STAR COMES HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Interior designer and TV personality Taniya Nayak ’97 rounded out a semester of special events at University Crossing, speaking in December to an audience of alumni, students and local residents about her time at UMass Lowell and her path to success.

“How great is it that I get to use my marketing degree every day?” she said. “At UMass Lowell, I learned how to market myself, including myself.”

Over cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, she also shared ideas and tips for decorating and entertaining during the holiday season.

Nayak is a host on HGTV and a featured designer on the Food Network’s Restaurant Impossible. She also regularly appears on Today, Good Morning America, The Talk and The Rachael Ray Show. In December, she was selected from hundreds of candidates to be the face of Ellen DeGeneres’ new home goods product line.

COMING SOON: Pulichino Tong Business Building
WOJNICK: ‘IT’S BEEN AN AMAZING CAREER’

When local broadcaster Susan Wojnick appeared on Oprah Winfrey’s show for a make-over several years ago, she went along with the new outfit that was picked out for her, a get-up that looked like “a combination of Paul Revere and Sergeant-Pepper” but she drew the line when it came to altering her signature long, blonde hair. “I refused to cut my hair for Oprah,” said Wojnick, who now stands her ground, being uncomfortable in her own skin.

“Oprah,” said Wojnick, who has been broadcasting at WCVB-TV Channel 5. “I refused to cut my hair for Oprah,” said Wojnick, who now stands her ground, being uncomfortable in her own skin.

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Our world

LIM WINS PUSHCART PRIZE

Englishامت. Prof. Sandra Lim won a 2015 Pushcart Prize for her poem “A Tab of Iron on the Tongue.” The author of “The Wilderness” (W.W. Norton, 2014), Lim was selected by Louise Glück for the most recent Barnard Women Poets Prize. Lim, who published a previous collection of poetry called “Loveliest Grotesque” (Kore Press, 2006), has received fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, the Vermont Studio Center and the Getty Research Institute. Lim was born in Seoul, Korea, and educated at Stanford University, UC Berkeley and the Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

BUSINESS DEAN TAKES NEW ROLE, LATHAM STEPS IN

In the fall, UMass Lowell debuted its first-ever fight song. “River Hawk Pride,” created by longtime Director of University Bands Dan Lutz (music) and Associate Director Deb Huber (lyrics):

UMass Lowell we will always be, a team of strength in unity. With River Hawk pride, we stand side by side, and fight for victory. Our wings unfurled and talons curled, we swoop and strike then we soar! When blue sets sail, in flight we won’t fail. Let’s go UMass Lowell and soar! Hear the song at YouTube.com/umasslowell.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE LEAH BUECHLEY BLURS BOUNDARIES

Leah Buechley is an artist, engineer, designer and educator—pursuits that speak to her love for creativity and structure. She has created a playable piano with a pen, paper and circuit board. She has developed electronic clothing. Buechley brought her interdisciplinary skills and message to students as the 2014 Center for Arts and Ideas’ Artist-in-Residence.

“I hope students see that disciplinary boundaries are not as fixed as they might assume; they can be blurry and porous,” says Buechley, founder and former director of the High-Low Tech Group at the MIT Media Lab. “You don’t have to follow boundaries because there are lots of fun things in between them and overlapping.”

Buechley’s residency included workshops with students and an exhibition of her work in the new University Gallery at Mahoney Hall (shown in photos above). Students learned about her artistic process and materials, which include the LilyPad kit, a set of electronic pieces she created for use in interactive textiles.—JKG

PRADEEP KURUP NAMED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Prof. Pradeep Kurup of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, a highly regarded educator and world-class researcher, has been awarded the title of University Professor, the highest accolade bestowed on a UMass Lowell faculty member.

An expert in geotechnical engineering, Kurup’s research has earned him respect around the world. He has obtained more than $3 million in funding from federal agencies. He has also published widely, with more than 50 papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings.

Among his research projects funded by the National Science Foundation is the development of a novel electronic “tongue” that can detect and identify traces of toxic heavy metals in soil and groundwater. He has also an electronic “nose” that can sniff for traces of TNT and other explosives as tiny as one part per trillion.

A resident of Nashua, N.H., Kurup joined the UMass Lowell faculty in 1997.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW FIGHT SONG!

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After 16 years as dean of the Manning School of Business, Kathryn Carter accepted a new role at UMass Lowell as vice provost for graduate and international affairs and strategy.

“Kathy has keen awareness of our needs at the graduate level, and has been actively involved in many of our international partnerships,” says Provost Ahmed Abdelal.

While the university conducts a national search to fill the position, Assoc. Prof. of Management Scott Latham has agreed to step in as interim dean.

Latham, who grew up in Billerica and earned an MBA from the university, says he’s thrilled for the opportunity to steward the Manning School.

“I love the university, I love the city, so I am truly honored to be doing it,” says Latham, who worked internationally in the software industry for 12 years before earning his Ph.D. in business policy and strategy from UMass Amherst. “We have the best students here at UMass Lowell. They’re incredibly respectful, hardworking and no-nonsense.”

With the new $40 million Pulichino Tong Business Building slated to open in spring 2017, and with undergraduate enrollment eclipsing 2,500 students for the first time ever this year, this is a pivotal point in the Manning School’s history.

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A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

Here’s some interesting arithmetic: Take the population of Massachusetts (6.9 million) and divide it by the number of cities and towns in the state (351). What do you get? About 19,000—the same population as UMass Lowell. With over 17,000 students, nearly 2,000 faculty and staff and numerous visitors daily, the campus is a mid-sized town. And that means a lot of energy consumed and a lot of waste generated, especially with about 4,000 of those students living on campus.

A problem? Well, yes. But with its innovative spirit and wide range of engineering, environmental and public policy expertise, the university community has turned a challenge into an opportunity to develop new models of sustainability. And, as of Jan. 1, it established the Office of Sustainability to coordinate all related efforts.

The university’s ambitious plan to reduce consumption and greenhouse gas emissions as well as increase recycling includes several programs already underway. These programs help the earth, help the budget and help graduate environmentally aware and skilled students.

[CLA] CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES: THE DRIVING FORCE.

Is it possible for the campus to bring its contribution to greenhouse gases to zero by year 2050? Yes. UMass Lowell signed on to the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment in 2012, pledging to do just that. The plan is an overwhelming, multi-pronged effort that includes dramatic changes to how the university consumes energy and integrates sustainability into the curriculum across disciplines.

So far, 30 faculty members from 13 academic departments are involved with the Climate Change Initiative, as are several student groups. The initiative has received more than $6.5 million in external funding from the National Science Foundation, NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Institutes of Health and others.

It also includes an annual climate change teach-in. Free and open to the public, the event brings renowned climate-change scientists and advocates to campus. This year’s teach-in, “Talking the High Ground: Real Actions to Address Global Climate Change,” featured MIT Prof. John Sterman, a leading expert in system dynamics of climate change. He told a packed audience of faculty, students and community members in Cumnock Hall that the “business-as-usual” attitude of industry is carrying the world “toward a future that is about 9 degrees Fahrenheit warmer by the year 2100.”

The Climate Action Plan, meanwhile, includes research, development of new academic programs, public awareness and operational changes on campus that reduce energy consumption and waste generation.

[B] LET THE SUN SHINE IN.

As part of a statewide clean energy initiative, UMass Lowell has installed photovoltaic systems on four campus buildings. The array reduce campus greenhouse gas emissions by 115 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent—that’s 300 household holds worth of electricity. They also generated approximately 279,000 kWh per year in fiscal year 2013, saving about $30,000 in electrical bills and earning revenue of approximately 279,000 kwh per year in fiscal year 2013, saving 115 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent—that’s 300 house-

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT.

In 2008, we recycled 246 tons of goods. In 2014, we recycled 742 tons—a 302 percent increase. At the same time, the solid waste we generated decreased by 54 percent.

by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner David Cash. The university launched the program last year as a collaboration among students, staff, Dining Services and Casella Waste Systems, the university’s solid waste contractor. During the first eight months of operation, an estimated 184,000 pounds of food waste was composted. In addition, the university donates excess prepared food from campus dining operations to local non-profits.

[F] MOVIN’ ON OUT.

This year, to cut down on the amount of waste generated during move-out while helping local residents in need, the university set up collection bins for the reusable items that students were discarding. Those goods, combined with food collected during an Earth Week donation drive on campus, were then sorted, packed up and distributed to three Lowell non-profit organizations. More than 2,200 pounds of goods were delivered to the Lowell Human Needs, the Wish Project and the House of Hope. An additional 1,200 pounds of large electronics were recycled through Northeast Material Handling of Lowell.

RESPECTIBLE ROWDY.

The campus mascot has gotten into the act, too.

As part of a social media campaign to educate students and others about sustainability and to encourage new habits, Rowdy was featured demonstrating small acts that can add up to big results. In the first one, Rowdy publicizes Free Wheelers, the campus bike share program, by biking along a campus path.

Check it out at www.uml.edu/sustainability.
Student scene

URBANITES

Country star and American Idol judge Keith Urban called lacrosse players Elizabeth ’16 and Laura ’16 Kender on stage in August after noticing their UMass Lowell sign.

STUDENTS SOLVE REAL PROBLEMS IN CO-OP PROGRAM

Caroline Stark never thought she’d be working in a laboratory solving real problems so early in her college days. But she got to do just that this summer after completing her freshman year.

“I worked on a study about the treatment course for children with cerebral palsy,” says Stark, an exercise physiology major who is participating in the university’s Co-op Scholar program. “Working with this caliber of research is more than I could have expected of my first-year college experience. I’ve learned new software, therapy techniques and how to get approved for research involving human participants, all of which is extremely gratifying.”

Under the direction of Exercise Physiology Asst. Prof. Winnie Wu, Stark and fellow student Kayla Chan measured muscle and brain activity to find out how much exercise is enough to be efficient, but not detrimental, to people with cerebral palsy.

“We used multiple electromyography sensors, as well as a robot and an EEG to detect muscle and brain activity,” says Chan. “Dr. Wu has been wonderful to work with because she understands that we are upcoming sophomores who aren’t familiar with the equipment and procedures. She has guided us all along the way. I’m glad that I decided to come to UMass Lowell because the research co-op has been a great experience.” —KA

CAMPUS NEWS

2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR BREAKS RECORDS

In addition to the 10 new buildings, the 18 Division I sports teams and the multimillion-dollar jump in research expenditures, UMass Lowell is seeing increases across all student measures.

In fact, the university is hitting several all-time highs in the 2014-15 school year.

- Enrollment: 17,000+ (up 50 percent since 2007)
- Freshman retention rate: 84% (an all-time high)
- International students: 1,300 (up from 300 in 2008)
- Students living on campus: 4,000 (more than ever before)
- Honors students: 900+ (up from 298 in 2008)

DO IT FOR JOHNNY

The third DifferenceMaker season kicked off with a visit from Johnny Earle, the founder of “Johnny Cupcakes,” who spoke to students about entrepreneurship and the successful apparel company he started out of his car. This year, DifferenceMaker features a new mentor program, in addition to a suite of competitions in which students vie for seed funding to advance their ventures.
LAUREN DUNN ASTLEY was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in Wayland in 2011. The crime was horrific, highly publicized and one of a string of murders by young men whose go-to strategy in the face of loss has been murder. When Lauren’s ex-boyfriend, Nathaniel Fujita, was found guilty, Lauren’s father Malcolm Astley walked across the courtroom to hug Fujita’s parents. They’d lost a child, too, he explains today.

Astley’s high-road behavior didn’t end in that courtroom. The Lauren Dunn Astley Foundation was born, with Malcolm and Lauren’s mother, Mary, seeking to educate young men who resort to violence in the face of life’s challenges. The Astleys want to “liberate young men from anger” by increasing self-confidence and self-respect.

According to Malcolm, it’s imperative that we “look under anger, to find its earlier iterations and hidden vulnerabilities, and then equip boys with the resilience they need to navigate the world.”

He recently addressed Assoc. Prof. Karen Roehr’s Graphic Design 3 class as they prepared to create anti-break-up violence campaigns.

“‘Anger is most usefully seen as some need that is unmet,’” quoted Malcolm, in a wide-ranging presentation filled with lyrics, poems, facts and statistics that speak to his professional background—he is a lifelong educator—even as his face crumbled with fresh tears. “I cry a lot during this presentation, but I compose myself pretty quickly,” he told students.

Roehr, who was moved by a “48 Hours” segment about the murder, applied for and received grant money from the Astley foundation as a way to show her students how important their work can be. “Like a tune that stays in your head long after a song has ended, so, too, can a powerful image resonate and influence behavior,” she says.

Malcolm has given his speech many times—in schools, meetings, congressional offices—any place he might encourage boys and young men to accept loss, to find support when they are hurting and, perhaps, to save one of the three women killed daily by domestic violence in the U.S.

Six teams of students presented a range of campaigns—Malcolm and a board of judges from his foundation were so impressed by the students’ work, they singled out three campaigns and doubled their funding. Roehr is seeking other available grants to produce all three. Plans call for posters, stickers and other components to be displayed on and off campus.

Annie Cuniak, associate dean of student affairs, is in charge of the campus’ violence prevention efforts.

“The university’s efforts include outreach through the student group MALES (Men Achieving Leadership, Excellence and Success), one of some of the student-designed components, collaboration with the School of Criminology and Justice Studies and presentations in First Year Seminar classes,” she says. “Spring 2015 will see a flurry of activity, including a conversation dinner with student leaders on rape culture, training on bringing in the bystander and participation in the 10th anniversary of the City of Lowell’s Take Back the Night program.”

As Malcolm continues to face each day without his daughter—Lauren’s bedroom remains as it did, with “stuffed animals at the ready,” he says—he works tirelessly in the belief that her legacy will help put an end to relationship violence.

Student designers included: Anna Clifford ’15, Isidro Esteves ’16, Kerri McCarthy ’16, Jillian Merrill ’16, Emily Pachit ’15, Lily Tan ’15, Cynthia Tocio ’16, Courtney Vermette ’15.
Students play instrumental role in donation drive

This past fall, UMass Lowell music students and members of the popular, university-rooted Party Band collected more than two dozen instruments, making it possible for budding young Lowell musicians to practice and play.

In collaboration with the university’s chapter of the National Association for Music Educators, 30 donated instruments were collected, cleaned, repaired and ready for distribution to Lowell schoolchildren.

Eighteen of the orchestral instruments, including trumpets, trombones, a French horn and clarinet will be distributed to Lowell schools. Instruments such as guitar, electric bass, drums and a keyboard will head to the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lowell.

Two orchestral instruments will be donated to the UMass Lowell String Project, and the rest will be used as repair projects for UMass Lowell undergraduate music classes. The Music Department donated cleaning and instrument maintenance supplies.

Fostering Learning Through Service

College seems out of reach for many of the 5,300 Massachusetts children in the foster care system. But Visiting Instructor Shelli DeMarkles’ students helped 28 foster kids from Lowell picture life on campus through their service-learning project.

Students in DeMarkles’ honors college writing classes organized and staffed Sibling Sunday on campus through Sibling Connections. Directed by Kelley Lane ’07, the organization helps siblings stay in touch while in the foster system, where many are split up and sent to different homes.

Courses with a service-learning designation require students to participate in an organized service activity to meet a community need. Students also reflect on their experience by connecting the project to the course, broadening their understanding of the real-world topic and building civic responsibility.

Students played soccer, made crafts and led a music class for the visiting kids. DeMarkles encouraged her students to use their own values and interests in designing activities.

Uteach student wins top research award

Math major John Romano won the top research award at a national conference for his work with five Lowell High School students.

As part of UMass Lowell’s UTeach program, Romano taught the students how to research, develop, build and market a medical device—a smartphone case that could house bio-metric sensors, such as heart rate, blood pressure and temperature.

Judges at the 8th Annual UTeach Conference in Austin named Romano the winner for his poster presentation “M2D2, UTeach, Lowell High School Experience.”

UTeach prepares students to become teachers while earning degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Romano’s internship was a collaboration with the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center and Lowell High School.

“The UTeach program is absolutely amazing and the reason I came to UMass Lowell,” says Romano. “This program allows future teachers to get hands-on practice in the classroom right away and provides a lot of internship opportunities.

UMASS LOWELL: A STORY IN THE MAKING

Dramatic transformation is taking place at UMass Lowell—growing enrollment, new academic programs, a building boom, increased research and a new global presence. The university is building upon its traditional strengths while aiming to become one of the largest public universities in New England.

There is a vibrancy felt on campus like never before, and the exciting story, and reputation of UMass Lowell continues to evolve.

Be a part of the story

Make a gift today to become a part of this story and help UMass Lowell in its upward momentum.

To make the university one of your philanthropic priorities this year, simply complete and return the attached envelope with your check made payable to UMass Lowell. You can also visit www.uml.edu/givenow.
Sports Update

Hockey Lures Sell-Out Crowds!

UMass Lowell ranks No. 12 in the NCAA for annual hockey attendance, averaging more than 5,000 fans per game. The season opener against Boston College (which the River Hawks took 5-2) set an impressive standard, with 7,326 fans in attendance.

Just 3 Points from Taking the Title

The men’s cross country team, pushed by a strong freshman showing, took second place at the America East 8K Championship this season—just points from winning the whole thing. “All the guys really ran well, they came to fight and they raced their hearts out,” says Head Coach Gary Gardner. “And we return every single guy next year, that’s a great base for the future.”

New Academic Center a Hit with Student-Athletes

The university’s 480 student-athletes have been quick to take advantage of the workspaces, resources and conveniences of the new and improved academic center—one of the key initiatives in last summer’s $3 million renovation of the 50-year-old Costello Athletic Center.

“The academic center has quickly become the heartbeat of our athletic complex,” says Athletic Director Dana Skinner. “It supports our goal of providing a high-quality learning environment for our student-athletes. They are students first, and the addition of this facility will significantly enhance our student-athletes’ academic potential.”

Along with a bigger and better athletic training facility and renovated locker rooms, the new academic center is part of the university’s four-year plan to expand services to student-athletes as they compete at the Division I level.

The new space features a common area with four desktop computers as well as three soundproof study rooms and a multi-use team meeting room with a projection screen and AV hookup.

Field Hockey Player Competes for Guyana National Team

UMass Lowell field hockey junior defender Marrana Fiedtkou played for her native country of Guyana, in the Central American and Caribbean games in Veracruz, Mexico, in November.

“This will give her exposure to competitive international hockey, which will in turn help continue to elevate her game,” says field hockey Head Coach Shannon Hlebichuk. “This is a first for UMass Lowell field hockey and we are proud of Marrie.”

Fiedtkou was one of 16 athletes on the final roster for the national team of Guyana, a small country located on the northern coast of South America. Unfortunately, they finished in sixth place, and thus did not automatically qualify for the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada.

Drive!

The women’s basketball team fell to No. 3 Notre Dame in their season opener in South Bend, Ind. Senior guard Shannon Samuels (#13) of Windsor, Conn., netted a team-high 16, an America East preseason All-Conference selection. Samuels rounded out her stat line with five rebounds, four assists and a steal.

Campus News

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REDSHIRT-FRESHMAN JAHAD THOMAS (#10) OF WILLIAMSPORT, PA., POSTED A TEAM-HIGH 18 POINTS AND FIVE REBOUNDS IN HIS FIRST COLLEGIATE APPEARANCE, AS THE UMASS LOWELL MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM FELL TO OHIO STATE IN THE SEASON-OPENER AT VALUE CITY ARENA IN COLUMBUS.

YOU CAN FIND ME IN THE CLUB

Jeremy Smith wanted to try something new. Katie Muse wanted to bring her love of a literary sport to campus. The university’s club sports program helped both students reach their goals.

Each year, more than 400 students play on more than 30 club sports teams. The activities range from basketball and soccer to cricket and urban choreography.

“We help students live happier, healthier lives by continuing to play sports they’re familiar with and give them opportunities to try something new,” says Nick Lowery, coordinator of club sports and business operations for campus recreation. “They also learn about leadership, time management and budgeting, which complement their academic studies, and sometimes they get to travel for games.”

Many of the clubs are very successful. The men’s club ice hockey team finished first in its division of the Northeastern Collegiate Hockey Association, a Division III league and the cheerleading club won its division at a Florida competition last season.

Undergraduates can join an established team or create their own for a new sport or physical activity. New teams must use campus facilities, have at least 10 players and nearby leagues or tournaments to join. Six new teams started recently, including golf, field hockey, women’s basketball and quidditch, the favorite sport of wizards in Harry Potter’s universe.

Muse had played quidditch before college and wanted to bring the game to campus. An energetic mix of dodge ball, rugby and tag while on brooms, the game attracts spectators and is popular on college campuses across the country. The university’s team is doing well in its first season.

“I was surprised by how much work it takes to run a team. It involves a lot of communication between multiple groups of people,” says Muse, an exercise physiology major who works with teammates and university staff to keep the action running smoothly.

“But it’s a great way to meet people from different majors and stay physically fit.” —JKG

ROOKIE RISING

REDSHIRT-FRESHMAN JAHAD THOMAS (#10) OF WILLIAMSPORT, PA., POSTED A TEAM-HIGH 18 POINTS AND FIVE REBOUNDS IN HIS FIRST COLLEGIATE APPEARANCE, AS THE UMASS LOWELL MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM FELL TO OHIO STATE IN THE SEASON-OPENER AT VALUE CITY ARENA IN COLUMBUS.
Researchers Hope to Discover the Next Earth with Help of $5.6M NASA Grant

NASA has awarded a team of researchers led by physics Prof. Supriya Chakrabarti a grant worth nearly $5.6 million over five years to develop and test an instrument system that could potentially detect young, Jupiter-size planets orbiting other stars in the Milky Way. The team’s ultimate goal is to discover Earth-like planets around sun-like stars capable of supporting life.

The instrument—called PICTURE C, which was flown in 2011 aboard a sounding rocket.
**Researcher Notes**

**Researchers Tackle No. 1 Killer in the U.S.**

Coronary artery disease is the leading cause of death in America, claiming the lives of about 600,000 people each year.

Electrical and computer engineering Assoc. Prof. Jin-Woo Yoo and his research team are developing a new, compact ultrasound imaging system that can help evaluate and diagnose patients with coronary artery disease and reduce the cost of treatment.

“Our goal is to develop the first all-optical-fiber ultrasound imaging transducer with automatic steering function that could see deeper into the heart tissues with higher resolution,” says Yoo, who won a $25,000 Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property Technology Development Fund award for 2014 by the UMass President’s Office.

Another UMass Lowell team is approaching the problem from a prevention standpoint. Prof. Katherine Tucker of the Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences Department is leading a study on risk factors associated with heart disease.

Her team at the university’s Center for Population Health and Health Outcomes, which she leads, is conducting a longitudinal study of 1,500 Puerto Rican adults between 45 and 75 years old living in Boston. Puerto Ricans living in the US have a disproportionately high prevalence of type 2 diabetes, hypertension and heart disease.

Tucker’s research shows that stress, lack of exercise and limited access to healthy foods have been key contributors—findings that can be helpful for everyone, regardless of ethnicity.

**It’s Not Easy Being a School Principal**

Twenty percent of new principals leave their positions within one or two years, disrupting the learning environment for both teachers and students, according to research studies. As public schools fall under greater scrutiny to receive federal and state funding, the need to improve the leadership skills of school-level administrators has never been more important.

Graduate School of Education (GSE) Faculty members Stacy Szczesiul and Phitsamay Uy received a $121,000 grant from the Federal Race to the Top education initiative to establish a leadership pipeline for principals in the area. Sixteen professionals from Methuen, Lowell and Billerica public schools were admitted into the Project Lead program that includes GSE’s rigorous M.Ed. in Administration coursework, a leadership academy and extensive school-based mentoring.

“Successful completion of the two-year program will result in participants receiving a M.Ed. in administration and state administrator licensure.”

“Through the program, aspiring principals develop the critical knowledge and skills needed to satisfy the demands of the role,” says Szczesiul.

Project lead is designed to foster effective principal leadership practices in each district, working primarily with future school leaders while also broadening the training of current school administrators.—EA

**Students Create a Solar-Electric Taxi, Kazakhstan Government Wants Prototype**

A team of electrical engineering and computer science students has designed, built and tested a prototype solar/electric-powered quadricycle, or taxi, that could ferry up to four passengers at speeds reaching 25 miles per hour without consuming a single drop of gas.

“This vehicle has the potential to replace both commercial taxis and personal cars,” says sophomore Alexander Gribov, who led the project. “It’s a cleaner, more sustainable way to commute.”

The students’ taxi uses a 150-watt solar panel to charge a 20 ampere-hour battery, which in turn runs the taxi’s DC motor.

“It can travel more than 20 miles on a full-charge, making it ideal for commuting around campus and in crowded cities as well as transporting people in hotels, resorts, golf courses and between hospital wings,” says Gribov.

Gribov says even today’s electric cars are not completely free of pollution.

“The electricity used to recharge their batteries has to come from somewhere, and most people charge them using the commercial power grid, which burns fossil fuels to generate electricity,” he explains.

The government of Kazakhstan has expressed interest in applying the technology in its own country, according to electrical and computer engineering Prof. Samson Mil’shtein, director of the university’s Advanced Electronic Technology Center and the students’ faculty adviser.

In May, Mil’shtein was invited to talk about the university’s solar cell research at a world economic forum held in Kazakhstan’s capital city of Astana. During the meeting, Nurala Sultanovich Bektur-ganov, chairman of the board of the JSC Kazakh Academy of Natural Sciences, asked the professor if the students can develop a similar solar-electric taxi for exhibition at the Astana Future Energy Expo in 2017. The government provided a seed grant of $27,000 to develop the prototype.—EA

**Next Stop: College Town**

UMass Lowell and the City of Lowell are increasingly linked. The university delivered $812 million in positive economic impact to the region in Fiscal Year 2013, according to a June 2014 study by the UMass Donahue Institute. That’s a 66 percent growth in positive impact since 2010. But the two want to take the relationship even further, and are working together to determine how best to meld both the social and economic aspects of the campus and the city. The end goal? A true college town. Read more on Page 32.
Sampas Family Donates Famous Writer’s Personal Items to UMass Lowell

JACK KEROUAC

BY SHEILA EPPOLITO

The Sampas family donated dozens of Jack Kerouac’s personal effects to the university recently, including the swivel walnut desk chair, circa 1940, shown here. Also donated were three cat carriers handmade by Kerouac for his beloved pets Pitou, Dobie and Timmy (facing page, top left) and his writing desk (facing page, top right) a gift from his sister Caroline. John Sampas, executor of the Kerouac estate, is the brother of Kerouac’s late wife, Stella (facing page, top center, with Kerouac).

JACK KEROUAC WAS RESTLESS.
Not surprising, since he’s most famous for a story about a road trip.

KEROUAC called many places home in his 47 years, starting with 9 Lupine Road in Lowell, and concluding at 5169 10th Avenue North in St. Petersburg, Fla., with many domestic and international stops in between.

Now, thanks to the latest in a series of generous gifts, John Sampas—brother of Kerouac’s late wife, Stella, and executor of the Kerouac estate—has donated some of the writer’s personal items and travel souvenirs to the university.

According to Sampas, Kerouac always returned to Lowell from his exotic trips, including many visits with Stella from Florida, where they’d moved to care for his ailing mother, Gabrielle, to whom he was devoted.

“Jack was in this house many, many times,” recalls Sampas, in an interview in the Lowell home that has been in his family since 1936.

“Jack, my brother Sebastian and a group of really smart Lowell friends used to come here—they called themselves ‘The Young Prometheans’—and they’d talk and debate about literature and politics, then play Billie Holiday records and dance, right there in that room,” he says, pointing to the parlor.

Indeed, Kerouac looms large at 2 Stevens Street—sepia photos of Jack and Stella perch atop stacks of Kerouac books.

“There’s Jack and Stella after he published ‘Dharma Bums’,” says Sampas, pointing to a large framed photo in which Kerouac smiles, staring far away.

Stella, who was 12 years older than John in a family of 10 children, was “always a caretaker” he says, noting that she left school at 14 to help take care of her siblings.

It seems Stella’s role as caretaker was permanent, as she cared for both Gabrielle, who suffered effects of a stroke until her death, and Jack, who in his later years endured acute alcoholism.

As Sampas readies the Florida home for sale, he says, “I am pleased and honored that the university is accepting these items that were important to Jack at the end of his life.”

Plans are underway to identify a proper home at the university to display the things that, as Titchchen describes, are part of Kerouac’s final milieu.

Many of Jack Kerouac’s items had been preserved in his St. Petersburg, Fla., house since his death in 1969—including a mid-century bottle of Sheaffer “Skrip” ink (above) and a display of decorative objects like the wood Ganesha figure from India (above, top).

> CHECK OUT KEROUAC’S TSOTCHES: Turn the page to view over three dozen small decorative items that Jack Kerouac kept on a Victorian walnut display shelf in his St. Petersburg, Fla., home. Each object either illustrates a subject about which Kerouac wrote or expresses his life experiences, specifically Eastern religion, travel and cats.
Knick-knack
KEROUAC
His Collection of Miniature Keepsakes—Each Holding Memories and Inspiration
Kevin Murphy and Marty Meehan know how Lowell works.

In a world of second acts, theirs are both set squarely in their shared Mill City hometown. Murphy, the former state representative, is months into his tenure as Lowell city manager.

Meehan, of course, is the former congressman and current UMass Lowell chancellor, in his eighth year of transforming the university from convenient choice to world-class institution.

On a recent afternoon, in a second-floor auditorium in UMass Lowell’s new $95 million University Crossing student center, they shared a stage. They are old friends who once shared rides to Suffolk University Law School—but on that day they were students.

Murphy and Meehan were there to learn some specific things: What do students, faculty and staff want from Lowell? What would make them shop the downtown of the city of 105,000? What would make them bike, walk and eat there? What could be done to make Lowell’s business district more appealing to students? In short, how does Lowell become a college town?

Continued
The crowd of more than 100 obliged.
How about a Chipotle, or a similar "good burrito" place, suggested one student? Maybe some partnerships with Lowell's hospital, add another. A grocery, Food trucks. Bike-friendly streets. More opportunity for political and social activism.

Some of it already exists. Some they will work on. Both men know it will take time.

Broadly defined, a college town is a place where a higher educational institution seeps into every pore of the economic and social life of a city or town. Lowell, Mass., Ann Arbor, Mich., Boulder, Colo.—all of those cities have earned the badge of college town. They cradle the local colleges to their civic bosom and are known in places where the hip, smart and young of academia meld with the commerce and hum of the city.

According to Paul Marion '76, '05, UMass Lowell's executive director of community relations, a college town is "a place where the aspirations of the community and the campus are in harmony, meaning, in Lowell's case, that both the city and the university demonstrably value innovation, intellectual curiosity, economic vitality, fair play, cultural vibrancy, sustainable approaches to daily life, social diversity and civic activism, among other traits."

Marion—author of "Mill Power," which traces Lowell's history as an industrial powerhouse and urban National Historical Park (see accompanying story)—is someone who has long chronicled the city's various reinventions, and believes it's next primed to become a college town.

James Cook, executive director of The Lowell Plan, believes proximity makes Lowell a college town. "We have a university and a community college and right in the middle of those two is the downtown," he says. "So in that sense, we are already a college town. I think what hasn't yet been done is figure out how to translate that into retail. And of course, you want it to be safe, clean and welcoming."

Bonds with higher education are one way cities and towns can define, and redefine, themselves.

In an article in The Atlantic, urbanist Richard Florida notes that some prominent college towns, including Boulder, Ann Arbor and Lawrence, Kansas, are "among the nation's leading centers for start-up activity on a per capita basis. And in general, college towns have combined low unemployment rates with stable economies. The strength of those smaller centers suggests that the future does not belong to large superstar cities alone."

A survey is being updated and revised from a version published in November 2010 that asked students, faculty and staff about their relationships with the downtown.

How often do you go? How much do you spend? What would you like to see?

Among other things, the original survey—a cooperative effort by the university and The Lowell Plan—revealed that 85 percent of businesses surveyed were in favor of UMass Lowell expanding further in downtown Lowell and that 78 percent had a good or healthy relationship with the university and its students.

Eighty-two percent of students surveyed said they went downtown, and 74 percent said they dined at local restaurants. While 63 percent said they attended concerts at the Tsongas Center, 59 percent said the downtown needed a movie theater. Thirty-seven percent said downtown needed more clothing stores.

The survey also followed the spending habits of a dozen students. Those who lived outside the city spent $8.50 a week. Those who lived in Lowell spent $47.50 a week.

Home is where the wallet is.

Getting more students to live in Lowell is vital to the success of a college town effort, says Jeff Speck, the urban planner and author of "Walkable City."

"The first transition to a college town and more complete college experience," says Speck, "is making a strong push for as many students as possible living on campus. Next? Get rid of cars. Encourage a more robust bicycle network on campus and the city. And bike lanes. And walking. Add incentives to having cars on campus. Empty building downtown? Reconceptualize it as a dispersed dorm ... offer students a more complete urban experience."

The city is ahead of the game, he adds, in that Lowell's downtown is "one of the handsomest in America."

The city has a lot more to offer than people within it even realize," says Meehan, chatting in his University Crossing office. Out his window, rain splashes down on Pawtucket Street four stories below. North Campus is viewable across the Howe Bridge that takes you there, and in the other direction, just down the road, is South Campus.

"I think it's perfectly natural marriage to have a university engaged with the downtown, and the fact that a city manager was on that stage engaging with students was a good thing," he says. "It brought the city into University Crossing which has the feel of a big-time, world-class, top-tier national university."

Continued
Above: Downtown Lowell already boasts some great retail, walkable areas, entertainment and art galleries.

The university’s recent spurt of growth and success—enrollment and standards have risen along with 10 new buildings, and at the onetime largely commuter school, 82 percent of incoming freshmen live on campus—makes students more invested in their college experience. They, in turn, offer a target demographic for local retailers.

There are more changes on the horizon.

The next phase of the university’s physical transformation will maximize the Tsongas Center and the space surrounding it. Plans call for a second sheet of ice, a basketball court with locker rooms, offices and a practice court for the men’s and women’s Division I River Hawks teams. Imagine youth tournaments on the new ice and the main arena fresh for more events and concerts. The estimated cost is $15 million, though funding has to be secured from the state. A hotel on the land may be feasible as well.

But the audience right now—the 5,000-plus students at Middlesex Community College at the other end of the Merrimack Street, more than 3,000 students at Lowell High School and the 17,000 students of River Hawk Nation—as “Lowell’s single largest interest group,” says Marion.

The university’s enrollment target for 2018 is 20,000 students.

Green Mountains to the east, Adirondacks to the west and Montreal beckons from 94 miles north. Burlington, Vt., on the eastern shoreline of Lake Champlain, is the home of UMass Lowell, but a higher percentage of the town’s population. The Market was born in 1981, says Redmond, “as a reaction to urban decay and suburban sprawl. It made a main street something unique and different.”

As in Lowell, the textile businesses that had prospered a century earlier were dead and gone.

In the 1970s, some had been on the increase, and the area was one “where nobody wanted to walk down a street at night when no one was there.”

Urban renewal in the ’70s saw improvement and, in 1999, the Church Street Marketplace began to take shape, eventually kicking up the momentum, using some of the city’s unique older buildings.

Back in Lowell, Adam Baacke has played for both the city and the university in this game, though he stresses that everyone has his and her eyes on the same prize.

“When Chancellor Meehan came in, he clearly appreciated that as goes Lowell, so goes the university. UMass Lowell is ascending, and it is doing a lot for Lowell’s reputation. And there’s hardly a day that goes by I don’t have some interaction with someone from the city about something.”

The fact that the university joined forces with the city to get the arena and ballpark built was significant, says Marion. “It was a step in the direction of a new relationship between the city and campus.”

Patrick Mogan, the main driver in Lowell’s phoenix-like rise from mid-70s economic despair to National Historical Park, envisioned the city as “a life-long learning lab,” says Paul Marion. “He had a vision of elements of the city working in sync to make a learning environment that has no borders.”

Marion says Mogan maintained that “education is the basket in which we should put our eggs. Education lifts up the level of citizenship. You’re also no longer susceptible to the boom-bust economic cycle. Choosing education is a way to be protected from the storm.”

There will be issues to address. The under-21 crowd needs places to go, so officials. Transportation must be improved. Murphy believes the university buses should make frequent stops downtown, and Marion suggests the university consider the possibility of adding buses for specific evening events, such as the new independent film house, Luna Theater, at Mill No. 5 on Jackson Street.

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When people came to Lowell to see baseball and hockey, they were impressed.

- There was a positive response to the city when people saw us,” notes Baacke. “They saw it wasn’t the place of years before or the place they had heard about on TV. And the university saw a similar benefit from the city looking good, and the reputation of the city affects the university.

The ballpark and arena projects were, although before my time with the city, the first pieces of a changing dynamic in the town-gown relationship,” says Baucke, who worked for the City of Lowell for 14 years, most recently as assistant city manager, before joining the university last March as director of campus planning and development. “The university was more of a commuter school and a smaller presence in the community. The city and university sort of had a live-and-let-live relationship.”

The Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell was born as the Tsongas Arena in 1996, thanks to $44 million funding apiece from the university and the city, plus $20 million in state money. It was a city building, housing a minor league professional team for a time, but its constant tenant has been the River Hawks. In October 2009, the building was acquired by the university.

Also opened in 1998, Edward A. LeLacheur Park—co-owned by the city and the university—is home to the River Hawks baseball team. The Park’s primary tenant is the Lowell Spinners, minor league team of the Boston Red Sox. The park sits on the university’s side of the Aiken Street Bridge, across the street from the University Suites residence hall and the Campus Recreation Center.

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Retail establishments, meanwhile, will also have to step up their marketing.

“...At the beginning of the school year, UMass Lowell buses were taking freshman students to Target on Plain Street to do shopping,” Murphy says. “It was 20-percent-off UMass Lowell night, which is really smart of them. But I thought, why aren’t the businesses downtown offering this?”

Emily Piper works for Vermont’s Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce, re-branding it to draw younger folks. For all its vibrancy, she says, Burlington isn’t for everyone. After all, the University of Vermont is the most expensive college in the state. And Burlington doesn’t offer a huge number of jobs ideal for debt-strapped grads.

“People really love it when they’re here, but can’t afford to stay,” she says. “So in terms of getting young professionals to stay here, it’s an uphill battle.”

Last spring, Piper’s work brought her to UMass Lowell for its Sandbox Summit on entrepreneurship. It was her first time in Lowell. What the city needs to do to position itself as a college town and keep a vibrant population of grads, she says, is “leverage what you have to offer, that no one else has.”

Marion points to Lowell’s downtown architectural setting as another draw: “Lowell is historical preservation on steroids. There are something like 400 buildings that have been restored since 1978, and it represents $1 billion in investment by the government and the private sector, which is a pretty good card to have in your hand.”

Lowell’s breadth of diversity is another plus, he says.

“Another ace is our pluralistic culture, which enhances the experience of Lowell,” he says. “To put it one way, you can stay in Lowell and eat in a different country every night of the week. Dracut and Bedford just don’t have that.”

The city’s rivers and canalsways contribute to the beauty of the city, though Marion is among those who think they could be further exploited, pointing to the success Providence, R.I., has had with its WaterFire events.

Lowell needs, he says, “to become a college town by doing more with what we already have.”

“The city’s social mosaic means all kinds of people can be comfortable here,” he says. “And the creative economy means you have access to everything from record stores to a 7,000-seat arena. Lowell offers everything from boxing to ballet.”

Marion is not alone in his vision.

“From the canals in Lowell and Holyoke to New Bedford’s port to Malden’s classic downtown and Chelsea’s industrial architecture, Massachusetts’ smaller cities are full of the types of urban amenities that have catalyzed development in other cities,” wrote Commonwealth Magazine associate editor Paul McMorrow in The Boston Globe recently. “Most just haven’t put all the pieces together in a systematic way yet.”
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The former textile mill at 250 Jackson St. now holds 30,000 square feet of retail and entertainment space on its fourth floor. Each month, the mill hosts an indoor bazaar around themes like craft beer, home and garden, and love. During the holidays, the mill hosted a weekly Farm Market on Sundays, with pop-up shops, live music and farm stands manned by local vendors.

Here are just a handful of the more than 20 businesses that call Mill No. 5 home:

• Vinyl Destination, a musical instrument store
• The Tone Loft, an 85-seat movie theater showing second-run and independent films, with a special $8 ticket
• Corn & Co. Coffee and Cotton café
• Botanie, a boutique offering plants and handmade jewelry
• Toco Lofts, a musical instrument store
• Vinyl Destination, a vinyl LP store

Levlow's reinvention is a love story—full of loyalty, commitment, pain and passion. Sharing Lowell's tale takes a special person—one whose heart, mind and purpose are intricately emmeshed in the city. That person is Paul Marion '76, '05. In "Mill Power," Marion uses 276 pages, hundreds of photographs and numerous personal accounts to describe how the City of Lowell, once the celebrated birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, turned the tide on decline and created a vibrant new future with a national park at its center.

Marion, UMass Lowell's executive director of community and cultural affairs, describes what happened here as a "harmonic convergence of personalities" that included Superintendent of Schools Patrick Morgan, U.S. Sen. Paul E. Tsongas, and a cadre of others, including Marion.

After World War II, the mills closed and Lowell began a precipitous decline. "The population of Lowell fell from 112,000 to a few of 90,000. People who could leave, did," says Marion. To stanch the exodus, heartfelt but questionable attempts at revitalization were made, including zoning neighborhoods including Little Canada, where East Campus sits today. "The hope was that these closed tracts would invite business—electronics or manufacturing—to build here, and bring jobs," he says. They didn't.

The city's struggles continued, its once great stature seemingly lost. "Patrick Morgan, an articulate, compassionate man, used to say he wanted to 'make Lowell a good address again,' " says Marion, adding that for years, when asked where they lived, Lowell residents would say "north of Boston."

Then, in 1967, Lowell received a Model Cities Grant under President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society program. Part of the land purchased for the Model Cities program was an education, from which sprang an idea: create a national park in Lowell.

In 1978, 11 years after the seed for the idea was created, President Jimmy Carter signed legislation making Lowell the first urban national park, and what follows is nothing short of magnificent.

Lowell has enjoyed a revitalization that is the envy of cities worldwide, thanks to the confluence of many factors, including the national park, the significant growth of the university, repurposed mills, a buzzing arts scene, resurgence of the trolley cars, canal tours, museums, economic preservation of buildings and a national park. And the city isn't done evolving: the waves of immigrants and the significant growth of the university, repurposed mills, a buzzing arts scene, resurgence of the trolley cars, canal tours, museums, economic preservation of buildings and a national park.

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In 1975, Congress created a commission to study Lowell as a candidate for national park status.

As Marion describes in his book, creating the national park proposal was like constructing a complicated court case: fulfilling requirements, outlining arguments and checking off boxes took years of meetings, memos and patience. The urban renewal model had been turned on its head—no more the top-down, raze the neighborhood approach, this was a community-driven effort by people who cared.

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And the city isn’t done evolving: the waves of immigrants who call the city home are putting their stamp on it, young people attracted to live here are making it home, and students who graduate from the university are more likely to keep their talents and passion within the city limits after graduation.

Says Marion: “I hope students grab on and own a piece of the city, and shape it as their own.”
When senior Kristine Ramsey transferred to the university, she not only had to learn her way around campus, but she also had to adjust to new living arrangements. Before classes started in the fall 2012, Ramsey moved to Bachand Hall, an iconic stone building at 267 Pawtucket St. that is the convent home to a group of Sisters of Charity of Ottawa Catholic nuns.

Ramsey, who had previously lived in a group home on Cape Cod while attending community college, didn’t know what to expect when she arrived. But two years after settling in, she says life at Bachand Hall has given her the stability she needed while working towards her bachelor’s degree in liberal arts.

“I wasn’t in a good place when I got here,” says Ramsey. “But the sisters made me feel like I’m part of a family. It’s so peaceful here. I’m in a much better place now.”

Love MAKES A Hall a Home
A DECADE OF STUDENT SUPPORT AT BACHAND HALL

— BY JILL GAMBON —

Nuns at Bachand Hall (including Sister Cecile Cloutier, shown here) have provided a nurturing environment to at-risk young women enrolled at UMass Lowell since 2005.
Under a unique partnership between the Sisters of Charity and the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF), the nuns opened their doors to young women age 18 and older who are currently or were formerly in DCF care and are enrolled in college or other educational programs. The young women pay a modest rent and have full access to the building’s amenities. Since the arrangement began in 2005, nearly a dozen UMass Lowell students have called Bachand Hall home.

**A PIECE OF LOWELL HISTORY**

Bachand Hall is a familiar sight to anyone traveling on Pawtucket Street between North and South Campuses. Constructed in 1827 with stones from the Merrimack River bed, the building was originally designed as a hotel and later purchased by James Cook Ayer, one of the wealthiest businessmen of his day, for use as a residence. After Ayer’s death, his son converted the building into an orphanage known as the Ayer Home for Children. Decades later, the property was acquired by St. Joseph’s Hospital. The Sisters of Charity, long affiliated with the hospital, took up residence in the 1960s.

At one time, Bachand Hall housed 30 nuns. By 2005 their ranks had dwindled to nine and they were told by their order to find a use for the excess space consistent with their mission of helping the needy.

Sister Pauline LeBlanc was making the rounds of Lowell nonprofits in search of a solution and approached DCF. With a critical need for housing for young adult women in the state agency’s care, the timing was perfect, says Eric Cousineau ’90, a DCF social worker who works with Bachand Hall residents. Together the agency and the sisters developed a plan for the young women to rent rooms while working, going to school and learning to live independently.

“This is such a unique model,” Cousineau says. “What makes it so unique are the sisters. They are amazing.”

“We don’t pass judgment,” says Sister Cecile Cloutier, a retired nurse. “This is a safe place. And the girls know they are loved.”

To prepare for the arrival of the young women, the sisters renovated the building’s basement, adding a kitchen, laundry room, television room and an exercise room. In some weather, the young women can use the backyard’s built-in swimming pool overlooking the Merrimack River and the Northern Canal.

For the nuns, many of them retired teachers and nurses, the presence of the young women has brought new energy and activity and a renewed sense of purpose. Many of the young women came from families in crisis, living through violence, homelessness and other trauma. The sisters provide a nurturing environment, combining a soft touch with tough love. There are rules to follow—no drugs, alcohol or men in their rooms and rent must be paid on time—but the sisters are generous with support and guidance. They offer rides to the grocery store and help with homework. They tend to fevers, provide holiday gifts, reward good grades, offer encouragement and sometimes just listen.

“It’s challenging but life-giving,” says Sister Pauline.

**LIFE WITH THE NUNS**

“I was so scared when I came here, my only experience with nuns was through movies,” says Cynthia Santillan, who moved to Bachand Hall in July. The 19-year-old from Central Massachusetts had previously been homeless. She was one of 12 young women living in the building in the fall.

Sister Cecile Cloutier counsels residents at Bachand Hall.

“The night I arrived, Sister Cecile handed me a key and said ‘Welcome Home.’ It was the first key I ever had in my life. I couldn’t believe it. They took me in with open hearts. That was the best feeling ever.”

Social workers screen potential residents to make sure they are a good fit. The state provides a monthly stipend to the young women to assist with rent and living expenses. Most of them work while going to school. The residents come and go as they please and they buy and prepare their own food. Cousineau and a colleague, Jennifer Ly ’96, hold regular office hours on site to check in with the residents.

Ramsey, who is on track to graduate in May, says the sisters have both respected her privacy and provided support—helping with everything from proofreading term papers to offering words of encouragement.

“They are so giving,” says Ramsey, who is focusing on gender studies and psychology and has earned Dean’s List honors in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. “Now I feel ready to be on my own.”

Some young women stay at Bachand Hall for a few months, some stay for years. In total, more than 80 young women have lived there since 2005.

Reflecting back on the building’s history as a haven for children without families of their own, Sister Pauline sees a fitting symmetry to Bachand Hall’s current incarnation.

“It’s come full circle,” she says.

At 81, Sister Cecile has no plans to dial back her work with Bachand Hall’s youngest residents. With the need for housing so great, she hopes other religious orders may follow the example.

“Sometimes, the girls just need a break, someone to tell them that they can do it,” she says.

Like most labors of love, the sisters feel like they get more from their relationships with their young tenants than they give. They knew from the outset that there were risks and challenges in opening up their home—and their hearts—but they haven’t looked back.

“If there is a need you respond to it. You just do it. You rely on God’s help. And pray like hell,” says Sister Pauline.

Photos: Tory Germann
Raytheon and UMass Lowell: A PARTNERSHIP THAT LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Kyle Homann ‘13, a doctoral student in electrical engineering, discusses printable electronics and nanotechnology at the opening of the Raytheon-UMass Lowell Research Institute.

If there is any single development that could be held up as tangible proof of the university’s crossover between the old era and the new, it might be the partnership agreement announced last summer between UMass Lowell and Raytheon Co., the $30 billion defense contractor based in Waltham.

The new facility, the Raytheon-UMass Lowell Research Institute (RURI), which opened officially this fall on the fourth floor of the Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center, includes both labs and classrooms, and is to be co-directed by UMass Lowell engineering Prof. Craig Amorisco and Raytheon’s Christopher McCarrill ’95. Among its target projects will be the development of next-generation “printable electronics,” which will make possible the creation of flexible, super-thin devices. Such technology could aid the university in its quest for research dollars, at the same time helping the company win military contracts that rely on nanotechnology.

But the new technology won’t be limited to military use. Numerous consumer applications—such as wearable personal health monitors—may also be enabled through the same research.

“The RURI will serve as an extension of our current research capabilities and represents a resource across the Raytheon enterprise for the study of advanced materials and flexible circuit technologies,” says Mark E. Russell ’83, UMass Lowell alumnus and Raytheon vice president of engineering, technology and mission assurance.

While the UMass Lowell of only a few years ago pursued a single main function—that of “educating the local population”—Raytheon’s McCarrill says, the university of today is in the throes of a major transformation: “It’s really looking to make its mark as a research institute, and it’s doing all the right things.”

The unique feature of the agreement, both sides say, is the extremely close working relationships it will involve among UMass Lowell students and faculty and Raytheon engineers, who will work in tandem on mutually agreed upon projects. This is in contrast to the old model, McCarrill says, which typically involved the university working on projects the company had defined; under the new agreement, he says, the two partners will map out a project together and work on it “elbow to elbow.”

Prof. Amorisco calls the partnership “a new model for industry-university collaboration, with faculty and students working side by side with Raytheon engineers and scientists on projects directed at real-world applications. This partnership will enhance career opportunities for our students. … I expect that, coupled with our new research facility, it will establish UMass Lowell in a leadership position in printed electronics—especially for defense applications.”

The RURI agreement is only the most recent—and perhaps now the most conspicuous—outgrowth of a longstanding relationship. UMass Lowell and Raytheon have been de facto partners across a range of fronts for decades. From the beginning, the university has been a major source of talent for the company, with more than 750 alumni now working there, including more than a dozen at senior levels. And in terms of financial support, no company has been more forthcoming, with more than $2 million in sponsored funding (not including the $3- to $5-million dollar RURI commitment) given or pledged over the past 20 years. This has included funding for research on helmet designs to combat traumatic brain injury, problem solving through artificial intelligence, noise amplification, hydrogen-sensitivity testing and at least 30 other research targets.

Educational initiatives are yet another avenue of cooperation. Two years ago Raytheon and UMass Lowell signed an agreement with Kuwait’s Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) whereby Kuwaiti students will have the opportunity to earn UMass Lowell and GUST degrees through study programs overseen and taught by UMass Lowell administrators and faculty. One goal would be to enable the gulf nation to take steps to diversify its oil-centered economy. (See below.)

At least two major educational funds have also grown out of the Raytheon-UMass Lowell partnership. The Raytheon Electrical Engineering Endowed Scholarship Fund, established seven years ago with an initial cash gift of $30,000 (it has a value of more than $116,000 today), awards scholarship assistance to students pursuing a degree in that field; the Foly-Raytheon Engineering Workforce Development Fund, established at around the same time with a gift of $70,000, provides support for the dean of the College of Engineering and a designated engineering professor.

“The Raytheon-UMass Lowell collaboration is one example of how this campus is leading the way in working with industry,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan. “We hope this research institute becomes a model for industry-academic collaboration that will power innovation, job creation and workforce development in Massachusetts and be replicated elsewhere.”

Raytheon and UMass Lowell: A PARTNERSHIP THAT LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

IF THERE IS ANY SINGLE DEVELOPMENT
LESS THAN TWO YEARS AGO, the university launched an endowment match program for faculty and staff, creating an opportunity for current and retired employees to contribute to the university’s endowment—either by establishing a new fund or augmenting an existing one—with the assurance that half of every contribution would be matched. The response has been extraordinary, and extraordinarily diverse—and in some cases, highly personal, with a story behind every giver. What follows are four of those stories.

Continued
Adam Dunbar had just turned 16 when he began working at his aunt and uncle's hardware store, Apple Meadow True Value, in Townsend, 25 miles northwest of Lowell. He worked there through high school. Then, in 2007, when he enrolled as a freshman at UMass Lowell, Dunbar, who earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice in 2011, then stayed on to earn a 2014 master’s degree in education administration, is today assistant director of UMass Lowell’s Division of Student Affairs. As such, his gift to the university qualifies him for distinction on two counts: at 26, he is both the youngest alumnus, and the youngest employee, ever to create an endowment fund on his own.

For a young man, though, he seems to have traversed more than his share of life’s passages. “When I was in high school I was really shy, I didn’t make many friends, I didn’t take advantage of what was there. When I came to UMass Lowell, I promised myself that it’ll be different, that I’d make the most of everything that came along. And I tried. Even so, I couldn’t have made it here without the opportunities I’ve had— the leadership jobs, the Hoff Scholarship, all that the university has done for me.”

“If I could have done with the money? I’d be in classes here [in Lowell] Monday through Thursday, and take our Friday and work through Sunday,” says. “Then I’d come back for Monday classes. I did that until three years ago.”

Along the way, he also somehow managed to earn a Hoff Scholarship, to serve as a student alumni ambassador, a residence assistant and, as a senior, assistant residence director in Fox Hall. If there was anyone in his life, he says, who served as an example for this sort of tireless community immersion, it was probably his aunt, Jane Briguglio, a lifelong Townsend resident who ran the store with her brother for more than 30 years (they’d inherited it from their father, who opened it in the 1970s). Briguglio died unexpectedly two years ago at the age of 57. She was the sort of person, Dunbar says, “who was always involved with the town and its people, always knitt- ing something for someone or helping someone out. She was a huge inspiration to me.”

In her will, Briguglio left her nephew some money. It wasn’t a lot, he says, though it would have been enough to pay off the $30,000 he owed in student loans. He didn’t do that, though—she knew remaining outstanding. Instead, he gave $25,000 to the university, in his aunt’s memory, to es- tablish the Dunbar and Briguglio Family Endowed Scholarship Fund. He thought about it for a while, he says, though in the end the decision more or less made itself.

“What better thing could I have done with the money? It was here anyway—it wasn’t mine, I didn’t earn it, and giving it to help someone who can use it to stay in school, that’s the kind of thing I would have done.”

Dunbar, who earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal jus-
“CREATE CLEAR OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST IN AND SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS’ CO-CURRICULAR AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT— AND TO DO IT IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY. THAT’S WHAT ALL THIS IS ABOUT.”

This past fiscal year, your generosity resulted in a record breaking $20.6 million in support to the university, impacting all aspects of the student experience: scholarships, state-of-the-art lab and classroom equipment, research, student services, curriculum development, experiential learning and more.

Our Donor Honor Roll is ONLINE!
The Donor Honor Roll is just one way we say “thank you” to the many alumni, partners and friends who support UMass Lowell. We are honored that you chose to make the university a philanthropic priority. Thank you for your commitment to the future of our students. To view the Donor Honor Roll, please visit uml.edu/donor.

Thank you.

Dracut resident Alan Labbe ‘02 has the “largest male afro,” according to the 2015 Guinness World Records. At more than five feet in circumference, Labbe’s hairdo is the result of four years of eschewing haircuts—an effort encouraged by his co-workers at Wolters Kluwer Financial Services, where Labbe is a software quality assurance engineer. In September, Labbe traveled to New York City (he’s shown here in Times Square) to promote the newest edition of the Guinness Book of Records, appearing on the Today Show and Inside Edition. Labbe says he’ll probably cut his hair for charity at some point, but for now is enjoying the moment. “If I keep the record, great,” he says. “If not, it’s been an experience that I’ll remember for the rest of my life.”

Or Larry Siegel, associate vice chancellor for student affairs, the giving began modestly. “A number of us in the office here, over time, just began to give,” says Siegel, now in his 29th year at the university. “Myself, [Assistant Dean of Students] Mary Connelly and two or three others—we’d been here a long time, had come to really love the students and to know their needs. So it was natural to want to address those needs, to want to give.”

But then, with the coming of the new chancellor seven years ago, he says, “The message began to change. There was a new way of doing things—you could see where your dollars were going now, it wasn’t just some big pile of money anymore. And we found ourselves reflecting: So how can we give more purposefully?”

The first step, several years ago, was a targeted fund, the Student Affairs Endowment Fund, focused to address the needs of each particular arena of student life: diversity, leadership, gender issues, Greek life, health and wellness, social justice, innovation and entrepreneurship, and others. It began with support from four of the division’s most senior members—Siegel, Connelly, and two Student Affairs deans, Brenda Evans and James Kohl—and an initial commitment of $25,000.

Then it grew.

“Our years, we’d been piling up these small gifts from past student-leaders who were now alumni—$10, sometimes $100, usually not much more than that—and over time it started to build up. So we decided to add that money to the fund.”

“Well, this created a vehicle for more alumni to give. So now, any time we have a reunion dinner we can tell everyone, ‘Hey, this is the fund we have if you want to make a gift.’ And they’re likely to give, and to give more [than they would have], because now they know they’re giving specifically to the student experience. That’s an important distinction to be able to make.”

Of course, anyone who wants to start his or her own endowment fund is encouraged to do so, says Siegel. And many have. Adam Danfor, the Student Affairs staffer who opened a fund in his aunt’s memory, is one example; another is former Dean of Students Ellen Duggan. A third, a $250,000 commitment from veteran alumni from the 1970s and ‘80s, is earmarked specifically to support student-veterans. As of June of 2014, the endowment accounts coming out of the Division of Student Affairs totaled more than $360,000, with the amount increasing almost monthly as existing commitments are honored and new ones go on the books.

The idea, says Siegel, is to “create clear opportunities to invest in and support our students’ co-curricular and personal development—and to do it in a sustainable way. That’s the bottom line. That’s what all this is about.”

Facial of Philanthropy

“AND that’s what I think of as leading by example.”
Mary Murphy was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco from 2010 to 2012.

Peter Nold ‘78, ‘79 is happily married.

Michael Russell noted from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in June 2011 after 41 years, 11 months and 14 days of government service.

Kenneth Read, who had been in the software engineering field for 16 years, recently retired and moved to Maine. Although he is in Black Bear territory he says he is still a River Hawk.

John Murphy, a UMass Lowell Hall of Fame basketball player, has his photo taken with Baltimore Orioles legend Frank Robinson in Cooperstown.

Joseph Divitto has two grandchildren: one boy and one girl.

David Saul, a certified fitness trainer, has been a specialist in performance nutrition since 2007.

Ronald Cardone has been appointed senior vice president of Information Technology at Summer Infant, Inc., a premium juvenile products company. Ron had been chief information officer and vice president of Worldwide Service or Presstek Inc.

Charles Brunelle ’82, ‘89 recently formed a manufacturer’s representative company, Essential Sales LLC, specializing in the LED-lighting industry.

Bruce Burman and his wife, Barb, have been married for 49 years. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Alricia Conkumhong has traveled to Italy, Ireland, Israel and Portugal over the years. She retired from teaching in East Greenwich, R.I., and spent 20 years in Civil Service at the City of Cranston Finance Department. She is also the director of Purchasing and Supply for the city.

BETTY KELLER ’37 moved to Bermuda for five years after the Blizzard of ’78. She has lived in Hawaii for the last 29 years where she learned how to play the ukulele. Betty and her two daughters enjoy all the beauty and fun that the island has to offer. She was widowed in 1975.

John Callahan III retired in December 2013 after nine years as director of the Palm Beach County Library System. During his tenure, John oversaw the construction of eight new libraries and the renovation of nine branches. During his 45-year career in public library service he also oversaw libraries in Virginia Beach, Va., Henderson County, N.C., Blennerhassett, and Newport News, Calif.

Gerald Murphy was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco from 2010 to 2012.

John Kennedy joined the Murrey Mountains Habitat Conservation Board of Directors. He has more than 35 years of experience in senior financial positions—including as chief financial officer, executive vice president of Operations and co-founder of such companies as Marshall Financial Group, National Microsystems Corp., D’Eccles and RSA Security.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 1965 on the upcoming 50th Reunion to be held Commencement Weekend May 15-17. To volunteer on your class committee, email alumni_of_classof65@uml.edu. For more info, visit www.uml.edu/alumni.

Donna-Lee Nelson has signed a contract for her tenth novel, “Murder in Elly.” Her ninth novel, “Murder on Isiel Pond,” was published in Spring 2014. Her website is http://dominodelonnel.com/ and her blog is http://www.domino.nelson.blogspot.com. She lives in Gangneung, South Korea, and Angeles-sur-mer, France.

THE WINTER 2014-15 Issue of the UMASS LOWELL MAGAZINE
The Morse family’s UMass Lowell roots run four generations and nearly a century deep.

MARK MORSE ’77 is in the middle of the pack. Even with his B.S. in history, Morse can only know so much of his family’s alliance with the university.

“But I think it’s safe to say every generation wants to see the one that follows do better than them, and the university was a place to make that happen,” he says.

The legacy began at Massachusetts State Normal School with Morse’s grandmother, Anastasia Ryan, who graduated with a teaching certificate in 1916. Turned out she didn’t like teaching as much as she thought she would. So she went back and earned a nursing certificate. It was a move unusual for the times, not only because she was a woman in college, but because her husband had only a sixth-grade education.

The most recent UMass Lowell graduate is Bridget Morse, Mark’s daughter. She, on the other hand, loves teaching. Bridget, who earned her master’s in education from UMass Lowell in 2013, teaches at the Community Day Public Charter School in Lawrence. Her older brother, Patrick, is attending UMass Lowell at night in pursuit of a mechanical engineering degree while working for Raytheon.

The middle years are thick with Morse’s degree while working for Raytheon.

Mark was likewise the president of his class and played basketball for the last team to wear jerseys for Lowell State. His teammates included comedian Kevin Knox and Ted Lanzoni, the Washington D.C., sports franchise owner and former AOL executive.

When rock promoter Don Law’s company handled dates on Bob Dylan’s 1975 Rolling Thunder Revue tour, it was Mark Morse—president of the student government—they called.

“My education was absolutely fantastic,” says Mark, who did his work in support of the Defense Department at Harrisson Air Force Base. “I learned plenty outside the classroom, too. The skills I learned dealing with the administration of the school have been invaluable.” — DP

1983
Michael Charachoff, an archivist and religious education instructor at the Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church in Belmont, also became prison minister recently at the Pelican House of Correction. He says he tries to bring a message of compassion and human kindness to the prisoners, many of whom he says come from broken homes and lack even a high school diploma.

1984
Joseph Alhovane, president and CEO of Commodore Builders, discussed changes in the building industry recently at a luncheon attended by leaders of the architecture, engineering and construction fields. The attendees were members of the Massachusetts Building Congress, which co-sponsored the event with Commodore Builders.

Mary-Jo Griffin has been appointed to the board of directors of The D’Youville Foundation, Inc., the fiduciary arm of the D’Youville Life and Wellness Community. Mary-Jo is director of public affairs, outreach and development and director of the Paul Sullivan Leadership Institute at Middlesex Community College.

1985
Kevin Knox and Ted Leonsis, the owners and former AOL executive and CEO of Cometare Builders, discussed changes in the architectural, engineering and construction fields. The attendees were members of the Massachusetts Building Congress, which co-sponsored the event with Cometare Builders.

Bill Herenda recently moved from the Sacramento Kings “Inside” on Comcast SportsNet California. In his new role, Bill will provide coverage of the Kings across the network’s growing list of multiplatform outlets, including CSNCalifornia.com.

1988
Bill Herenda was recently named as the director of Multicultural Affairs at Providence College in return to graduate school. She will be earning her M.S. in clinical mental health counseling with a focus on college students and athletes.

Elena You recently resigned as the director of Multicultural Affairs at Providence College to return to graduate school. She will be earning her M.S. in clinical mental health counseling with a focus on college students and athletes.

Elena says she is excited to start this new chapter in her life.
DEIRDRE

BY SHEILA EPPOLITO

For Deirdre Girard ’82, the theater bug bit early. Her second-grade class at Wattham’s MacKintosh Elementary School took a field trip to see a production of “Alice Frunk” at Brandeis University, and she was hooked.

“We didn’t grow up with a lot of money, and my family didn’t go to the theater,” says Girard. But she did.

No matter how tight money was for her—she paid for an English degree from the University of Lowell by waitressing full time—she always made it to shows.

“It was the one treat I gave myself—I’d skimp on food, but I couldn’t give up theater,” she says.

Vision Marketing was born in 1993, and served Fortune 500 clients including Toys “R” Us, Bose, Monster.com and Stop & Shop. The company grew to 150 employees and revenues of $14 million annually thanks, in part, to the partners’ grueling hours and travel schedules.

In 2000, Girard and her partners sold the company, agreeing to stay on for three years.

With the proceeds of the sale of her company, life grew to 150 employees and revenues of $14 million annually thanks, in part, to the partners’ grueling hours and travel schedules.

In 2000, Girard and her partners sold the company, agreeing to stay on for three years.

With the proceeds of the sale of her company, life changed for Girard. For the first time in many years, she had the opportunity to explore what she wanted to do with her days.

“I had been dabbling with some writing—mostly short plays—and found some success at theater conferences,” she says.

Michael Koenig began a new career with Bank of America after spending 12 years with the University of Pennsylvania. He is now an assistant professor at UMass Lowell, and serves on the PreVision board.

Girard loves all kind of theater, but has devoted herself to “creating meaty female roles and female-driven plays,” she says, citing a fringe festival, a company that “puts a place on an榆 River Hawk hockey team and Boston sports game-winning party location.”

James Spinney has been named the chief of police in Chelmsford. Jim has been deputy chief for 14 months and chief of police in Chelmsford. Jim had been a college basketball television analyst for the ESPN family of networks, Comcast Horizon Network, and Turner Classic.

Gregory Sheehan has been named the chief of police in Chelmsford. Jim had been deputy chief for 14 months and the deputy chief for Chelmsford. Jim has been a college basketball television analyst for the ESPN family of networks, Comcast Horizon Network, and Turner Classic. Sheehan has been named the chief of police in Chelmsford. Jim had been deputy chief for 14 months and the deputy chief for Chelmsford.

Robert Felger has been with AFR Furniture Rental for almost seven years, covering the northeastern region of the country. He has three children: Linda, 10, Sam, 11, and Jill, 15.

Kevin Davis, president and CEO of Performance Sports Group, Ltd., has taken the company public and it is now traded on the New York Stock Exchange. The move for the company, formerly called Bausch Performance Sports Ltd., was part of a public offering to raise $110 million after its acquisition of Eaton-Bell Sports’ baseball and softball business. Performance Sports manufactures baseball, softball, hockey, lacrosse, field hockey, and softball equipment and apparel.

Quoc Truong ’93, ’99 is a physical scientist at the National Solar Radiation, Development and Engineering Center (NSREC) and recently presented technical guidance and direction to NSREC’s industry partners, UMASS Lowell alumni, and selected businesses to successfully develop a durable, lightweight coating used to produce self-cleaning fabrics. Omniphobic, he says, means it hates everything—including water, oil and dust particles. The technology, which was developed for use in soldier clothing, has now made its way to the commercial market.

Quoc has been working on leading-edge technologies and the development of advanced, innovative materials and textiles for decades. He is currently a principal investigator at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Carolyn Rolle has been named the executive director of the Advancement team in August, 2006. She has joined the Advancement team in August, 2006. She has been named the executive director of the Advancement team in August, 2006. She has joined the Advancement team in August, 2006.

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Andrew Thompson has been named for one year and has a 3-month-old baby. He also a senior police detective with the Dunwoody, Ga., Police Department. He is now in charge of the UMass Lowell Alumni Regional Chapter in Denver and looks forward to meeting fellow alumni in the area.

Salinee Tavaranan was included by the British Broadcasting Corporation among its 100 Women of 2014 for her work to combat human trafficking. She is a CPA and she is an attorney and loves little brother Silas. Now in charge of the UMass Lowell Alumni Regional Chapter in Denver and looks forward to meeting fellow alumni in the area.

Command Sergeant Major James Carabello with local children in Kandahar, Afghanistan, during the height of the war there. “You've got to make yourself close to the people,” he says.

“I wasn’t sure, in his student days, just what he wanted to do with his life. Whatever it was, he did today, he wanted it to be part of something larger, and something that tested his limits.”

James Carabello graduated from the University of Lowell in the spring of 1985, and enlisted in the army not long after. Within a year of graduation, the former North Andover native was a member of the Army Rangers, among the most elite fighting forces in the world. It was an experience, he says, that “definitely tests you, just the training alone. Running all day, carrying heavy packs, jumping out of planes, you’ve got to prove yourself every day.”

“2007

Following years from the pool of 75 to receive the identifying image for the 204 Pro Football’s First Night event. The logo features a smiling blue quarter-moon with a stethoscope that places the center of the city’s North Andover Church in the center. It will appear on all First Night buttons and merchandise. Allison, who says she’s never before entered a contest, is a graphics designer artist for Director Only Services in Windham, N.H.

Meghan Conole is engaged to Raymond Guinean Jr., a systems administrator and UMass Lowell student. Meghan is a registered nurse. The two Dayton residents have planned an April wedding.

Kenneth Taccat is part of the Joint Task Force in the Guantanamo Public Affairs Office where he works, photographs, and creates illustrations for the JTF-GTMO’s weekly publication, “The Wire,” that informs and educates deployed troops.

Daniel Van Schalkwyk is the town engineer in Ayer. The newspaper includes an infiltration analysis and regulatory compliance.

Gilson Rosado-Ferreira is selected by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women as part of the Commonwealth’s Unsung Heroes of 2014. The award acknowledges women who have been nominated by state legislators and selected for their contributions to the state’s welfare.

Continued on Page 62

class notes

2008

Jeff Wal and his brother Silas were named among the top 20 alumni in the area.

Jeff and his
two young sons, Silas and Jeff, living in the Denver area where he is a CPA and she is an attorney and managing partner. She is now in charge of the UMass Lowell Alumni Regional Chapter in Denver and looks forward to meeting fellow alumni in the area.

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Continued on Page 62
**Continued from Page 60**

The Cyber-privacy Warrior: ‘I Want to Stop the Bad Guys’

BY JILL GAMBO

The scenario he paints is scary: the ability of hackers to spy on you. And your computer smartphone camera is being hijacked by a flashlight app on your smartphone—and as "Digital privacy is dead," Miliefsky says. "If you could make yourself invisible, if you could always find me in one of the labs, missing around with something." 

He was previously an officer with the Children’s Law Center of Greater Lowell. She was the 2013 election campaign. Scott Conway was selected as Georgia Power’s Southeastern University Relations Coordinator. Connor B. Burnham was a naval officer with the Navy’s fleet policy. She was previously an officer with the Children’s Law Center.
Janet Johnson's Long Struggle in Liberia:

Even Ebola Can't Unite Us

— By Geoffrey Douglas

Liberia, the country her father was through, would bring the nation to its knees. In 1990, then-President Charles Taylor, who before ascending to political power had been a warlord and torturer, was convicted in 2012 by the Special Court of Sierra Leone in 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. But his legacy lives on.

"This is a high level of distrust among Liberians as a whole. The reconciliation process is yet to be fully implemented," says Geoffrey Douglas, who worked with Johnson during her time at the UMass Lowell Office of University Relations, and is today dedicating her life to helping them move in the right direction," she says. "It is to this cause that Johnson, through her work with Liberia's Governance Commission, is today dedicating her life.

"At the university we often talk about our students being 'difference makers,'" says Patty Coffey, the UMass Lowell president, who worked with Johnson during her time at the university. "Janet's story is a perfect example of what it means to work hard toward making a difference."

By the summer of 2003, with the arrival of a West African peacekeeping force, peace had been restored to Liberia. Taylor resigned soon after. He was convicted in 2012 by the Special Court of Sierra Leone in 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. But his legacy lives on.

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Forget the theories about right and left brained people. Stephanie Wu ‘04 is proof that it’s not always about either/or. As a child in Chalmsford, Wu’s parents taught her all the regular things parents do: reading, manners—and computer coding.

“They knew it was important,” says Wu, a graphic design alum who also studied mechanical and aeronautical engineering. Her professional career has been nearly as varied. After college, I drove around the country ‘city shopping’ and decided on San Francisco, where I knew exactly one person,” she says.

Wu quickly joined an experiential marketing agency designing environments, freelancing followed (“I learned fast about billing, the costs and demands of business development, and how hard it is to chase people down for money”) and then a job with a firm that honed her design and technical skills through efforts like a mobile “What Not to Wear” fitting studio for Levi years buyan.

A stint with Red Envelope filled in a lot of web design experience, and increased Wu’s involvement in catalogue, photography and PR materials development.

Freelancing followed (“I learned fast about billing, the costs and demands of business development, and how hard it is to chase people down for money”) and then a job with a firm that honed her design and technical skills through efforts like a mobile “What Not to Wear” fitting studio for Levi years buyan.

Next stop: Serena and Lily, where she spent six years mastering her web design skills. She eventually decided she “could spend more time bettering the world”—and less helping sell $350 crib sheets. Wu moved again—to New York, to join a startup company with values that complemented her growing social conscience.

Warby Parker (named by one of the co-founders for two characters, Warby Peppercorn and Zagg Parker, from Jack Kerouac’s unpublished journals) burst on the retail eyewear scene with a strong point of view—leading the way, Wu says, on “how a for-profit business should behave.”

The company pledged commitment to customers (reasonable prices, free shipping, free returns), employees (the mantra: take your work seriously, but not yourself!) and, perhaps most importantly, the world. For every pair of glasses sold, one is distributed to someone in need.

“It’s refreshing to see a company sign up for the right stuff—doing good is in their DNA,” says Wu, who as the first in-house “creative” was employee number 12 (the company now boasts 350 full-time employees).

As design director, she wasted no time making her mark and getting things done, using equal parts creative wisdom and logic.

“I methodically looked at all that needed to be done—if the website was a two out of 10, we set the goal to improve it to a six,” she says. “Packaging a three? Take it up to a six. Brand essence at a four? Take it up to a six. Style essence at a four? Bring it up to a six.”

“I just chipped away at everything that had a design component, and made things better. Once the brand felt steady where all areas were OK, then it was time to kill it with new product, launches and redesigns. Working at a startup requires a balance of perfect vs. good design.”

It worked. As Wu continued to prove herself in design and, more frequently, in marketing and business strategy, she was included more.

“I love the fact that at a smaller company you can have a seat at the table, and make bigger, sometimes riskier decisions than at a large firm,” she says.

Wu has been involved in all of Warby Parker’s “customer facing visuals,” including print, packaging, photography, in-store displays and everything digital. She’s also overseen PR efforts, including creation of a pop-up retail “store” (a gutted, tricked-out school bus) and presence at the legendary South by Southwest (SXSW) Festival.

Her UMass Lowell education, she says, laid a strong foundation for all of it. “The university gave me access to knowledge and a network of people to figure out how to move ahead. Without the foundation of design, I never could have grown and achieved the way I have,” she says. “During my years at UMass Lowell, there was a small group of us in Prof. [Karen] Roehr’s class who were eager, hungry and hard working. We banded together, pushed and critiqued each other. This group was crucial to my development and expectations as a designer. That camaraderie and working style is how I approach my teams, and my work. It should be fun and productive.”

A Security Industry Rising Star

Jon Victorine, the university’s senior associate director of administrative services, carries a multi-tool in his pocket when he walks around campus in case a security gate or card reader needs a quick repair.

For Victorine, who oversees security technology across campus along with UCard, Access and Parking Services, making an immediate impact is a favorite part of his job.

“I see the things that I’m doing are helping to protect the university. That’s rewarding,” says Victorine, who earned both his bachelor’s (’04) and master’s (’06) degrees in computer science here.

Victorine’s accomplishments have earned him recognition from his peers in industry. “Security Director News,” a trade publication based in Yarmouth, Maine, named him to its annual “20 Under 40” list, an honor that recognizes rising stars in the security profession. Since arriving at UMass Lowell as a freshman 16 years ago, Victorine, 33, has worked in different capacities for several departments. In his current position, he has to interact with a wide cross-section of people on campus as he applies technology to solve problems.

“I realized early on I didn’t want to sit in a cube and code all day. I like working with people,” he says.
Classnotes

DOWN PAT

SEAN JORDAN ’14 helped New England Patriots running back Stevan Ridley off the field during the second half of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills on Oct. 12 in Orchard Park, N.Y. Jordan is an assistant athletic trainer and physical therapist for the Patriots, keeping the 63-player roster healthy and ready for game day. “I was very excited to be offered this position with the Patriots,” says Jordan. “The experiences that I had while at UMass Lowell helped me gain confidence as a clinician and gave me the chance to network and grow as a professional.”

Church Yard Boys Give Back

SIX BOYS WHO GROW UP IN THE 1960S IN THE MODERATE SACRED HEART NEIGHBORHOOD OF LOWELL (THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE CHURCH YARD BOYS FOR THEIR MOST FREQUENT HANG-OUT LOCUS) FORM A DECADES-LONG BOND OF FRIENDSHIP.

They all went on to college at UMass Lowell and today are grateful for the memories and friendships as well as for the higher education that provided the foundation for their success in life.

In honor of those friendships, their hometown turf and their alma mater, they have raised the Sacred Heart Neighborhood Endowed Scholarship at UMass Lowell to provide scholarships to kids from Lowell.

“We were blessed to be raised in an area—and in a time—that had a deep impression and lasting impact on our lives,” says Matt McCafferty ’79, ’85. “Now, particularly with the church being closed and the school razed, we look back fondly on those experiences, and want to do our small part to preserve that legacy.”

The friends—Ray Crowe ’80, Matt McCafferty, Jim Neary ’77, ’90, John O’Donnell ’81, Ken O’Neill ’85 and Brian Sheehan ’79, who along with UMass Lowell Vice Chancellor of University Relations Patricia McCafferty are the founding trustees of the fund—hold a fundraiser in early November. The group surpassed all goals by raising $45,000 for scholarships for UMass Lowell students, bringing commitments to the endowment fund to $100,000. “This was a unique initiative, led by a group of alumni who share my passion for this great institution, which honors a community and provides scholarships for deserving Lowell students,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan, who also grew up in the Sacred Heart neighborhood and earned a bachelor’s degree at UMass Lowell.

The first scholarship has been awarded to Ricardo Torres, who is the first person in his family to attend college. A Lowell High School graduate who is now a junior at UMass Lowell, he is studying Spanish and education and hopes to become a middle-school teacher.

Donations to support deserving students from Lowell are still being accepted through the UMass Lowell Alumni Office at 978-934-3140 or online at alumni.uml.edu/sacredheartfundraiser.

MAKE YOUR LEGACY ABOUT EDUCATION, OPPORTUNITY AND GROWTH

Many alumni say that UMass Lowell was an affordable choice for their college education. And, while UMass Lowell remains an affordable choice for students, there is a substantial cost to providing the high quality education that makes UMass Lowell a nationally ranked university.

Consider including UMass Lowell in your will or trust.

You can help generations of students benefit from a world-class education. Students depend on the generosity of alumni and friends to support scholarships, academic programs, research and campus improvements.

By leaving UMass Lowell in your will or trust, you can leave a legacy of educational opportunity while retaining your assets during your lifetime. You may also benefit from an estate tax charitable deduction equal to the value of your bequest.

For more information, contact:
UMASS LOWELL OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING
877-775-1992 • ogp@uml.edu
[1] At the Eames Hall Reunion, former Dean of Students Ellen Duggan, left, and Elaine Burke Keegan ’79 reconnect like many other alumni who lived in Eames.


[3] Joy Tong ’14 (H), John Pulichino ’67, ’14 (H) and son Michael, shown in center, kicked off an exciting commencement weekend by attending the groundbreaking of the Pulichino Tong Business Building, the new home of the Robert J. Manning School of Business. They are pictured along with Chancellor Marty M noktas ’78, ’86, and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney ’75, ’91.


[5] Patti Geanakos, left and Jon Geanakos ’84, far right, hosted an intimate UMass Lowell engagement at their home in Connecticut. Center: Associate Vice Chancellor for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Steven Tello ’80, ’02 and Senior Director of Development Steven Rogers.

[6] The Elite Pershing Rifle Squad N12 celebrates their 50th Reunion at the UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center. From left: Francis ’68 and Jackie Hynes; Jim ’67 and Michelle ‘68 Healy; Skip ’67 and Bobbie Kittredge; Joe ’67 and Anne Cartwright and Al Kulas.

[7] A group of plastics alumni join together for their annual Reach the Beach relay race. From left: Cristina King ’03, Melissa Egan ’03, Professor Dave Kazmer, Professor Meg Sobkowicz-Kline, Professor/Chair Robert Malloy ’79, ’88, ’91, Bill Soper ’83, Sophie Chalvet ’83, Dennis Kuc, Kevin Husband, Gabriel Mandible ’13, ’16, and Jessica Miener ’16.

[8] Over 125 faculty and staff members collectively contributed more than $2.4 million toward UMass Lowell’s faculty/staff endowment matching program. From left: Trustee Norm Peters; UMass President Robert Caret; Chancellor Marty M noticias ’78; Dean of Student Affairs & Special Events Brenda Evans ’94, ’95; Dean of Education Anna Groverwood ’94, ’92; and Professor Chair of Finance Yale Papsis.

[9] UMass Lowell field hockey alumni suit back up for a reunion game in late September.

[10] President Emeritus and University Distinguished Professor Jack Wilson, left, and Co-Host Jim ’80 and Deb Dandeneau, center, with Dean of Francis College of Engineering Joseph Harman at the 2014 Plastics Engineering Golf Tournament.
Alumni Events

Chapter Business

UMass Lowell has over 70,000 alumni throughout the world and 18 regional alumni chapters, including seven international chapters. Attending regional chapter events and receptions is a great way for alumni to meet, mingle and network. Find out how to get involved at alumni.uml.edu.

Celebration of Scholarship Luncheon

The annual Celebration of Scholarship luncheon provided an opportunity for scholarship recipients to meet and thank their benefactors and provide an opportunity for those who have endowed scholarships to see firsthand the impact of their generosity.

1. Donors Carol and Theresa Ogonowski enjoy a conversation with their scholarship recipients. From left: Patrick Mealey ’16, Christopher Grassi ’16, and Eric Johnson ’15.
2. Scholarship recipient Andrew Verras ’15, center, thanks his generous benefactors Russell ’67, ’74 and Jennie LeClaire at the Fourth annual Scholarship Luncheon.

Celebration of Philanthropy

Over 250 alumni and friends shared in the excitement of the fourth annual Chancellor’s Leadership Society Dinner. UMass Lowell welcomed 14 couples and individuals into its lifetime giving circles. The evening ended on a high note as the marching band offered a rousing rendition of the new UMass Lowell fight song.

1. Honorees from left: Emiliano and Sonoko Yone, Daniel ’81, ’88 and Lauren Laurentio; Russell ’91 and Marty ’90 Borelli; Professor/Chair of Finance York Port; Chancellor Marty Meehan ’78; Black vine left: Mark ’73 and Susan ’99 Cocozza; John Hurley, brother of recipient the late Brian Hurley ’75; Patricia Dunn-McPhail ’54; Donald LaTorre ’59, ’57 (H); Professor of School of Nursing Jacqueline O’Connell; Kathleen McBrane, sister of recipient the late Brian Hurley ’75; Jerry ’78 and Joyce ’77 Colella; Executives Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Molloy ’73, ’92; Dan Derry, sister of recipient the late Brian Hurley ’75. Not pictured: Abha ’88 and Anil Singhal; Gloria LaTorre; Aldo Crugnola; and Penny Hocking (representing the Hocking Estate).
2. Rowdy conducts the UMass Lowell Marching Band as part of the finale at the Chancellor’s Leadership Society Dinner.
3. Susan ’69 and Mark ’71 Cocozza, left and Professor/Chair of Finance York Port, cheer on the UMass Lowell Marching Band.
Homecoming 2014

This year marked UMass Lowell’s first-ever Division I homecoming weekend. River Hawks of all ages came together to celebrate and participate in weekend activities.


[2] At the Chancellor’s Leadership Society Hockey Night, Circle of Honor recipient Patricia Dyer McPhail ’54 enjoys the crown’s nest view of the hockey game from the corporate suite.


[6] A future alumna has fun picking (and sitting on) pumpkins at Parlee Farms.


[9] Faculty and staff enjoy the 16th edition of the Jennifer’s 5k Run/Walk. From left: Erin Donovan ’17, Karie Judge ’14 (3rd place female), Samantha Otten ’15 (4th place female), Adam Dunbar ’14 (3rd place overall), Drew Butler ’14 (2nd place overall), and Christopher Ford ’14 (overall race winner).


The Reunion Tour
From lunches to campus tours to field trips—hundreds of alumni reconnected during homecoming.

[5] Alumni enjoy their 40th and 50th Reunion Dinner. From left: Margaret McDonald Laycock ’64 and Lisa Barone Bernard ’64.
[6] Alumni from Massachusetts State College at Lowell, class of 1964, enjoying time with one another at their 50th Reunion. From left: George Pomeroy ’64, Claire Belanger Beaton ’64, Diane Wicker Stetson ’64, Connie Poirier Striano ’64 and Richard Striano ’64.
[9] Parlee Farms owners Mark ’80 and Ellen Parlee celebrate Family Fun Day with Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney ’75, ’92, right, and Director of the Office of Alumni Relations Heather McDonough ’84, ’00.
[10] Massachusetts State College at Lowell alumni gather before their tour of South Campus. From left: Dorothy McCarthy Moore ’64, Mary Ann Cizek ’64, ’69, Marie Stewey ’64, Patricia Karl ’64, ’65 and Marilyn Panchuk ’64.
[11] Lowell Tech 40th and 50th Reunion tour
In Memoriam

Then...

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UMass Lowell’s new flagship bookstore in University Crossing, the River Hawk Shop offers two floors of textbooks, general interest books and bestsellers, team apparel, school supplies and gifts.
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Join the River Hawk Club and help UMass Lowell maintain its winning tradition by:

- Providing scholarship assistance
- Improving athletic facilities
- Investing in student-athlete development programs

Gifts may be designated to specific sports or to the Athletic Department as a whole.

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