SUMMER 2014

UMass Lowell

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

STRAIGHT**STREEP**

MERYL ON CAMPUS: THE ZEN OF CRAFT, THE MYSTERY OF ACTING

SUMMER 2014

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Learning with Purpose

A Message from
Chancellor Martin T. Meehan '78

This magazine was born in 1986, launched by one person, then a part-time employee of what was then the University of Lowell. No one had asked her to create a magazine, but she felt strongly that the university should strive to forge better connections with its alumni.

In those early days, she—along with a rotating staff of one or two other part-timers in "News and Publications"—did everything: They were reporters, writers, editors, designers, photographers, advertising reps, postal workers—even typesetters.

That person was Mary Lou Hubbell, who retired at the end of June as director of publications and publisher of the UMass Lowell Magazine for Alumni and Friends.

On her watch, the magazine evolved from a homegrown publication produced on a shoe-string budget to a glossy winner of more than a dozen industry awards. Mary Lou's spunk and endless quest to produce "good stuff—no, great stuff" will be missed, and we thank her for more than three decades of service to the university whose reputation she helped build.

Mary Lou should have a lot more time for reading now—and I hope the same can be said for you this summer. Please turn the page and read on to learn about all the "great stuff" happening at UMass Lowell.

Martin T. Meehan
Chancellor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

University Crossing Grand Opening Celebration, Sept. 16, University Crossing, 220 Pawtucket St., 2 p.m. Ribbon-cutting and festivities. Public welcome. Visit uml.edu/universitycrossing.

River Hawk Homecoming (formerly known as Fall Festival), Oct. 24 – 26. Rediscover UMass Lowell and reconnect with family, friends and fellow alumni, Events include reunions, River Hawk hockey games, golden alumni brunch, campus tours and live entertainment. Visit uml.edu/riverhawkhomecoming to learn more about events like:

Chancellor's Leadership Society Dinner, Oct. 23, UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, 5:30 p.m. Join us in celebrating donors who support the university with annual gifts of $1,000 or more, as well as lifetime honorees who have given over $100,000. For more information, call 978-934-4449 or email Gerty_Sousa@uml.edu.

Celebration of Scholarship Luncheon, Oct. 24, UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, noon–2 p.m. Join scholarship recipients and the generous benefactors who made their scholarships possible. For more information, call 978-934-4449 or email Gerty_Sousa@uml.edu.

40th and 50th Reunion Celebration, Oct. 24, registration, campus tours, deans discussions, River Hawks hockey game; Oct. 25, reunion class photos, cocktail receptions, dinners, River Hawks hockey game; Oct. 26, Golden Alumni Brunch.

For more information about events, visit www.uml.edu/alumni or call 978-934-3140.

The UMass Lowell 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.

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MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 2

Cover Story

26

STRAIGHT STREEP

When Meryl Streep agreed to speak at UMass Lowell as part of our Chancellor's Speaker Series (for free!), some of us on campus expected her visit to come with an enormous dose of fanfare. Surely, we reasoned, the woman who is arguably the greatest living actress must be accompanied by *people* wherever she goes. We were ready for publicists, bodyguards, stylists, make-up artists, a driver—perhaps even a personal umbrella holder. What we got was Meryl. She drove herself (by herself) from Connecticut and from the second she arrived, was down-to-earth and kind. She met with students, and then spoke to a sold-out crowd at the Tsongas Center—both times telling wickedly funny stories, offering thoughtful life advice, and posing for many, many photos. And along the way, she quietly raised $230,000 for student scholarships. Read all about her visit on Page 26.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Please send comments to Editor Sarah McAdams Corbett at Sarah_Corbett@uml.edu. Submit class notes at www.uml.edu/advancement/classnotes.

LOWELL TEXTILE SCHOOL • MASSACHUSETTS STATE NORMAL SCHOOL • STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE AT LOWELL • LOWELL TEXTILE INSTITUTE
LOWELL TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE • MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE AT LOWELL • LOWELL STATE COLLEGE • UNIVERSITY OF LOWELL

John Pulichino '67, '14 (H) and his wife, Joy Tong '14 (H), along with their son, Michael Pulichino, helped celebrate the groundbreaking of the home for the Manning School of Business on North Campus. The building is scheduled to be completed in 2017.

$40 Million **Business Building** Breaks Ground

Business students at UMass Lowell will study in a brand new facility with a four-story atrium, a big-screen LED, streaming stock ticker and technology-enhanced classrooms in a building for which a groundbreaking was held in May. The Pulichino Tong Business Building, which will be home to the university's Manning School of Business when it is completed in 2017, will become a key component in the continuing transformation of the North Campus.

The $40 million building will be named for UMass Lowell graduate John Pulichino '67, '14 (H) and his wife, Joy Tong '14 (H), successful entrepreneurs in the travel-goods industry who have donated $4 million to student scholarships. UMass Lowell leaders envision that the new building will complete an innovation district dedicated to business education and scientific research and development in support of the region's economy.

The building will serve UMass Lowell's growing population of undergraduate and graduate students studying accounting, entrepreneurship, finance, international business, management and operations and information systems.

The centerpiece of the 52,000-square-foot Pulichino Tong Business Building will be the atrium, which will overlook an outdoor plaza formed by the new and existing buildings, creating more green space on North Campus.

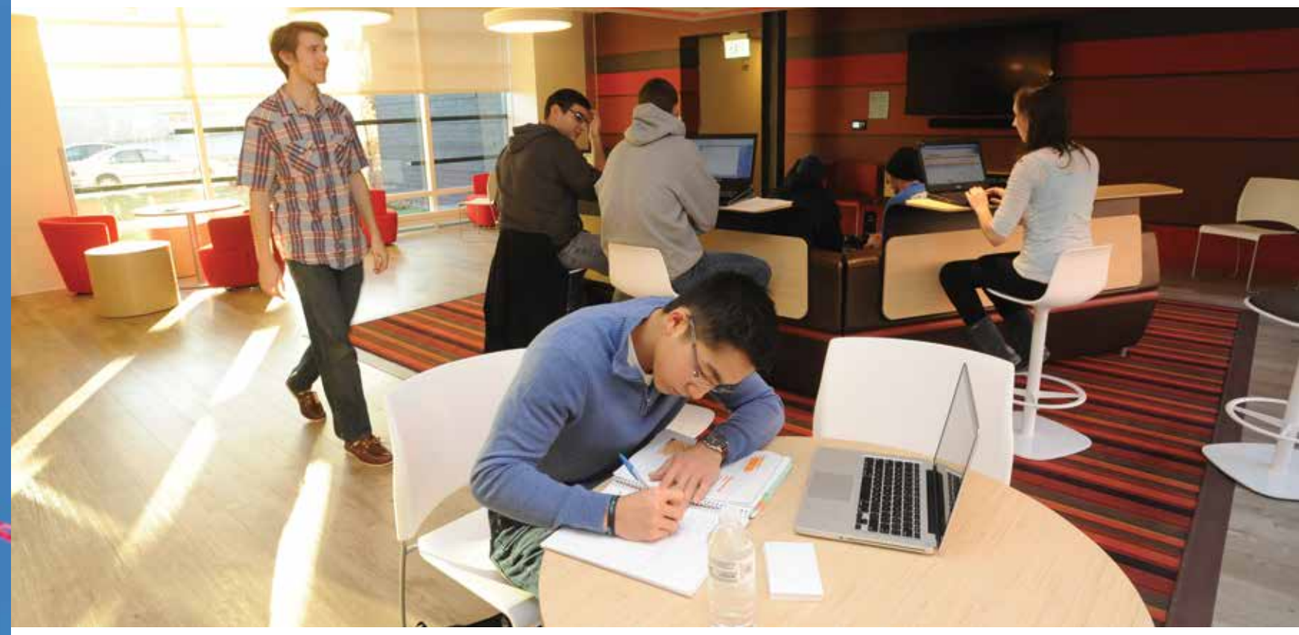
The new building's other features will include a finance laboratory designed to simulate on-the-job experiences in the business world, such as a trading room and high-tech classrooms and seminar rooms that can accommodate more than 400 students. ■

Campus Life

Inside...

FLYING HIGH

In April, students celebrated the warm weather (and the end of the semester) over Spring Carnival Weekend, which featured a Mardi Gras party, live music, inflatable rides, a BBQ—and kite-flying.



On Our Honor:
New Opportunities for Students

Chemical engineering student Steven Jacek '16 says that thanks to the honors program at UMass Lowell, he's been able to expand his brain power—and his social life.

"Meeting best friends who are just as likely to take a pingpong match way too seriously as argue about the atomic weight of nickel is a wonderful thing," he says.

Starting this fall, Steven and his peers will have many more opportunities for late-night debates about chemical elements over the ping pong table. The brand new UMass Lowell Honors College will welcome its first class in September.

Approved for the campus by the UMass Board of Trustees in February, the college already has 800 students enrolled for its launch.

The campus has offered an honors program to students for nearly two decades, but the elevation to an honors college will mean expanded resources, new courses and more opportunities for valuable real-world experience through co-ops in business and industry and service-learning projects around the world.

Since 2008, enrollment of honors students at UMass Lowell has increased to 733 from 298. This year, the university saw a record number of first-year students—more than 270, with an average SAT score of 1285—join the honors program.

Already in place for Honors College students are specialized living-learning communities; small, seminar-style classes; and expanded academic requirements and offerings.

Added this fall for the Honors College will be dedicated space in the new $95 million student center at University Crossing and a "Personal Librarian Project" that will assign a librarian to every junior and senior in the college to enhance attention students receive as they research and write their honors theses.

Following a yearlong, student-driven campaign to clear the air on campus, UMass Lowell will become smoke- and tobacco-free effective this fall.

The new policy, initiated by the Student Government Association (SGA) and endorsed by the Faculty Senate and the administration, will designate all campus property as tobacco-free. Implementation will include signs across campus and smoking-cessation programming provided by Lowell General Hospital. The university's existing policy prohibits smoking inside or within 25 feet of campus buildings.

"It has been inspiring to watch countless clubs, organizations and individuals come together for the purpose of creating a healthier living and learning environment on our campus," says SGA President Amanda Robinson.

South African **Peace Crusader** Inspires Campus as Greeley Scholar

In 1988, Albie Sachs, a well-known South African peace activist, unlocked his car in Mozambique and a car bomb took his right arm and his sight. Undeterred, Sachs continued his fight for human rights.

Sachs, who has lived a remarkable and inspiring life, was named UMass Lowell's 2014 Greeley Scholar for Peace. He was on campus in April, giving talks and meeting with members of the campus community.

Sachs was instrumental in negotiations that led to South Africa becoming a constitutional democracy, taking on challenges—including arms surrender and writing the constitution—that had been considered insurmountable by most in that nation. He served as National Executive of the African National Congress and as judge on the Constitutional Court of South Africa from 1994 to 2009, appointed to the position by Nelson Mandela.

During his years as a judge, the court abolished the death penalty and overturned laws criminalizing homosexuality. Justice Sachs also wrote the opinion in the landmark decision legalizing same-sex marriage in South Africa. For all his efforts, Sachs received the Tang Prize in June, considered Asia's version of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Speaking about the negotiations that led to democracy in South Africa, Sachs told an enthralled audience of students, faculty and staff in April, "The process had ups and downs, breakdowns and massacres—this was not just a bunch of nice people coming to a table, but we worked together and eventually succeeded."

At one event on campus, Sachs was joined by Leymah Gbowee, the 2011 Greeley Scholar for Peace Studies and the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner and Linda Biehl, the 2008 Greeley Peace Scholar. The Greeley program was created in honor of the late Rev. Dana McLean Greeley, longtime Concord resident and leader of the First Parish there.

National Student Affairs Group honors **Meehan and Evans**

One of the nation's largest organizations of collegiate student affairs professionals recently presented its President of the Year Award to Chancellor Marty Meehan, calling him "a leader with vision, ability and boundless energy who gets results."

The Association of College Unions International (ACUI) honored Meehan during its annual conference this spring.

Meehan was recognized for his "commitment to the student experience on campus," including holding monthly open forums with students and reinforcing the importance of student involvement. ACUI also cited Meehan for his pledge to provide students the space they need for their programs, activities, services and more at University Crossing, a new, $95 million student center to open this fall.

Also honored by ACUI was Brenda Evans, UMass Lowell's dean of student affairs and event services. Evans received the organization's Presidential Award for Distinguished Service. The award is given at the discretion of ACUI's president and has not been presented in several years, according to the group.

REPORT: UMASS LOWELL DELIVERED $812M IN POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT

UMass Lowell's positive economic impact on the region added up to more than $812 million last year, supporting thousands of jobs and businesses, according to a report by the UMass Donahue Institute.

UMass Lowell increased its impact by $322 million, or 66 percent, in just three years, up from $490 million in fiscal year 2010, according to the report. The commonwealth provided UMass Lowell with $79 million last year, which the campus in turn used to create a tenfold return on investment.

"UMass Lowell is a key economic driver in the commonwealth, directly or indirectly affecting every person in the state," the report states, adding that UMass Lowell's contributions to the economy from major construction projects and spending by faculty, staff and students "generates significant benefits for the Massachusetts economy."

The city's second-largest employer, after Lowell General Hospital, UMass Lowell employs approximately 1,400 full-time faculty and staff, more than 560 of whom live in Lowell.

Eighty-nine percent of UMass Lowell undergraduates and 61 percent of graduate students are Massachusetts residents. Of UMass Lowell's 80,283 living alumni, 49,733 live in the commonwealth.

RAISE THE ROOF!

The cast of "Fiddler on the Roof" (including Eddie Mekka of "Laverne & Shirley" fame, center) played to a nearly full house at Durgin Hall June 27-29. Presented by the Greater Lowell Music Theatre—in partnership with the university's Office of Community Relations—the musical was directed by Jack Neary '73 (see class note on Page 53).

Happy Birthday to Us!

30: The Sound Recording Technology Department graduated its 30th class in May, bringing its alumni base to about 1,000.

45: The Civil and Environmental Engineering Department—which turns the big 4-5 this year—has awarded more than 2,500 undergrad and grad degrees.

60: With nearly 5,000 alumni in its ranks, the Computer and Electrical Engineering Department celebrates six decades this year.

New Degree Programs Address Looming Public Health Crisis

Experts say it's nothing short of a public health-care crisis. The Centers for Disease Control predicts a shortage of 250,000 health-care workers in the United States by the year 2020. In Massachusetts alone, employment in public health occupations is expected to grow by 25 percent by 2050.

Responding to this growing crisis, the College of Health Sciences is introducing new bachelor's and master's public health degree programs for the fall semester.

"Our goal is to produce graduates who can have a positive impact on health by decreasing the incidence of preventable diseases while reducing health-care costs," says Dean Shortie McKinney of the College of Health Sciences.

Trends fueling the workforce shortage include a greater public interest in health promotion and disease prevention, an aging population and an increase in the number of people retiring from jobs in the public health field.

"We have faculty experts in place who are world-renowned in their fields to deliver high-caliber programs that will motivate and educate the next generation of public health professionals," says McKinney.

Students enrolled in the bachelor of science in public health degree program will choose between three options—community health and health promotion, environmental and occupational health, and health sciences. One of the options in the master of public health degree (M.P.H.) program is global environmental sustainability and health. Additional options for the M.P.H. program are in the planning stages.

Downtown Innovation Hub to Offer Startups Room to Grow

Thanks to funding from the state, UMass Lowell is better able to help medical-device and bio-tech startup companies supported by the university's Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2) and will also expand its startup space for a wide range of other types of ventures.

The funding will be used to help build the university's Downtown Innovation Hub, located in a renovated mill in Lowell's emergent Hamilton Canal District.

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center granted $4 million to create the Big Company/Little Company Innovation Hub to support M2D2, a joint initiative of UMass Lowell and UMass Worcester that provides medical-device entrepreneurs with access to world-class researchers and resources. The grant will allow M2D2 to dedicate 11,000 square feet of incubator space for startup companies at the Hamilton Canal facility. M2D2 will continue to operate an additional 11,000 square feet of incubator space it has managed at Wannalancit Building for several years.

"We are grateful to Gov. Patrick and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center for recognizing how M2D2 helps entrepreneurs turn innovative ideas into real products," says UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan.

In April, Gov. Deval Patrick announced $1 million in other state funding, which will be used to build research and development labs on another floor of the Hamilton Canal facility.

FORMER MILL COUNTING HOUSE BECOMES ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP CENTER

The new UMass Lowell alumni scholarship center has been named in tribute to distinguished alumnus Charles J. Hoff '66, '04 (H). The center is located in the newly renovated administration building of the former Lawrence Manufacturing Co. at 1 Perkins St., Lowell.

The naming recognizes Hoff's leadership as the chair of UMass Lowell's first-ever major comprehensive fundraising campaign, as well as his generous legacy of giving to the university. This includes a recent major commitment, in addition to his steadfast support of the Charles J. Hoff Scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to students across the entire University of Massachusetts system. The program is the largest privately initiated scholarship program in UMass history.

The new Charles J. Hoff Alumni Scholarship Center offers meeting and reception space for alumni and campus events and houses Office of University Advancement operations.

The $2 million renovation is a showpiece for the dramatic expansion of the UMass Lowell campus and is located in what was known as the counting house at the Lawrence Manufacturing Co. Built in 1877, it is a historic landmark built in High Victorian Gothic style.

Helping Student Vets Put Military Experience to Work

Twenty-five veterans earning degrees at UMass Lowell are participating in a program designed to help them translate their military strengths into success in one of Massachusetts' fastest-growing industries.

UMass Lowell is the first university in Massachusetts to work with Edge4Vets to provide specialized training as well as connections with prominent companies in life sciences as a way to offer the student-veterans entry into the field. Among the benefits of the program are guaranteed interviews for internships with major employers.

Executives from sponsoring companies participate as mentors during workshops where student-veterans are instructed in how to find their strengths, develop confidence expressing them and make connections to build a network of contacts that can land them a job and career.

More than 1,400 student-veterans attend UMass Lowell, which is ranked among the most military-friendly schools in the nation by G.I. Jobs magazine. Home to award-winning ROTC units and an active student-veterans organization, the university in 2011 established an Office of Veterans Services and dedicated space on campus to serve this population's specific needs.

The Office of Veterans Services serves 1,400 student-veterans with programs like Edge4Vets, which trains them for careers in the life-sciences industry.

Greher Named Donahue Professor

Music Prof. Gena Greher is the newest Nancy Donahue Endowed Professor of the Arts, a position funded through a $500,000 gift from patrons Richard and Nancy Donahue to support arts education.

Greher will use the award to support the Lowell Youth Orchestra and the Lowell String Project, which provide high-quality stringed-instrument instruction and creative music classes to Lowell Public School students. The String Project offers university students hands-on experience teaching children.

Greher's work has been largely collaborative. Sound Thinking, a class co-taught with Jesse Heines of the Computer Science Department, brings the seemingly opposite worlds of music and computers together. Greher and Heines recently published a book called "Computational Thinking in Sound: Teaching the Art and Science of Music and Technology."

SHINA NAMED CHAMP OF REDUCING TOXICS

Getting the lead out of electronics isn't easy. But Prof. Sammy Shina has stayed the course since 1999. He founded the New England Lead-Free Electronics Consortium, a group of about 30 electronics companies, that has worked together to find safer alternatives to lead used on circuit boards.

For his leadership, inspiration and determination, the Toxics Use Reduction Institute, state Sen. Marc Pacheco, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection David Cash and state legislators recently recognized Shina as the "Academic Champion of Toxics Use Reduction" at a Massachusetts State House ceremony.

Alumni Saluted for Commitment to Community, Campus

UMass Lowell presented its annual University Alumni Awards recently to seven graduates who have distinguished themselves professionally and have also supported the university with exceptional leadership and service to the campus and community:

James J. Barry, Ph.D. '88 of Marlborough (College of Sciences) is principal at the Convergent Biomedical Group and holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Lowell and a B.S. in chemistry from Saint Anselm College.

Mark Cocozza '71 of Boston (Manning School of Business) is chairman of the board of Grandview International, a global distributor of footwear and accessories.

Louis B. Coiro '82 of Andover (College of Health Sciences) is the owner and founder of Tewksbury Physical Therapy and Drum Hill Physical and Sports Therapy in Chelmsford.

Patricia Dyer McPhail '54 of Hattiesburg, Miss. (Graduate School of Education), a prominent member of the real estate community in Mississippi for nearly 40 years, is a former president of Pat McPhail Inc. and McPhail Enterprises Inc.

Jacqueline Moloney, Ed.D. '75, '92 of Chelmsford (College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences) is executive vice chancellor of UMass Lowell. She founded UMass Lowell's highly successful online education program, which has earned several prestigious international awards.

Richard A. Pierro Jr. '83 of Hampton Falls, N.H. (Francis College of Engineering), is president and co-owner of Superior Controls in Seabrook, N.H.

Adam M. Hogue '03 of Lincoln (Recent Alumnus Award) is an adviser at Coastal Capital Group LLC, a financial-planning firm in Danvers, as well as the author of the book, "Shaping the Battlefield," about his experiences during an 11-month military deployment in Afghanistan.

UMASS LOWELL CELEBRATES CAMBODIAN CULTURE

The university celebrated Cambodian history and culture this spring, starting with an April 3 festival at Durgin Hall, featuring dance and music, a sculpture display and a panel discussion on post-traumatic stress in refugee communities. More than 500 people attended the performance by the Angkor Dance Troupe (below), Flying Orb Productions and UMass Lowell's World Music Ensemble.

On April 13, the exhibit "Lowell: A City of Refugees, a Community of Citizens" opened at Western Avenue Studios, part of a collaboration between UMass Lowell's Cambodia Project and the Lowell Public Schools. The Cambodia Project, funded by a UMass Creative Economy grant, is the brainchild of Assoc. Prof. Pat Fontaine of the Graduate School of Education, who was inspired by her experiences working with Cambodian children at an after school program in Lowell. The opening of the multimedia exhibit—which showcased the stories of four Cambodians who were forced to leave their homeland during the genocidal reign of Pol Pot from 1975 to 1979—was attended by former Gov. Michael Dukakis and his wife, Kitty. Kitty Dukakis traveled to the refugee camps in 1985 and personally helped many Cambodians immigrate here.

On June 8, the Cambodia Project led the dedication of a healing garden at Clemente Park in Lowell to Cambodians who died or fled their homeland in the 1970s.

Symposium cements university's role as innovation thought leader

If it were a business, the third annual Deshpande Symposium for Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Higher Education would be a mighty hot commodity. The three-day conference is about making business from concepts, and it happened at UMass Lowell from June 10-12.

The symposium drew 250 participants (that's 100 more than last year) from 80 colleges and universities across the U.S. as well as from Canada and India. Under such headers as "Ecosystems," "Curriculum," "Commercialization" and "Trends," the assembled gathered in workshops and heard such superstar guests as Mary Sue Coleman, outgoing president of the University of Michigan, dubbed by Time magazine as one of the top 10 college presidents in the nation.

It also gave a couple of homegrown stars—Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney and Vice Provost for Research Julie Chen—a chance to boast a little about UMass Lowell's ascendance over the past seven years.

You can't imagine the change this university has gone through," said Moloney.

Chen pointed to alumnus Mark Saab's route back here. He is, Chen told an opening night welcome gathering, "an engineering graduate who dreamed up a new, ultra-thin kind of medical tubing."

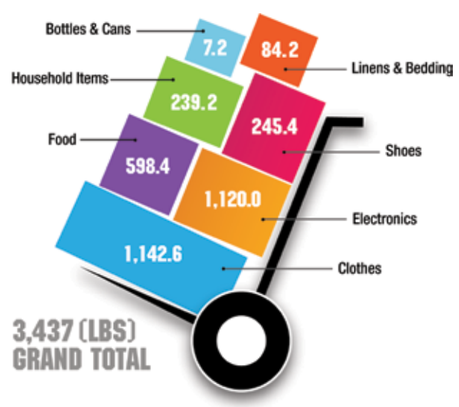
Now, the building in which the reception was held is called the Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center because the world embraced his discovery and he embraced the place that helped lead him there.

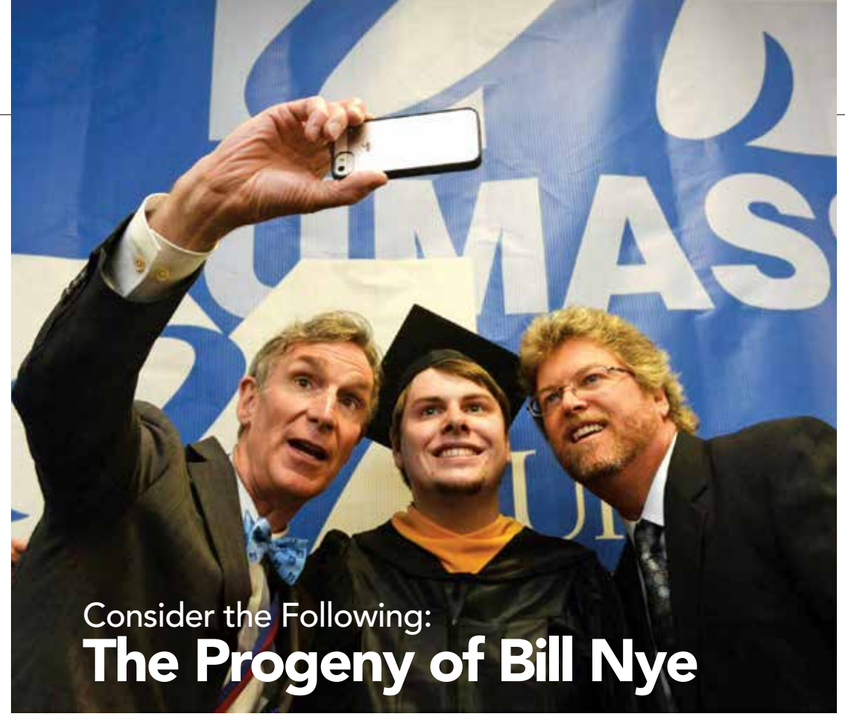
In a breakfast keynote, Coleman looked around the room and remarked that "the re-imagined future is happening now."

That's what it felt like to symposium organizer Steven Tello, associate vice chancellor of entrepreneurship and economic development. "I can't stop myself from grinning as I look around the room," he said. ■

MORE THAN A TON OF GOOD

During Earth Week and move-out, the university collected more than 3,400 pounds of goods—and 2,200 were delivered to the Lowell Humane Society, the Wish Project and the House of Hope. Another 1,000 pounds of large electronics collected were recycled through Northeast Material Handling of Lowell. Bottles and cans collected were redeemed for funds that will benefit the new UMass Lowell Community Garden.





Consider the Following:

The Progeny of Bill Nye

BY JULIA GAVIN

Ben Blais '14 watched Bill Nye's TV show as a kid, along with many of his fellow 2014 graduates, making the Science Guy's commencement speech a fitting sendoff as Blais enters the working world. The same show that sparked the new grad's interest in science and technology gave his uncle Tom, a fellow alum, his first big break as a young sound engineer.

A few years after graduation, Tom McGurk '91 was working in a Seattle music studio. He heard about a new kids show starring a scientist/stand-up comedian that needed some talented ears and jumped on the (late-night, low-paying and, eventually, career-launching) opportunity. McGurk was a founding member of the Audio Sweetening Team of Science that gave Bill Nye the Science Guy's show its unique and award-winning sound.

"There was no money to hire a producer to oversee us, so we did lots of crazy creative things, and the show took off from there," says McGurk, who made Nye sound good in the lab, upside down in an F18, underwater and in many other technically trying situations. "Next thing we knew, we were down in L.A. for the Emmys."

They won. And won again the next year. In all, McGurk won seven Emmys for his sound work on Nye's team.

What was a comedy-sketch-turned-science-show doing winning awards for sound?

Researchers have found that singing helps people remember things by using different parts of the brain. It's science! Setting lessons to pop music and adding fun sounds helps kids get past anxieties about learning science. It obviously worked; many fans are still able to quote "Science Guy" facts in melody years later.

"We did a show that wasn't only educational," says Nye. "Anything that's on television has to be entertaining first. So if you want things to be entertaining, you can't beat music and you can't beat comedy."

Nye's show aired on TV and in classrooms across the country for years. He and McGurk see its effects daily in people like Blais. McGurk's younger colleagues are mildly impressed by his work on big movies and with famous musicians, but his connection to Nye always gets the best reaction, 20 years later.

"We didn't know it at the time, but we had a huge effect. Now, we're looking around and saying, 'God, look what we were a part of!'" says McGurk, who now co-owns Bad Animals Studio with Nye co-worker Mike McCaulliffe. "Honest to God, my education at the university is absolutely the reason I got that far."

Nye is equally proud of the show and the team behind it. Meeting young people who entered his lab every Saturday "is the greatest thing and so gratifying."

The Science Guy knows graduation day is a whirlwind, and speeches don't always stick the same way a rock song about air pressure does, but hopes the newest batch of UMass Lowell alumni will retain their excitement about education:

"I just want people to remember how they felt. I hope they felt empowered and excited about their future." ■

The OTHER SIDE of our Commencement Ringmaster

Hey, that's Rick! Director of Special Events Rick Sherburne's friends and family have been saying that a lot recently. They'll be watching television and up he'll pop in commercial-land, his mild-mannered, reassuring voice hawking Safe-Step Walk-in tubs, a bath modification aimed at seniors nationwide.

Sherburne, who oversees such campus productions as Commencement and the recent Meryl Streep visit (Page 26), did some acting in school and attended Emerson not for the stage but for business communications. Once his children were born (Jake, now 25, and Abigail, 22), he let it go: "From ages 30 to 48, I didn't do much. I worked and parented. Life happens. But I've done more in the past five years than the preceding 20."

He performs mostly in regional theater and summer productions of the likes of "Les Misèrables," "My Fair Lady" and "Chicago." In June, he played butcher Lazar Wolf in the Greater Lowell Music Theatre's Durgin Hall production of "Fiddler on the Roof," directed by playwright Jack Neary '73. And now, thanks to the commercial, this part-time actor is getting more widespread exposure than ever.

HOW DID UMASS LOWELL TRANSFORM YOU?

New Grads Reflect on UMass Lowell Experience

A record number of students—3,478—graduated during two commencement ceremonies held May 17 at at the Tsongas Center "As we strive for excellence in every aspect of the university, we are also transforming campus life at UMass Lowell, Chancellor Marty Meehan told graduates. "The Class of 2014, more than any in my seven years as chancellor, has experienced this metamorphosis." We asked a handful of new grads how the university helped inspire their own personal transformations:

"I DIDN'T KNOW PAINTING WAS A CAREER OPTION before I got to UMass Lowell. I've had a lot of different opportunities in my time here with materials, collaborations across departments and overseas connections that have shown me the possibilities."

— Jessica Tawczynski, fine arts

"BEING PART OF THE CONCRETE CANOE TEAM was a memorable experience. Working with teammates on a yearlong project was intense but a lot of fun. It felt great applying what we learned in classes to our project."

— Patrick Raistrick, civil engineering

"I'VE CREATED STORIES I'LL TELL FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. From overnight broadcasts for spring carnival and holiday cover shows at WUML, to spur-of-the-moment road trips with friends, my time here will be something I always remember."

— Ryan Liebel, English, journalism and professional writing

"THE PROFESSORS AND THE STAFF AT UMASS LOWELL have such a strong commitment to the students. The support I've gotten has been incredible … the guidance has made such a difference."

— Kimberly Chao, accounting and finance

"I'VE MADE SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS HERE. It's helpful to have roommates and teammates I can really talk to. They're always there for me on the overwhelming days and always encourage me to keep going."

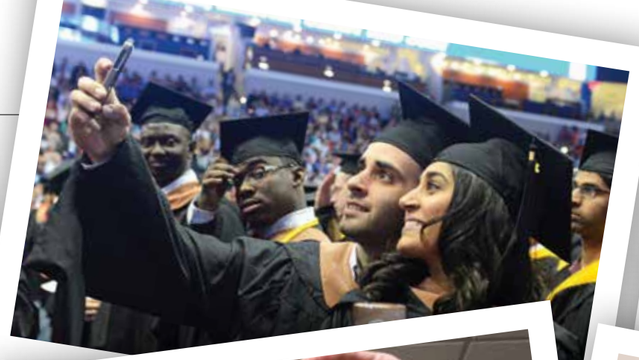
— Keith Lewis, psychology

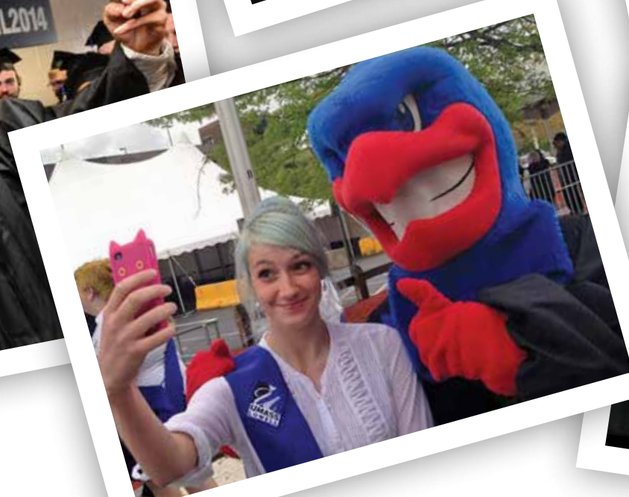
"I FEEL LIKE I'M READY FOR THE NEXT STEP OF MY LIFE. UMass Lowell has helped fuel my passion and given me a clearer view of what I would like to do with my life—not just for a career but also the way I want to live."

— Tiffany Blake, environmental health

Year of the 'Selfie'

Forget Barack Obama's selfie at Nelson Mandela's funeral, or Ellen DeGeneres' group shot at the Oscars. Forget even the hordes of fans at this summer's Tour de France risking life and limb (their own and those of the cyclists) to get the most perfect, most dramatic self-portrait on the sidelines of the course. We'd take the UMass Lowell Class of 2014 over all of those people in a Selfie Olympics—as long as they weren't up against our 2014 morning Commencement speaker, Bill Nye. "The Science Guy" even got Chancellor Marty Meehan in on the act—along with deans, faculty, staffers and one oversized avian mascot. Nye is renowned for taking selfies wherever he goes. In fact, the Monday after Commencement he posted a photo of himself biking in New York City—still wearing his UMass Lowell bow tie (below). Thumbs up!





Art Students' Work Picked for 80-foot Display in Boston

For two years, Massachusetts art students have had the opportunity to share their work with hundreds of thousands of people—audiences only dreamed of by most aspiring artists.

Art on the Marquee showcases works on its 80-foot-tall, seven-screen LED marquee outside the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in South Boston. Entries are judged by a group of artists, curators and Boston Convention Center staff.

This year, three of the seven artists selected were from Assoc. Prof. Ellen Wetmore's Studio Workshop in Video Installation class, and their work will be seen throughout the summer by people in cars, on foot, in meetings and hotels in the vicinity of the bustling Summer Street marquee location. All selected works are featured every Sunday at 8 p.m.

Joseph Amico's work, called "Community," is a 30-second video with an inside look at the mechanics of a clock. Hannah McGrath created a work called "Sunken Cities"—a mixed-media, stop-motion animation and video inspired by the Quabbin Reservoir, which was created by flooding four western Massachusetts towns. Jia Yi Lin's work, "Disappearing Horse," is inspired by "Alice in Wonderland" and Alice's experiences traveling through different worlds after falling into the rabbit hole.

Jia Yi Lin, Hannah McGrath and Joseph Amico, from left

Students Bring TEDx to Lowell

Members of the university's Honors Ambassadors Program organized the first TEDx Lowell event, bringing together 100 attendees and speakers from several fields. Community members, students and industry professionals spoke about topics including street design, community journalism, prosthetics and environmental innovation.

Hit the Road

Students are studying all over the world this summer, on faculty-led trips in places like Athens (nursing and psychology, above); Cadiz, Spain (cultural studies); Costa Rica (comparative management); London (English) and Paris (cultural studies).

Are you traveling this summer, too? Snap a photo in your UMass Lowell apparel and share it on social media for a chance to win a gift card to the university bookstore. Use the hashtag #uml travels.

STUDENTS TAKE CONTROL OF MEDIA IN NEW MINOR

Sean McCarthy directs camera operators, asks on-air talent to speak up and edits on the fly behind the controls of Mahoney Hall's new TV studio. He's worked in media for several years but saw the new TV production class as an opportunity to improve his knowledge of the shifting field. Helping to build the studio was a bonus.

"We started with an empty room, blue walls and a desk," says McCarthy, a philosophy major with a concentration in communications. "But we worked hard setting up equipment and getting the studio ready. It's cool to start at nothing and have a professional studio in just a few months."

While the studio has only been up and running for a semester, the groundwork for the new digital media minor and its classes have been in the works for some time. Director and Lecturer Wael Kamal came to campus a few years ago focused on bringing media studies opportunities to students.

"With shows and advertising moving online, TV may seem like old media, but it's still alive and it's changing," he says.

The minor covers the changing media field including online multimedia production, TV and filmmaking. Students will also learn about the history, laws and artistic aspects of media by taking classes in several departments, capitalizing on the minor's interdisciplinary nature.

$35K IDEA CHALLENGE WINNER: HUNGRY FOR SOLUTION

Support Our Students, a proposal for a campus community shop aimed at eliminating student hunger, was the top money-winner in this year's DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge. The $7,000 prize will allow its six-member team to move forward in turning its idea into reality.

Thirteen teams competed in the second year finals of DifferenceMakers, whittled down from 70 applicants (nearly double the amount that entered first year) and 42 semifinalists. The $35,000 purse money—spread between several winning teams—will help students file patents, purchase supplies and develop business strategies to flesh out their ideas.

Young Entrepreneurs Win $25K Design Competition

Nonspec—a startup company established by UMass Lowell engineering-students-turned-entrepreneurs to design and mass-produce affordable prosthetic limbs for children in developing countries—won the top prize of $25,000 during the eighth annual American Society of Mechanical Engineers Innovation Showcase, held April 28 in Washington, D.C.

The university beat eight other entries from seven schools, namely Johns Hopkins University, the University of Virginia, Rice University, George Washington University, the University of Hawaii, the University of Michigan and Western New England University.

"The prize money will sustain us over the summer as we embark on human U.S. trials. The future of Nonspec is looking bright," says Erin Keaney, one of the company's founders who graduated in May with a master's degree in plastics engineering.

Nonspec received its initial start-up funding through the university's DifferenceMaker program.

From left, Nonspec members Katherine Cain, Erin Keaney, Jonathan de Alderete and Brendan Donoghue pose with the ASME check for $25,000 in Washington, D.C.

CHAMPS!

The ice hockey team celebrated its second consecutive Hockey East championship before heading to the Northeast finals of the NCAA tournament, where it came within one game of repeating its 2013 Frozen Four appearance. A couple of months later, goalie Connor Hellebuyck (front, left of trophy) signed a three-year contract with the National Hockey League's Winnipeg Jets worth $925,000 annually.

Q&A

With Athletic Director Dana Skinner On the River Hawks' First Year in Division I

This spring, the university passed another landmark in its path to growth. Having already managed a near 50 percent increase in endowment, a 45 percent rise in enrollment and a campus-wide infrastructure explosion—all in the seven years since the arrival of Marty Meehan as chancellor—UMass Lowell has now moved its athletic program into the nation's top tier: Its athletic teams, all 16 of them (there will be 18 a year from now when lacrosse is added for men and women) have just completed their first full year as members of the NCAA's Division I.

The move, which elevates the university from the Northeast-10 Conference of Division II to Division I's America East Conference, took effect last fall.

The transition has made for a busy first year, says longtime Athletic Director Dana Skinner, who has been at the forefront of the move. —we asked him to reflect on the challenges of the past 12 months, as well as those that lie ahead.

Can you give us some idea of what's been involved in making this move possible?

Probably more than you'd think. Because we're so early in the transition, there's still a lot of learning to do. We're continuing to do a good amount of research. We also had to submit a five-year strategic plan when we applied to elevate to Division I. The plan included a detailed budget projection; they want to know our plans, our goals and how we're going to support Division I. Finally, we are talking with other schools that have made the same transition, to try to get an idea of what to expect in the years ahead. That information has been very helpful. But it's quite a process.

What about new hiring?

Plenty of that, too. We've been involved in 30 different job searches since last July, most of them for new positions, but also head-coach positions in volleyball, women's soccer and women's basketball. Certainly there's been a lot of growing involved.

All that must cost a lot of money. How are you handling it budget-wise?

The costs are certainly much higher in Division I, but there are also many new revenue sources that come with the increase in visibility. Ticket revenues for sports beyond hockey, sponsorship opportunities, NCAA revenues and game guarantees are key to meeting our budget goals. Plus, the university has committed additional revenue.

Outside of costs, what are the challenges?

Initially it's recruiting. Asking student-athletes to come to an institution that can't offer post-season competition during the four-year transition is not an easy sell for the coaches. [NCAA rules stipulate that for the first four years of Division I membership a team may not compete in NCAA tournaments]. For top athletes that's a tough one to swallow.

So how do you draw them? How do you compensate for that?

To start with, we emphasize that they'll be part of a transformational moment in the school's history—that they will forever be the student-athletes that took the university to Division I. It's a proud role they are playing to advance the institution.

And if that's not enough?

Sometimes it isn't. And we don't stop with that. For one thing, unlike a lot of schools just coming into Division I, we scheduled a full Division I slate of games in all sports. Our schedules included Notre Dame, Michigan, Boston College, Northwestern, Nebraska and Oklahoma—so our athletes benefitted from some great trips and received national exposure. Also, we signed a radio agreement with ESPN New Hampshire [to cover men's basketball and hockey], which gives us an affiliation with the top media name in sports. And we partnered with Under Armour, one of the three top brands in sports apparel. So we've done all we could to make the university attractive to high-quality student-athletes.

Let's talk about the big picture. From the perspective of the university at large, what's the advantage of being in Division I?

Actually, the decision to make the move wasn't as much about athletics as it was about institutional affiliation. When we looked around at our peer institutions, the schools we most resembled—like UNH, URI, Georgia State—they're all Division I. So it just made sense from that perspective; it seemed like a natural evolution.

But how do you put a value on the visibility we're getting—for instance, playing a game in Michigan in front a full house, then getting a highlight on ESPN?

I don't think you can put a dollar value on that. Athletics isn't the most important thing a university does, but done well, it is the most visible.

Overall, how would you sum up year one in DI?

I'd call it a success. We took full advantage of the many opportunities. Our mission word for the year is "resolute." As for teams, we're very proud of their accomplishments in year one. Men's basketball finished the year with a .500 conference record; the baseball team was third in its conference, also at .500; track and field captured eight conference individual championships. Most important, our student-athletes' overall GPA was over a 3.0.

It was the right move at the right time. The whole campus has embraced it—Admissions, Advancement, Financial Aid, the Registrar. Everybody's on board, everybody feels the same: that we're competing at a different level. I think it's made the university, for our students, a better place to be. And for our alums, a better place to be from. ■

To support our Division I efforts, visit uml.edu/athleticgiving.

A New Run on the Record Book

Records are made to be broken, but that does not begin to explain the beat down the UMass Lowell track and field teams gave to the River Hawk Record Book during the 2013-14 season.

Eleven school records were broken, some of them several times. Seven came during the indoor season, four outdoors. The women's team needed the eraser six times. The men's team wrote five new standards into the book.

Junior **Taelour Murphy** (Salisbury) kept the stat people busy; she was responsible for four individual records and was part of a fifth as a member of a relay team. All of that came during a four-month assault on school sprint history.

Murphy now holds the 200 and 400 meter dash records indoors and the 100 and 200 meter outdoor records. Murphy along with teammates sophomore **Andrea Fanciullo** (Townsend), junior **Alexis Kitsakos** (Merrimac) and senior **Elisabeth Monty** (Charlton) set a new school record in the 4x400 meter relay.

Monty also wrote her name into the record book in the 500 meter dash indoors.

Four different men set individual school records; one was also part of a relay record.

Junior **Robert Allen** (Cranston, R. I.) nearly became the first River Hawk athlete to run a sub four-minute mile indoors. He just missed, but his time of four minutes and 35 hundredths of a second was the fastest in school history.

Senior **Omar Abdi** (Boston) earned a spot in the record book in the 1,000 meters. Abdi also competed in the World Championships representing his homeland of Somalia.

Abdi was also part of the 4x800 meter relay team that set a new outdoor school record. He was joined in the event by grad student **Drew Butler** (The Woodlands, Texas), junior **Cameron Kelley** (Methuen) and senior **David Brown** (Chelmsford).

Two records were also set in field events. Senior thrower **Devin O'Neill** (Braintree) put his name in the record book in the javelin in the final competition of his collegiate career with a throw of 209-feet 9-inches.

Junior **Garrett King** (Amesbury) set a new school record in the pole vault clearing the bar at 15-feet 5-inches indoors.

A new school year is only a couple of months away; the record book is not safe.

Taelour Murphy launched a relentless assault on the UMass Lowell track and field record book setting four individual sprint records and was part of a fifth as a member of a relay team.

BLUE: ALL IN

A record crowd of 7,649 fans packed the Tsongas Center for the first-ever Blue Out Night as the No. 7 River Hawks faced the No. 1 Boston College Eagles in the final 2013-14 regular season home game on Feb. 22. The game ended in a 2-2 tie. Fans who were in their seats by the 7 p.m. puck drop received a free blue River Hawk T-shirt.

FERRARO FINISHES IN STYLE

The recently graduated Ali Ferraro, facing front, finished her career as a two-sport athlete in softball and field hockey as most could only hope. The four-year starter at third for the softball team concluded her career in that sport with a two-run home run to right field, delighting her teammates and those in attendance for the River Hawks' 7-0 drubbing of Hartford on Senior Day, May 3. A couple years earlier, Ferraro played her final game as a member of the field hockey team in the Division II NCAA Championship game against West Chester. Despite a 2-1 loss to the Golden Rams, Ferraro went out by scoring the team's lone goal.

GET WIND OF THIS

New funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) will put UMass Lowell in the forefront of wind energy research in Massachusetts.

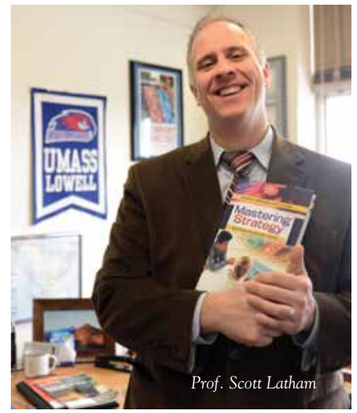
The university recently received funding from the NSF to lead a consortium of industry, academia and government groups that will make wind energy more cost effective and help develop an innovative and competitive workforce.

The project—called WindSTAR for Wind Energy, Science, Technology and Research—will provide a forum in which wind turbine manufacturers, component and equipment suppliers, service companies and project developers can work together to solve problems. Undergraduate and graduate students will also be taught the design, manufacture, operation and maintenance of wind-energy systems.

Other collaborators include the University of Texas at Dallas, Iowa State University, Southern Maine Community College, the Maine Wind Industry Initiative and the Kid-Wind Project.

"Between contributions from NSF, the university and industry members, the investment into this one-of-a-kind national center will be more than $620,000 in the first year," says WindSTAR researcher and mechanical engineering Prof. Christopher Niezrecki.

The United States now obtains more than 4 percent of its electricity from wind energy, notes Niezrecki. The Department of Energy has shown that it is possible to double that amount by 2020 and hopes to evenually achieve 20 percent of the nation's electricity from wind. The WindSTAR Center hopes to be an important asset in achieving these goals.



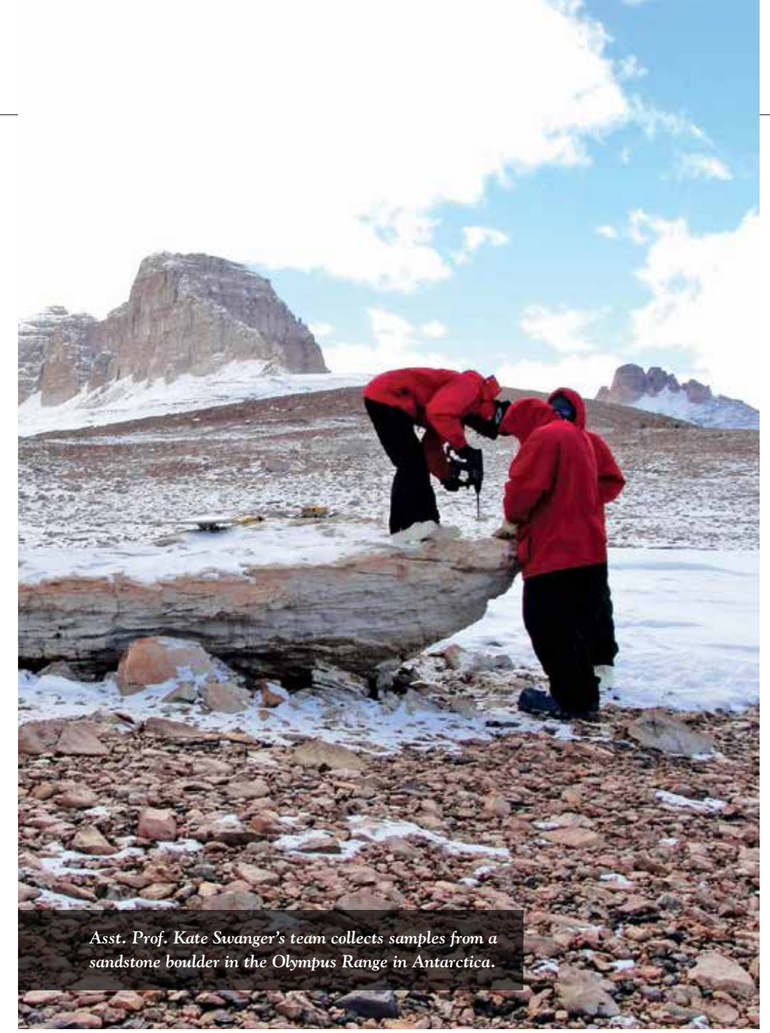
Prof. Scott Latham

No Strategy, No Success: Professor Decodes Business Strategy

With the failure rate for startups as high as 80 percent, businesses can't afford to give short shrift to a well-planned strategy. Successful entrepreneurs share a number of common traits, says Manning School of Business Prof. Scott Latham, who teaches strategic management and strategy formation and implementation. One key factor, he says, is having the discipline to say "no" to ideas or proposals that can drain resources and divert focus.

Latham recently co-authored "Mastering Strategy" with Michael Braun, a professor at the University of Montana. The book explores the development of successful business strategies and examines some of the common mistakes that derail entrepreneurs and experienced business people alike.

The authors offer guidelines for assessing the business environment, charting growth, planning diversification and suggestions for measuring success. They use examples of actual strategy decisions by companies including Apple, Southwest Airlines and Netflix along with stories about every-day products like Crocs and Neutrogena soap.


Asst. Prof. Kate Swanger's team collects samples from a sandstone boulder in the Olympus Range in Antarctica.

Swanger Travels to Antarctica to Study Glaciers and Climate Change

Glaciers occupy only about 10 percent of Earth's land surface but they hold roughly three-quarters of the planet's fresh water.

A UMass Lowell professor led an expedition to Antarctica to better understand how that continent's glaciers have responded to climate fluctuations.

Kate Swanger, an assistant professor in the Department of Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and her team were in Antarctica from November 2013 to January 2014. A three-year $124,070 grant from the National Science Foundation supported their analysis and dating of past advances of alpine glaciers.

"Given Earth's changing climate and its potential future impact on ice volume and sea level, it is crucial to gain a better understanding of past advances and retreats of Antarctic ice, especially under higher carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere and/or warmer-than-present conditions," says Swanger.

'Storm Surge' Predicts the Effects of Climate Change on Boston

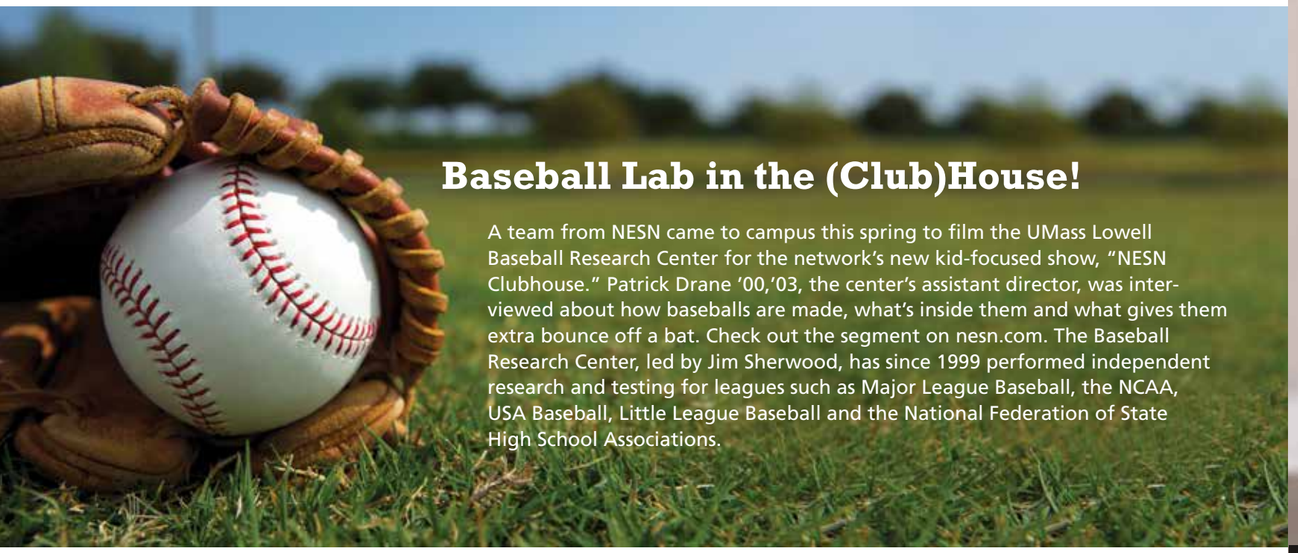
An interactive city-wide exhibit called "Storm Surge in Boston" kicked off in May, giving the public a glimpse of what the landscape could look like if global warming goes unchecked. The month-long exhibit was the latest undertaking by the Graduate School of Education-led ScienceToGo.org, a campaign to engage the public in learning about climate change.

"Storm Surge in Boston" shows eight key points in the city to which sea level would rise—at minimum—if climate change continues unabated.

Launched in October 2013, ScienceToGo.org is engaging the public on the issue of climate change by bringing science education out of the classroom and into everyday life. A joint project of UMass Lowell, UMass Boston, Hofstra University and the Museum of Science, the program is supported by a National Science Foundation grant.

Last year, ScienceToGo.org introduced posters aboard the MBTA's Red and Orange line trains and in stations to encourage the 500,000 commuters who ride the public-transit routes daily to learn more about climate science. Each month, riders are introduced to new messages from "Ozzie the Ostrich" and his flock, who share insights about how climate change affects the Boston area and how the public can get involved with efforts to avert it.

scienceto GO.org™



Baseball Lab in the (Club)House!

A team from NESN came to campus this spring to film the UMass Lowell Baseball Research Center for the network's new kid-focused show, "NESN Clubhouse." Patrick Drane '00,'03, the center's assistant director, was interviewed about how baseballs are made, what's inside them and what gives them extra bounce off a bat. Check out the segment on nesn.com. The Baseball Research Center, led by Jim Sherwood, has since 1999 performed independent research and testing for leagues such as Major League Baseball, the NCAA, USA Baseball, Little League Baseball and the National Federation of State High School Associations.

POLL: MAJORITY OF AMERICANS FAVOR GUN CONTROL

A majority of Americans support major policy changes when it comes to gun control, according to a recent national poll from the UMass Lowell Center for Public Opinion.

The survey of 1,000 adults found that 78 percent favor more thorough background checks for those buying guns, including in-depth psychological evaluations, and 80 percent support closing what is known as the "gun show loophole," which allows individuals to purchase guns without the same background checks used in other types of sales, says Assoc. Prof. Joshua Dyck, co-director of the center.

While a large percentage of those who said they support more thorough background checks identified themselves as Democrats and independents, 70 percent of Republicans surveyed also said they support such a move. Tea Party supporters were nearly split on expanding background checks, with 51 percent opposed and 49 percent in favor.

Similar bipartisan support was found for closing the "gun show loophole" and a greater number of Tea Party members (65 percent) said they are in favor of the reform.

In addition, 60 percent of those polled said they support banning the sale of assault weapons. Those who identify as strongly Democratic (70 percent) stated the strongest support for the measure, while only 18 percent of Tea Party members were in favor and 45 percent were strongly opposed. About a third of all Republicans (32 percent strongly identifying as Republican and 36 percent of others) said they favor a ban.

Center for Terrorism and Security Studies Receives $2M in Minerva Awards

Mia Bloom

John Horgan

Researchers from UMass Lowell's Center for Terrorism and Security Studies (CTSS) will launch two studies on terrorist behavior after being selected to receive $2 million in grants from the Minerva Initiative.

The Minerva Initiative, a Department of Defense-sponsored, social science research group, announced 12 awards for 2014. UMass Lowell was the only university selected to receive two.

Professor and CTSS Director John Horgan, with his colleague Prof. Scott Flower, will use $1.3 million to examine the role of Muslim converts from the U.S. and explore why they are statistically overrepresented in Islamic extremist activity.

Prof. Mia Bloom's project mapping the pathways of children's mobilization into terrorism will receive $941,169 from Minerva. The project will examine how and why children are increasingly involved in terrorist operations in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Israel-Palestine, Iraq, Syria and Somalia.

Both projects represent unprecedented international efforts for the CTSS, which launched in September 2013 when Horgan and Bloom joined the faculty. Horgan, whose research focuses on terrorist behavior, is a member of the FBI National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime's research working group. Bloom, a former member of the Council on Foreign Relations, focuses on understanding suicide terrorism and the victimization of women and children in political violence.

Features

Inside...

ALIVE AND KICKING

Roseann Sdoia '91 lost most of her right leg during the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, but she never lost her spirit. Read about her journey in "Love from the Ruins" on Page 42. Here, Sdoia is shown at the Boston Marathon finish line, where she participated in the Dear World portrait project, in which people from all walks of life share messages about themselves (in this case by writing them on their skin).

Photo credit: Dear World

STRAIGHT**STREEP**

MERYL ON CAMPUS: THE ZEN OF CRAFT, THE MYSTERY OF ACTING

MERYL STREEP was due on campus any minute. The celebrated actress was en route to the university to speak, raise money for scholarships and meet with students. But just before she reached the Tsongas Center, Streep missed a turn in downtown Lowell.

— BY JILL GAMBON —

As Streep, who made the three-hour trip alone from her home in northwest Connecticut, drove the narrow street, past the Worthen House, Lowell's oldest tavern, past acclaimed painter James McNeill Whistler's birthplace, she realized she had lost her way. Unfazed by the unfamiliar, she grabbed her cell phone and called the University's event staff for directions. Her course corrected, she was soon pulling up to the Tsongas Center, right on cue.

That self-possession and let's-do-this spirit marked Streep's April 1 appearance on campus, which was the latest installment in the Chancellor's Speaker Series. In her whirlwind six-hour visit, Streep answered questions about her storied career, offered advice on breaking into the entertainment business, posed for countless photos and raised more than $230,000 for scholarships.

"It's safe to say, we are in the presence of the greatest actress of our time," Chancellor Marty Meehan said as he introduced Streep to a sold-out crowd at the Tsongas Center. Billed as "A Conversation with Meryl Streep" and moderated by Assoc. Prof. Andre Dubus III, the event evoked the feel of a casual living room chat between two accomplished professionals who just happen to be at the top of their games.

Streep's visit was the result of a chance meeting with Dubus at a 2012 event in New York in which Dubus was picking up an award for "Townie," his best-selling memoir. He approached Streep and struck up a conversation. He was impressed with Streep's warmth and unpretentiousness and especially with her attentiveness to his sister, a young writer, who had accompanied him to the event.

"She was so sweet and genuine. I knew right then I wanted to invite her to UMass Lowell," Dubus recalls. He got in touch with her through mutual friends, actors Chris and Marianne Leone Cooper, and asked her about participating in the Chancellor's Speaker Series. Streep agreed and offered to donate all proceeds from her visit to establish two UMass Lowell scholarships, one for math majors in memory of the late Joan Hertzberg, a college friend, and the other in Streep's name for English majors.

"Having Meryl Streep speak on our campus was undoubtedly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our students, faculty, staff and the community," Meehan says. "We greatly appreciate her generosity, both for sharing her time and experiences with us and for establishing the two new scholarship funds."

Launched in December 2012 with an appearance by best-selling author Stephen King, the speaker series brings renowned individuals who represent excellence in their respective fields to campus. King raised more than $100,000 for a scholarship fund that he and his wife established for UMass Lowell students.

ACTING IS A MYSTERIOUS CRAFT

As they settled into armchairs on the Tsongas Center stage, Dubus had one question in particular that he'd been waiting to ask the three-time Academy Award winner: How do you do what you do? While Streep may make it look effortless when she inhabits a role on stage or screen, she said there were no simple answers to describe how she goes about her work.

"Acting is a very mysterious craft," she said. "The (actors) I admire, I have no idea how they achieve what they do. When you are working with them there's a seamless exchange of thought, emotion and physicality. You can't parse it when you are in the moment."

Getting it right, nailing a scene, creating that smooth exchange—all of that is possible when you stop thinking about what you are doing and let the interaction with the other actors naturally unfold, she said.

"The whole thing happens in the moment. You don't know what the other person is going to do…That's the really exciting part," she said. "When you are doing it right, it feels like the first time you are out riding a bike and not wobbling and you're just looking around. You're riding and you're not thinking about the bike."

Streep, who has been in more than 50 movies spanning numerous genres and been nominated for more awards than any other of her peers, described acting as a form of catharsis, an unleashing of stored up emotions.

Continued

"THE WHOLE THING HAPPENS IN THE MOMENT. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THE OTHER PERSON IS GOING TO DO. THAT'S THE REALLY EXCITING PART."

—Meryl Streep

"You can pull up all the murderous thoughts you've ever had … and put them in a place that won't get you arrested," she explained. "I've always thought, because of that everyone should take acting classes. Why else would these dramas be written if we didn't have all these things buried inside that needed expression and release?"

CAREER ADVICE FROM THE MASTER

Before her appearance at the Tsongas Center, Streep participated in a question-and-answer session with 100 English and theater arts students at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center. By turns thoughtful, quick and funny, Streep fielded questions from students at both events, many of them seeking acting tips or advice on breaking into the entertainment business.

Recalling her own student days, Streep said she didn't take an acting class until she started working on her master's at Yale University School of Drama.

"I took a wide range of courses. I actually think that was my best preparation for being an actor: studying history, religion music, art, psychology," said Streep, who earned her bachelor's degree from Vassar College before attending Yale.

Even as she was starring in college plays, Streep thought she'd eventually pursue a career with more stability and gravitas. She considered taking the entrance exams for law school while she was at Yale.

"I didn't know for a long time what it was I wanted to do," she said. "I felt it wasn't a serious enough thing to do with my life, to be an actor."

But stage roles led to television parts and then films. She made her movie debut in 1977's "Julia." Two years and four movies later, she notched her first Academy Award for her role in "Kramer vs. Kramer." She still seems incredulous at how quickly her career accelerated.

"I just wanted to pay off my student loans. I wanted that monkey off my back," she said, words that earned thunderous applause from students.

Acting, being engaged in the creative process, sustains her, she said.

"What I get from performing is like food to me," she said. And if she wasn't an actress, she'd still want to be a performer.

"In my next life I want to be a musician. That's the highest art. Everybody gets it," she said.

Eschewing the trappings of fame—she had no assistant or stylist or security detail—Streep interacted easily with students, faculty and other guests.

"She is the epitome of class and professionalism. She has maintained a sense of grace that is so rare," says Megan Posco, a senior English major who attended both Streep events.

"I'm so pleased to be able to take advantage of this. The number of well-known intellectual people who are coming to campus is impressive," Posco says. "It makes me very proud."

SALVATION IN HUMOR

Streep, who has a track record of selecting meaty roles, said her agent reads scripts and winnows them down for her. She is drawn to good writing, which is why she has done a number of films that originated as plays, like last year's "August: Osage County," which earned her record-setting 18th Academy Award nomination. Humor, she said, is also hugely appealing.

"I'm a real writing snob," she said, citing Chekov as one of her favorite playwrights. "He understood that even in some of the saddest, most horrific circumstances, there's something funny. That is the way it is in my life. There is something at the funeral that everyone is going to laugh about later, over dinner. I respond to writing that has an understanding not just of the absurdity of things but also of the salvation in humor."

Known for immersing herself in roles like British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher or chef Julia Child and for her mastery of accents and dialects, Streep said she doesn't dwell on how she will bring a character to life.

"I've always felt the characteristics of people sort of appear without my working too much on them. They occur to me, like ideas," she said. To prepare for roles, she has learned to speak Polish, how to play the violin and how to handle whitewater rapids. For an upcoming film, "Ricki and the Flash," in which she portrays a guitar-playing rock' n' roller, Streep is taking bass lessons from none other than Neil Young. His first bit of advice: Don't trip on the electric cords running from guitar to amp, she recounted.

While she inhabits the characters she is portraying, Streep is happy to leave everything behind when she's off the set. "I like to forget about it at home," she said. What does she do with down time? "I watch political shows."

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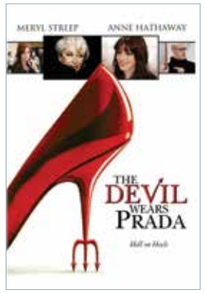

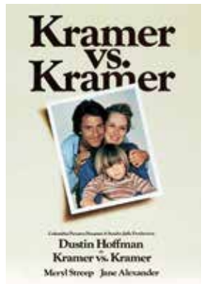

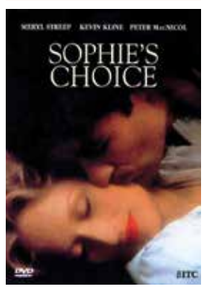

"Don't let the bastards grind you down. Don't give up, don't give up, don't give up."

Throughout her career, balancing her home life—Streep and husband Don Gummer, a sculptor, have four grown children—has been a priority. She said she pursued film roles over theater because movie schedules are more accommodating to family life.

"Film work is a very kind profession for a mother," she said. "I did movies because of my kids."

At 64, Streep has borne witness to dramatic changes in the film industry, including the emerging clout of women writers, directors and actors. The economics of the business have shifted, too.

"What's changed in my business is that the business people run it now. Many studios and even production companies are run by people who don't really even watch movies. They make them and they don't watch them," she said.

She bristles at what she describes as the "reductive" way women are portrayed in the entertainment business, with an emphasis on looks.

"The biggest waste of time in my entire life is thinking about how much I weigh," she said. "You have to think about health and you have to think about exercising so you don't stagnate, but I feel like women obsess on this subject in a completely ridiculous way. Not just actresses, everybody."

Given those pressures, Streep was blunt in her advice to young women who want to break into acting business:

"Don't let the bastards grind you down. Don't give up, don't give up, don't give up."

She advised students who want to be actors to expect long stretches of unemployment and uncertainty in between roles.

"That is the Zen of living," she said. "Actors are given a gift by being uncertain and insecure all the time, because that is life. You don't know what is going to happen, what's going to be thrown at you. You can get ready—and you should get really ready—but you have to live in the encounter, today, in this minute, right where you find yourself as an actor and as a person. That is a good lesson."

Prior to coming to Lowell, Streep had just returned from England where she shot scenes for her role as British women's rights activist Emmeline Pankhurst in the movie "Suffragette," starring Carrie Mulligan and due out next year. Embodying a character like Pankhurst, who dedicated her life to gaining voting rights for women, is an honor, she said.

"Sometimes I feel as an actor you are not just standing up there and showing off, you are giving a voice to someone who died for what they believed in," she said. "That's a privilege."

The final question of the evening came from a young woman who said she's trying to break into acting and wanted to know how Streep deals with failure and rejection. Streep recalled reviews from early in her career when critics rapped her appearance, saying her nose was too long and mocked her odd-sounding last name:

"Everyone thinks there's a perfect way to be … but your difference, your thing that is unique to you, is the most valuable thing you have. The weird thing about you is the thing that makes people remember you. … Whatever is weird about you maybe is your strength."

After wrapping up a reception with donors and sponsors, Streep's night in Lowell was winding down by 10 p.m. Her role fulfilled, she left behind the crowds, the well wishers and the curious fans, climbed back into her car, took the wheel and headed home. ■

Left: Since the 1970s Meryl Streep has starred in more than 50 films, including the diverse group depicted here.

"Everyone thinks there's a perfect way to be…but your difference, your thing that is unique to you, is the most valuable thing you have."

Right: Clockwise from top left, Meryl Streep speaks to a sold-out crowd at the Tsongas Center; poses with students Janice Lane and Maddie Koufogazos; high-fives theatre arts Asst. Prof. Dale Young; and hugs Julie D'Agostino, whose family was the event's presenting sponsor.

BY BRIAN MOONEY

This spring, five graduating seniors traveled to Haiti with Craig Miller '89 to plan a medical supply warehouse—and designed their own senior capstone project in the process.

'These Students Want to Change the World'

IN HIS JUNIOR YEAR, civil engineering student Per Onsager was restless to put his UMass Lowell education to work, helping others.

Committed to service learning, Prof. Edward L. Hajduk '95, '99, '06 was eager to help.

After months of searching for a vehicle to channel Onsager's ideals into an academic project, they were introduced, serendipitously, to civil engineer Craig Miller, another UMass Lowell alumnus, who has a 17-year record of humanitarian and infrastructure work in Haiti and other developing countries.

Together they created a senior design capstone project for Onsager and four equally committed senior peers: They would help Miller's engineering firm draw plans for and mark the site of a 25,000-square-foot medical supply warehouse outside the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. Miller's client was Partners in Health, the Boston-based provider of health-care services to impoverished communities on five continents.

The project was groundbreaking in all senses of the word.

Onsager, a transfer from Fitchburg State, had wanted more than the traditional capstone—a design project that incorporates all of an engineering student's undergraduate studies in his major. For civil engineering, that means applying knowledge of environmental, structural, geotechnical and transportation engineering concepts, typically into recreating the design of a bridge that had already been built.

"I started thinking about doing something different with the capstone as soon as I found out what the capstone really was—the bridge," says Onsager, a Lunenburg High School graduate who is from Shirley. "I was underwhelmed. There are 50 engineers with all this knowledge and we are going to spend four months designing something that has already been built? It seemed like a waste of potential."

And so he and his classmates decided to spend spring break 2014 in Haiti, which was already the poorest nation in the western hemisphere when a catastrophic earthquake in 2010 killed an estimated 300,000 and decimated the country's feeble infrastructure.

The students did site work for the warehouse project and volunteered their engineering services in the poor village of Fond des Blancs at a hospital operated by the St. Boniface Haiti Foundation, which originated in Quincy.

Combined with classroom work in a specially designed two-semester capstone, the Haiti experience became the first-ever offshore senior design project in the university's civil engineering department.

"All of these students want to change the world, which is a fantastic thing, but it was Per who had the idea of making the capstone a project that would help people," says Prof. Hajduk, a geotechnical professional engineer, who received bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering and a doctorate in engineering from UMass Lowell.

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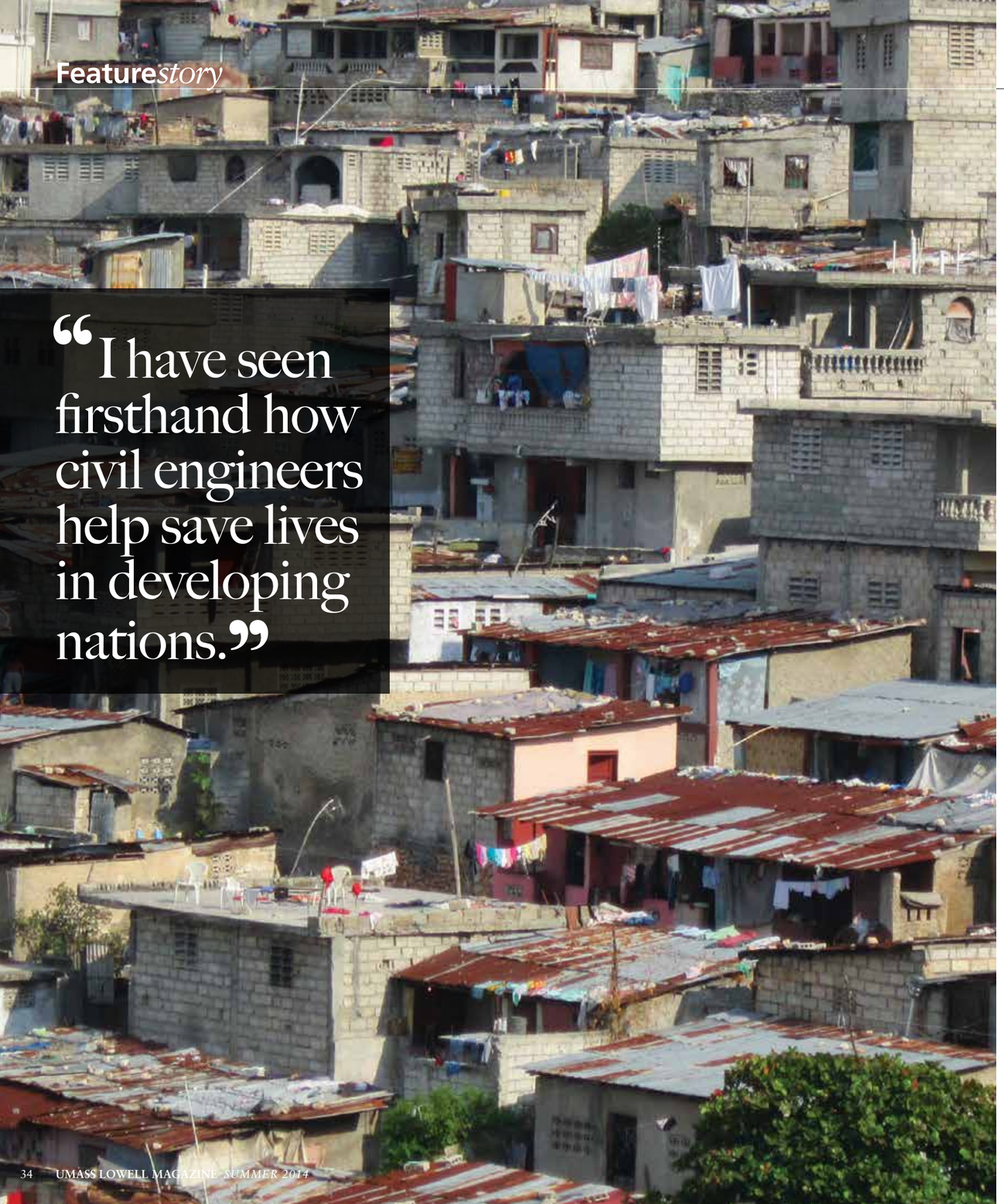


“I have seen firsthand how civil engineers help save lives in developing nations.”

Hajduk, Miller and Francis College of Engineering Dean Joe Hartman hope it is the prototype for a new capstone alternative, which will allow UMass Lowell students to experience service learning abroad while fulfilling a major academic requirement. If they’re lucky, they can follow Onsager’s lead and do so in collaboration with faculty and alumni.

“We already have a committee looking into ways to continue this going forward,” says Hartman.

Before he met Miller, Onsager began recruiting students who were also interested in a different kind of capstone. They had a grand concept but, after a plan to work with Clemson University fell through, they were left with no specific project to work on.

“We didn’t have money, a project, or anything,” Hajduk recalls.

Then Miller, a 1989 civil engineering graduate, entered the picture, almost by accident.

From his position on the civil engineering department’s advisory board, Miller had been pushing for the university to establish a full-time, overseas program for civil engineering students for a number of years. “I thought it would be a good way to draw students to the university and a way of creating exceptional value that very few other colleges in the country had been doing that I know of,” he says.

“I have seen firsthand how civil engineers help save lives in developing nations,” says Miller, who has been a volunteer member of the professional advisory board to the civil engineering department for more than 10 years. “This is an important place for UMass Lowell to be strategically—sending its students out to change the world as part of their curriculum.”

Miller owns Waterfield Design Group in his hometown of Winchester and has an office in Haiti, where he has worked continuously for 17 years, including helping to establish the Hope for Children of Haiti school and orphanage in Port-au-Prince.

“The meeting with Craig was like a godsend,” Onsager says. “At an industrial board meeting in my junior year, Craig was making small talk with some of the other guys at the table, and he said he was leaving to go to Haiti. Dr. Hajduk said: ‘You need to go talk to him.’”

“Until that point, Per had no idea I even existed,” Miller recalls.

The outlines of a project began to take shape as Onsager and Hajduk drew other students to the plan.

“I’m the youngest of the group, and it’s probably not a coincidence that the people I wanted in the group are the oldest in the class. They all have a level of maturity and the work ethic,” says Onsager, 24, who is already working full time for a large engineering firm and planning to seek a master’s degree toward his goal of working in the field of coastal geotechnical engineering, the science of soil mechanics.

The other students, all of whom have extensive community service experience, are: Jonathan Ernst of Billerica, Mark Georgian of Amesbury, Brendan Sprague of Methuen and Karen Yaipen-DeFinis of Boston.

Onsager, Ernst, and Sprague became acquainted with the idea of helping others at a young age; all are Eagle scouts.

Also critical to the project’s success was Linda Barrington ’04, who since 2005 has coordinated and expanded the university’s SLICE program—service learning in the college of engineering. In her career, she has managed a number of nonprofit programs, been a registered nurse, and holds degrees from three universities, including UMass Lowell (mechanical engineering).

She and Hajduk volunteered to teach a preparatory course that was added to the capstone for the fall semester. Her emphasis was on teaching students about poverty and international development work, as well as assisting with research on Haitian culture and some rudimentary Haitian Creole. Barrington, who accompanied the team to Haiti, also managed

Continued

In Haiti, from top: Karen Yaipen-DeFinis and Per Onsager dig at the site of the medical supply warehouse; the crew gathers at Boston’s Logan Airport, from left: Mark Georgian, Craig Miller ’89, Linda Barrington ’04, Karen Yaipen-DeFinis, Per Onsager, Jonathan Ernst and Brendan Sprague; Mark Georgian and Brendan Sprague take notes on site at St. Boniface Hospital in Fond des Blancs.

In Haiti, from top: Karen Yaipen-DeFinis and Craig Miller '89 pay for rides from the boat to the shore on the return trip from Ile a Vache to Les Cayes; and work progresses on site at St. Boniface Hospital in Fond des Blancs.

logistics and finances for the project, which required students to raise $9,500 from various sources. Dean Hartman approved $4,000 in additional funds for the capstone pilot.

Hajduk oversaw the academic elements to ensure they met university, professional, and accreditors' standards. He also introduced graduate-level instruction in watershed analysis and seismic design, an essential component of construction in earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

"This is what the students want," says Hajduk. "They're interested, and they want to learn more about it. As a teacher, you've got to feed that."

Everything the students learned in class could not totally prepare them for their experience in the brutally poor island nation. That's where Miller's experience and a network of connections developed over the years became indispensable. Like Hajduk and Barrington, Miller received no compensation for the many hours he worked on the project.

"I really didn't have time for any of this, but it's so consistent with the way I hoped the university would move foward, I knew I had to find a way to make it work," Miller says.

There have been many obstacles. Initial plans to design earthquake-resistant modular housing were scrubbed because of problems gaining clear title to the land and removing squatters.

Engineers adapt and solve problems, including those that cannot be foreseen. In Haiti, the students and their preconceptions were tested often.

A backhoe operator at the warehouse site knew how to drive the vehicle but not operate the digging bucket, requiring impromptu training while the team waited to get their work done. The long trip back from the Fond des Blancs hospital was delayed several hours by an angry crowd blocking the only road home with a political "manifestation," or protest against the government.

Miller has been preaching the need for basic infrastructure such as roads and sanitation systems in the developing world and the employment opportunities it will create for civil engineers as residents of poorer countries rise from poverty in large numbers over the coming decades.

The lesson was learned, dramatically and enthusiastically.

"You jump out of the bubble of America, and you see things that we can do to change their way of life," says Ernst, who said it was his first trip to any country outside the United States other than Canada. "We plan things years in advance. They live day by day and plan for the next week."

"In the States, we take for granted things like clean water," adds Yaipen-DeFinis. "We experienced how most of the world really lives. I saw how things really work … had a real sense of what I'll be facing after graduation."

"We had our heads down and were working hard," Georgian says. "You can see what happens in the absence of good engineering … You see the challenges first hand. It exceeded my expectations."

"It emphasized to me the value of the education we receive in this country," Sprague says. "It seems almost like a privilege at this point … It's easy to see the importance of infrastructure in developing countries."

"I loved the on-the-fly nature of it," Onsager remarks. "When you encountered a problem, you had to figure out the best way to tackle it, and we had to figure it out on our own. It was a great team-building exercise … It went better than I ever dreamed of."

Beyond the practical application of their education, Miller said the trip to Haiti was designed to instill in the students a larger purpose for the knowledge they have gained at UMass Lowell.

"It pushes people beyond their limits and teaches them something about their place in the world," he said. "As Americans, you've been given all the face cards in the game. You've been given all the advantages. What are you going to do with that? What is your responsibility to that gift and that advantage in life?" ■

> "As Americans, you've been given all the face cards in the game. You've been given all the advantages. What are you going to do with that?"

THE DRONES ARE COMING:

To Farms, to Forests, to Cities—and Maybe to Your Neighborhood

— BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS —

A video camera flies around the corner of a building, catching the pedophile in the act of downloading his porn. An accident victim in the Saskatchewan forest, lost, disoriented and in danger of freezing to death, is saved when a tiny flying sensor detects his body heat. A herd of rhinos in sub-Saharan Africa, in danger of slaughter by poachers looking to sell their horns, are spared by overhead surveillance videos. Nitrogen loss in a Missouri crop field, unknown to its farmer, is detected through an aerial GPS system, then amended through an aircraft driven by an iPad.

If it's not already happening—and much of it already is—it will be very soon. It is changing our world and most of what we do. You could call it The Invasion of the Drones.

But maybe you shouldn't.

Continued

A cross section of UMass Lowell faculty are conducting research on drones, including, from top, John Kaag, associate professor of philosophy; Xinwen Fu, associate professor of computer science; Ioannis Raptis, professor of mechanical engineering; and Holly Yanco, professor and director of the New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation Center.

"That word—'drone'—it has a militaristic connotation, the connotation of killing people, which is really misleading, only one part of what they do," says Computer Science Prof. Holly Yanco, director of the New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation (NERVE) Center at UMass Lowell, who would prefer to call it by its less-loaded, more-descriptive name: UAV, for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

By whatever name, she's right. When we think of drones, we think of "surgical elimination," of al Qaeda leaders being hunted down by swift, nearly silent predators that kill quickly and precisely from the air. And that's certainly one application. But it's getting to be a tired one at this point, and the new ones are burgeoning almost too fast to track.

Many of us remember the reaction last December, when Amazon's Jeff Bezos promised that, within five years, we'd be seeing half-hour, warehouse-to-doorstep drone delivery of small packages. The claim may have been more public relations than anything else (as Prof. Yanco puts it, "Who really needs their T-shirt in half an hour?"), but the capacity is already there. And it's being used—if not for T-shirt deliveries, for a whole host of other things. Within the same five-year time frame Jeff Bezos cited, the FAA has predicted, there will be 7,500-10,000 UAVs flying around our skies.

So what will they be doing? That depends on whom you ask. Law enforcement is certainly one answer—this would include surveillance, forensics, border patrol, no doubt other things. There is also wildlife protection, traffic control, weather monitoring—especially hurricane surveillance, whereby a swarm of laptop-powered six-inch drones can ride wind currents and report back data—mapping, search and rescue, and military operations.

"Mini drones can produce incredible aerial photos and videos with onboard cameras for crime-scene and accident reconstruction, search-and-rescue operations, tracking wildlife, tracing wildfires, inspecting power lines, even monitoring storm systems," writes UMass Lowell mechanical engineering professor Ioannis Raptis in a research paper co-written with three members of the university's Computer Science Department. "A drone can also fly around buildings and locate criminals abusing WiFi, such as downloading child pornography."

This prospect is troubling for John Kaag, an associate professor of philosophy at UMass Lowell, who has written a book on drones, "Drone Warfare" (Wiley), due out this July. Though the book focuses largely on their military uses, he is growing more and more concerned, he says, about their widening civilian presence—especially in the area of surveillance:

"I worry that the actions that become increasingly easy for our law enforcement agencies and military—the various means of drone surveillance—will not get the appropriate moral and legal oversight."

And then there are the commercial prospects of drones. Package delivery, real-estate photography, wedding and event photography, sports action videos—using everything from five-pound, battery-powered "quadcopters" with a few-hundred-yard range to 12-foot-wide "octocopters," equipped with tens of thousands of dollars of video equipment, sensors and a parachute.

Of all the industries and professions that will see a benefit from this, none may profit more than the commercial farmer. Although still in the experimental stage, U.S. farms are well along the road to what has come to be known as "precision agriculture": the use of sensors, GPS systems and other technology, mounted on UAVs, to monitor crop health and spray nutrients and pesticides.

"An unmanned drone can survey your farm so much more cheaply, and easily, than a [commercial] photographer, says Prof Xinwen Fu, UMass Lowell associate professor of computer science, who has conducted research on drones. "I think this is going to be one of the main uses [of drones] in the coming years."

"There's no question that the professional uses for these aircraft—especially the copters, which are far more maneuverable than the fixed-wing drones—are going to outweigh their military uses," says mechanical engineering's Prof. Raptis. "They're going to be in the mainstream for sure, more and more a part of our lives."

Probably the biggest reason for this, he says, is their ease of use. "You can control one with a smartphone or tablet. The sensors and microprocessors you need run on algorithms, they're already built in. You just provide the trajectory. It takes maybe five minutes to learn."

They're not only easy. They're cheap. You can buy a Parrot AR.Drone 2.0 Quadcopter, controllable by iPod touch, iPhone, iPad or Android devices, on Amazon for $299.95. It's orange and black, runs on a lithium battery, and can record and share video for as long as the battery lasts (about eight minutes). Toward the other end of the cost range, you can get a MicroPilot MP-Vision UAV Glider—with an eight-foot wing span, GPS mapping capacity, 37 MPH average speed and a flying time of 55 minutes—at RobotShop.com for around $9,500.

So they're affordable, accessible, easy to master and have a million uses. What's to stop them from taking over the skies? Are we headed for a world where, as Prof. Yanco describes it, "at least in the big cities, you've got a landing pad on every roof"?

"We have to be careful not to let our fascination with technological sophistication outpace our moral senses," says Philosophy's Prof. Kaag. "At the end of the day, some human being must be responsible for the activity of these devices and we must have an open and sophisticated discussion about the extent of this responsibility. No amount of engineering can get us out of this."

Beyond the moral dilemmas, though, there is the very basic issue of safety—an area that has barely been broached. If a delivery UAV, for instance, somehow causes an injury, who is to be held liable—the delivery company, the operator, the manufacturer? If a UAV is involved in a hit-and-run accident, how can responsibility be determined? What is to keep UAVs from colliding with other aircraft? With other UAVs? The questions at this point remain hypothetical, though if UAVs are to become as ubiquitous as predicted, they probably won't be for long.

And they will have to be addressed. Yet the only agency that would seem to have the authority to address them—the FAA—has so far proven toothless. In March of this year, in the first-ever test of its authority over UAV traffic, a fine it had sought to levy against an aerial photographer in Virginia was dismissed by a federal court on the grounds that—according to the Associated Press—"the small drone was no different than a model aircraft, a decision that appears to undermine the agency's power to keep a burgeoning civilian drone industry out of the skies."

The ruling is under appeal on public-safety grounds ("The agency is concerned that this decision could impact the operation of the national airspace system, and the safety of people and property on the ground," its lawyers argue)—and the FAA, meanwhile, has set up six test sites where UAVs will share airspace with piloted aircraft. But however all this plays out, it seems clear that the status of the UAV in our skies is going to be an evolving one, at least for a while.

"These sorts of things are going to have to be worked out on a case-by-case basis, over time," says Prof. Yanco. "And it's not just UAVs. The same type of questions—about safety, about liability—apply to any robot-assisted vehicle. And so far, it seems like policy hasn't kept up with reality. But it'll probably get there in time."

Meanwhile, though, there's another, even trickier issue. As long as a UAV can zip around corners to view criminals at work, what's to stop it from homing in on your bedroom or living-room window? With 10,000 or so drones cruising the skies at any given moment, isn't our privacy at risk?

There's no clear answer to this one, either. And at least in the classrooms and offices of UMass Lowell, the question seems to elicit a mostly philosophical response.

"I think we're moving more all the time toward what they call a Big Brother society," says Raptis. "You have the Google phone, the camera phone, Facebook—all that stuff has its effect on privacy. And now this question of drones. There are always going to be sketchy people out there, people who'll misuse the technology, or just use it in weird ways. So that will lead to regulations, a set of do's and don't's that will govern [behavior]. I'm really not too worried."

Yanco feels much the same. "People put all sorts of stuff out there on Facebook," she says, "and don't seem to have any privacy issues about it. And Google knows most everything I buy. So why is that a problem?"

Besides, she says, it's not always clear when someone's privacy has been violated and when it hasn't: "The inside of your home is private, and protected [by the Fourth Amendment]. But where is it written how much air space you own over your home? That's another one they'll probably have to work out in the courts."

Eric McCann, a graduate student in computer science, is more succinct: "Personally," he says, "if I were to see a drone flying over my neighborhood, I'd probably make a remark more along the lines of 'That's pretty neat' than along the lines of 'I need to phone my senator.'" ■

"THE INSIDE OF YOUR HOME IS PRIVATE, AND PROTECTED [BY THE FOURTH AMENDMENT]. BUT WHERE IS IT WRITTEN HOW MUCH AIR SPACE YOU OWN OVER YOUR HOME?"

LOVE from the Ruins

Boston Marathon Bombing Survivor Roseann Sdoia '91 Finds Gratitude at the Finish Line

— BY SHEILA EPPOLITO —

Patriot's Day had always been Roseann Sdoia's favorite day, full of friends, traditions and all things Boston.

On the second Monday of every April, Sdoia '91 and her girlfriends would cheer on the Red Sox, then hoof it over to the Back Bay to watch the runners complete the Boston Marathon.

An inning or two before the Sox beat Tampa Bay with a Mike Napoli walk-off RBI double last year, the friends ordered a round at the Forum Restaurant, their go-to spot for years. But within 10 minutes, a text from their running friend, Jen, popped up on Sdoia's iPhone, letting her know she was approaching the finish line. They left their drinks, and told the waitress they'd be right back.

That's when everything changed.

Continued

Roseann Sdoia '91 tests out her first prosthetic at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital.

"I SAW TWO FLASHES OF WHITE LIGHT, AND HIT THE GROUND, I WAS SCREAMING FOR HELP—AT LEAST I THINK I WAS—BUT EVERYONE WAS RUNNING AROUND. IT WAS MAYHEM. "

Jockeying for position on the busy Boylston Street sidewalk, Sdoia's friends squeezed in to the left of a mailbox; Roseann stood on the right.

Then, a boom—the first bomb detonated—and a man started yelling to get in the street.

"I knew it wasn't normal—it wasn't celebratory at all," says Sdoia today. "We couldn't get into the street, because it was barricaded, so I just ran."

She ran right into the second bomb, dropped near that mailbox by the bombers. "I saw two flashes of white light, and hit the ground," she says. "I was screaming for help—at least I think I was—but everyone was running around. It was mayhem. "

Finally, help came, in the form of Shores Salter, a Northeastern University student who used his belt as a tourniquet on her right leg. Then, Shana Cottone, a Boston cop, and several Boston firefighters arrived, and put her on a back board. Since ambulances were full, a police transport vehicle was used for Sdoia and another victim—Boston firefighter Michael Materia jumped in first, and held her hand and tourniquet en route to the hospital.

While most people would have passed out, Sdoia wouldn't let herself.

"I kept my eyes closed so I wouldn't see anything else, but kept doing deep breathing to keep myself calm and alert—I felt like if I lost consciousness, I'd never wake up," she says.

"I kept telling them I wanted to go to Mass General," the Dracut native says. Her primary care doctor worked there, along with several nurse friends.

Once inside MGH, Sdoia was met by trauma surgeon Dr. David King, who'd just completed the marathon himself, and, after the bombs detonated, continued running to the hospital to help.

King assessed Sdoia's injuries, which included damage to her left leg from a tree branch turned projectile from the bomb's force, embedded shrapnel, a ruptured eardrum, burns on her body and, most concerning, a very badly damaged right leg.

After the first surgery during which her leg was amputated below the knee, Dr. King had to go back in to clean the wound out.

"He told me he'd try not to remove any more of the leg," Sdoia says.

When she woke up, she learned that despite his best efforts, her right leg ended above where her knee used to be.

Her response? "Okay. It is what it is."

"In many ways, I feel blessed," says Sdoia today, during an interview at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, where she, like many other victims, has spent the last year learning new life skills. "Three strangers saved my life."

They didn't stay strangers for long.

She spent a week at MGH, which was plenty of time for firefighter Materia to find her again, based on her first name and her injuries.

Materia visited her the day after the bombings. And every day after that. The relationship grew and, eventually, they became a couple.

"Sometimes, if I'm having a bad hair day, or I'm not sure about an outfit, I'll ask Mike how I look," she says. "He'll just look at me and laugh, saying 'I've seen you look worse'."

An Army veteran (he served three tours in Iraq), Materia has been a rock, helping Sdoia navigate her altered body, her new world.

Shana Cottone, the Boston police officer, also rallied hard for Sdoia, checking in, visiting, vowing that police would get the bombers.

But the last of Sdoia's saviors was, for several days, anonymous. After helping Sdoia, Salter—the Northeastern student—returned to his apartment, bloodstained and shell shocked. He didn't talk about what happened, but wondered about the woman, and whether she lived.

Then the power of social media worked its magic. Someone posted a photo on Facebook depicting Shores helping Roseann on the sidewalk, and someone else Tweeted it, and within minutes, Boston.com reached out, and Sdoia finally got in touch with her "mystery angel."

Like war veterans, the four have become a tight group—texting, going to hockey games, checking out Salters' tennis matches, having dinner once in a while.

"I don't like to go too far from my 'first responders'," says Sdoia.

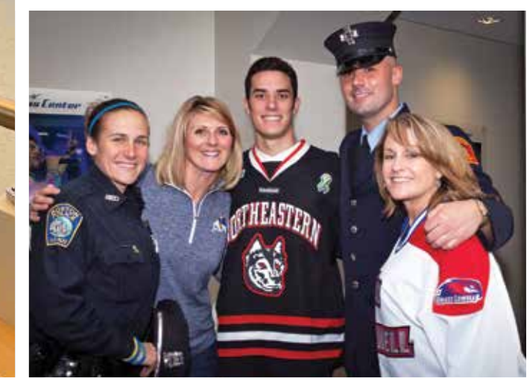
Sdoia's resignation and strength of character should not be misinterpreted: she gets angry, frustrated and irritated daily.

"Everything I did without a thought is now a whole process—driving, going up and down stairs, all of it is new, and all of it is difficult," she says. "It's still hard to believe that this is it—this is my life from now on. It's like a bad movie, and I'm starring in it."

But Sdoia is not going to waste time wallowing.

After several bouts of "phantom pain" in what used to be her leg, she took a hard look in the mirror, and gave herself a talking to. "I stood tapping at the stump on my right leg, saying 'It's gone—there's nothing there, stop it'," she says.

Continued



Clockwise from top left: Roseann Sdoia '91 undergoes rehab at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital; Chancellor Marty Meehan, right, and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney, left, present Sdoia with her own River Hawks hockey jersey at River Hawks Strong Night; Sdoia, far right, with, from left, Boston Police Officer Shana Cottone, Christine Rousseau Hart '90, Northeastern student Shores Salter and Boston Firefighter Mike Materia; Sdoia, second from left, after finishing the BAA 5K the day before the 2013 Boston Marathon; Sdoia and boyfriend Materia.

Roseann Sdoia '91 puts her new prosthetic to the test on a treadmill at Spaulding.

"I DON'T THINK I'M WIRED TO HATE—AND I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON HATE AS I WORK ON MY RECOVERY."

When tragedy strikes, you learn who your friends are. For Sdoia, Christine Rousseau Hart '90 sits squarely in that category.

Rousseau Hart and Sdoia have 30 years of history—they went to Notre Dame Academy together, and then to the University of Lowell, where they both studied business. Following the lead of Sdoia's older sister, Gia, they joined the Alpha Omega sorority, and dove into life on campus.

"We had a ball," says Hart. "We were orientation guides together, we studied for finals on Cumnock Beach and worked as cocktail waitresses at Chestnuts in Nashua."

Then life got more complicated, with jobs and relocations and Hart's marriage and kids. But when the bombings happened, Hart dove right back into best friend mode.

Within 24 hours, she had created a Go Fund Me page on Facebook to tell help raise money for the high cost of her friend's recovery. At print time, almost 5,000 family, friends, members, strangers and companies have pledged nearly $400,000 to help.

Contributions range from $270 from a 10-year old named Sarah who asked for donations instead of birthday gifts, to $1,355 from the Barrington Grip 'n Rip Softball tournament.

Hart is joined by a seemingly endless league of other passionate Sdoia fans. In fact, her sister, Gia, told "20/20" that after the bombings, so many friends were flying in to visit, she needed to make a schedule.

After surgery to graft a new eardrum, she had trouble getting to the bathroom on crutches in the middle of the night, so she bought a cheap desk chair to use instead, rolling herself across the floor.

She became determined to ditch the wheelchair almost immediately, getting fitted for a prosthesis as soon as possible.

But getting the right prosthesis is extremely difficult—especially with an amputation above the knee. Sdoia has already gone through several—and with every model, there are many, many hours spent adjusting the fit, tightening and recalibrating. The legs are expensive, too, ranging in price from $20,000 to $100,000 each.

Part of the difficulty with a good fit has to do with the changing size of the leg—muscles atrophy and shrink, although Sdoia's leg took longer to do that.

"I guess I had a lot to work with," she says.

"Close to 50 people have already come to visit her," Gia told ABC's Deborah Roberts. "I don't think the ICU has ever seen so many people come through. She had friends fly in from Florida, Arizona and even Ireland. We've had to hold people off and create a schedule because we don't want it to be overwhelming, but everyone has understood."

Sdoia is vice president of National Development, a Boston-based professional property management company, overseeing the Arborpoint Apartment Communities.

"My colleagues have been tremendous," she says. She returned to work part-time in October, but is back out on leave as her physical therapy, occupational therapy, pool therapy and other medical appointments don't leave room for the demanding full-time position.

In addition to juggling medical appointments, Sdoia's calendar is filled with interviews.

The last year has made her something of a media darling—in addition to "20/20," she's been featured in People, Runner's World, Shape Magazine, on The Katie Couric Show and been interviewed by Brian Williams and countless local television, print and radio outlets.

In every interview, Sdoia is a combination of poise, strength and gratitude.

"Talking about it has helped me—it's been its own form of therapy," she says.

In an interview with Matt Siegel from KISS 108 radio, Sdoia joked that she should get a half-price deal on pedicures.

The list of celebrities who've reached out to Roseann includes New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski, a slew of Red Sox players, Robert Kraft, Joe Kennedy III, Ted Kennedy Jr., Bruins forward Shawn Thornton, Ken Casey of the Dropkick Murphys, Academy Award Winner Kevin Spacey (who was so moved he named his dog Boston), and even President Barack Obama.

As for the other famous people associated with the tragedy—accused bombers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev—Sdoia doesn't have a lot to say.

"People ask me if I am angry, if I hate them," she says. "I don't think I'm wired to hate—and I don't have time to waste on hate as I work on my recovery."

As the trial nears for the surviving Tsarnaev brother, Sdoia says she may go to the courtroom once. "He is not real to me now, he's just someone on the news—but I want to look in his eyes one time and see if it helps me understand why he did this."

After that, don't count on Sdoia to stay stuck on this case.

She's got better things to do. ■

UMass Lowell's Boston Marathon Scholarship Fund benefits anyone in the university community (including friends and family) affected by the 2013 bombing, including first responders. To donate to the fund, visit uml.edu/givenow.

'We Are Stronger than We Think'

BY JULIA GAVIN

Kerry Donohoe '95, '07 and running partner Steve Poirier

Crowds cheered as Krista Perry Patronick '95,'07 crossed the Boston Marathon finish line last year for the first time, exactly what a runner needs to hear after 26.2 miles. But the finish was bittersweet, a delayed accomplishment after the bombings stopped her official race several days earlier. But on that "re-do" day, a "small army" of supporters cheered her on, many supporting a fellow River Hawk.

"I ran with two other alums and when I got to Boylston Street, there were so many people who were there for us, people I didn't even know. I saw a lot of people who'd heard about me finishing thanks to the university spreading the word," says Patronick. "I met a man and his son in River Hawks jerseys and thanked them for coming. That meant a lot."

Patronick was one of the 26,839 runners on the course that day, and she returned in 2014, along with several others from the university community.

Former track athlete Rex Radloff '10 represented the university on a UMass system-wide team running in support of the Krystle Campbell Scholarship Fund, which benefits students attending any of the five campuses. The UMass Lowell Boston Marathon Scholarship, established soon after the attacks, also benefits those affected. A Boston Strong T-shirt designed by Kevin Zwirble '04 has raised more than $4,000 for The One Fund, benefiting survivors.

Steve O'Brien '10 ran for his family members JP and Paul Norden who were both critically injured in the blasts. After just a few weeks of training, he completed the course with the Nordens in mind.

"While running Boston this year was no doubt special, this run felt especially important since I was representing JP and Paul," says O'Brien, who is helping to raise funds for the brothers' medical bills.

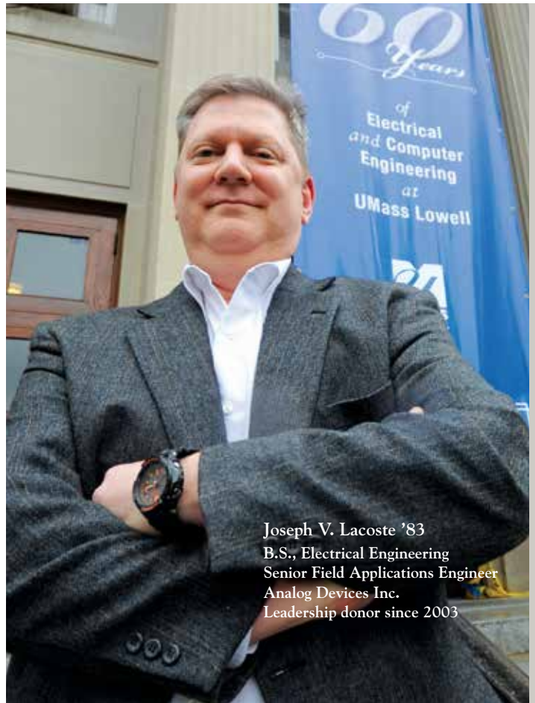
O'Brien and Radloff's former teammate Ruben Sança '10 also ran the marathon for the first time. He's trying to qualify for the 2016 Olympics and his 21st place finish at 2:19:05 gives him a good shot of succeeding.

"It takes a tremendous amount of time to train for a marathon, especially if you work full time and are trying for an Olympic-qualifying time," says Sança who represented Cape Verde in the 2012 games. "It's like having a part-time job, but I love the process and enjoyed every moment of it."

Registrar Kerry Donohoe '95,'07 ran her third Boston Marathon in support of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Donohoe has raised nearly $45,000 for the organization in memory of the nephew of her friend Matt Drouin '95. She also runs for Matty Dubuc, son of Sandy Dubuc, a longtime university employee.

Last year, Donohoe's running partner wasn't feeling well. What at the time seemed unfortunate may have kept them out of harm's way. They were stopped a few miles from the finish, much farther from the attacks than they would have been if running in top form.

"I needed to finish the 26.2 miles not because I want a medal, but because I believe that goodness always wins over evil and this is how we do it," says Donohoe. "Running always reminds me and that we are stronger than we think we are." ■



Joseph V. Lacoste '83
B.S., Electrical Engineering
Senior Field Applications Engineer
Analog Devices Inc.
Leadership donor since 2003

"UMass Lowell has had an important impact on my life. It is directly responsible for setting me on a successful career path. The value of my degree far exceeds what I paid for it. I want to give back."

Joe Lacoste '83 remembers being a student and having to work to pay for college tuition. "It wasn't easy," he says. "I am glad that I can help students who are in the same position today so that they can work less and/or graduate with less debt."

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CHANCELLOR'S LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

‘Our Objective is to Help People’

— BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS —

UMass Lowell students prepare to pitch their business ideas at the 2013 DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge, sponsored by DCU.

Maybe you know it from the ads it runs on NESN to accompany this season’s Red Sox games. Or because you’ve been to a game or a concert at the 14,000-seat arena in Worcester that carries its name. Or maybe a child you know has found hope in one of the anti-bullying campaigns it sponsors. Or maybe you’re just one of the 400,000 people who do your banking there.

However you’ve run across it, if you live in New England you probably know it by now—the DCU name is everywhere these days.

The company behind it, the Digital Federal Credit Union—or simply DCU to virtually all who know it—has traveled an extraordinary path. Conceived and launched 35 years ago as an in-house credit union for employees of the then-tech titan Digital Equipment Corp., it endured through DEC’s buy-out by Compaq in 1998, then through Compaq’s absorption by Hewlett-Packard several years after that. It survived largely on the simple loyalty of those early DEC employees, who prevailed on their new employers to become sponsoring companies, and thereby keep the credit union alive.

James F. Regan ’88, today president and CEO, arrived at the company in 1992 as an internal auditor, expecting to stay a few years, build some credits and move on.

“I never envisioned any real growth opportunities with the company because of its size,” he says today. “Then three years after I got there, probably around the time I was thinking about leaving, the head finance person left, and they asked me to take over most of her duties, which grew into managing all the back-office operations—and a year or two later I was promoted to CFO. I did that until 2008, when the CEO retired. I applied for his job and I got it.” (What he doesn’t mention is that his hiring reportedly followed a national search that considered more than 700 applicants.)

He took over at the depths of the worst recession in decades. Real estate values had plummeted, unemployment was at a 16-year high, household debt had reached unsustainable levels. But Jim Regan’s focus, and the company’s, was never in doubt:

“The most important thing is working with people, as opposed to running a business,” he announced at his 2008 hiring. “In this economy, with increases in unemployment and people having financial difficulty ... our objective is to help people ... Maybe they’re not buying a new car [this year], but instead a used car. And we can help them stay in their house.”

The company more than survived the downturn. With its credit-union formula of returning profits to members in the form of lower loan rates and higher rates on their deposits, as well as allowing them a share in governance, DCU has achieved a level of member loyalty you rarely see with a traditional financial institution. Today, with 400,000 members spread across all 50 states, and $5 billion in assets—nearly 50 times the total of 30 years ago—it is the largest credit union (by assets) in New England, and among the 25 largest in the U.S.

The company’s ties with UMass Lowell go nearly as far back as those of its CEO. A source of scholarships, a regular presence at campus job fairs and a consistent source of summer jobs—as well as permanent ones—DCU has also been a leader in promoting creativity among students. Last year, the company cosponsored a DifferenceMaker contest with the Manning School of Business through the University’s Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, awarding a first prize of $1,200 to a pair of business majors who had come up with the idea of a bank card that could build a customer’s credit history. “We really enjoyed our involvement with that,” says Regan, who adds that he hopes to see these sorts of enterprises at the university expanded beyond the business school.

“DCU has been a huge ally for us, across the broadest possible spectrum,” says UMass Lowell Senior Major Gifts Officer Steven Rogers.

But the longer you talk with him, the more you get the sense that none of this is the source of greater pride than the involvement the company has had in addressing the needs of the communities it serves—many of them well outside the realm of banking. DCU For Kids, a nonprofit charitable foundation launched in 2005 to benefit children’s causes—autism research, anti-bullying campaigns, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Jimmy Fund—has so far raised or donated well over $5 million. And it’s been only one of many of the company’s causes.

“When you count everything we’re involved in—scholarships, charitable efforts, DCU For Kids, cystic fibrosis research—I think we’re talking about roughly $3.5 million a year in total support to our communities,” he says. “That’s something I’m really proud of.”

He may be proud of it, but he won’t take much of the credit. When asked about the recent award he accepted on behalf of the company from the Boomer Esiason Foundation, one of the many children-based nonprofits DCU supports, he finessed the question once or twice before reluctantly responding:

“My own contribution to that was insignificant, really, compared to what DCU as a company has done.” ■

Jim Regan ’88

DCU
BANKING – THE DCU WAY

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Branches: 19
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One Man's Story of Success:
Start with a Pontiac Grand Prix

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

Jaime Cosiol, a Polish Jew, arrived in Costa Rica in 1931, at the age of 16, part of a wave of Polish immigrants that had begun two years before. "He had nothing," his son Jeffrey says of his father. "Nothing but the clothes on his back."

He began as a door-to-door salesman of dry goods. In time he was selling cash registers, then washing machines, TVs, finally real estate. He was married by then, with a family: a wife, two sons and a daughter. And over time, remembers Jeffrey—the oldest of the siblings –"We began to be more comfortable."

Neither Jaime nor his wife Tobel had been to college. "But it was always understood," says Jeffrey, "it was always just a given, that the three of us would go."

And so it was that Jeffrey, the first-born, headed north in the winter of 1963 to a boarding school in Lee, Mass.: "Because my mother said that the first thing I had to do, before we could think about anything else, was to learn to speak English."

He was there six months. By the time he left he had a passing grasp of his new language. More importantly—thanks mostly, he says, to a wise and kindly school adviser—he had a place to go from there: the Lowell Technological Institute, 130 miles east, where he would study to be an electrical engineer. He was 17 years old.

He arrived in the fall of 1963, moving into Smith Hall with nothing but a suitcase. His father, back in Costa Rica, had made him a promise: "If I could make it through my freshman year, he'd buy me a car." By the following summer, he was the owner of a Pontiac Grand Prix. Three summers later, he had his engineering degree.

The first year out of school he spent at a job in Hingham, then moved to Philadelphia to pursue his master's at Drexel University. He stayed on in the city after that, working for a while as a consultant to an engineering firm, before accepting the post that would carry him through a 40-year career: at the firm of Vincent G. Kling, an architectural engineer who was already putting his mark on the Philadelphia skyline. When the company merged with a second firm in the 1980s to become Kling Stubbins—among the pre-eminent design firms in the U.S., with office towers and high-rises in at least 12 states and five countries—Jeffrey Cosiol stayed on, rising over the years from his early engineering post to his eventual duties as principal director and senior partner, with a specialty in the government and security sectors.

"I was [in charge of projects for] the FAA, the FDA, the Navy. We took on some really interesting jobs," he says. "One project I remember, for the Navy, was to help design a submarine-escape training school in New London, Connecticut. Another was to design the prototype for an aircraft carrier's catapult-release system."

"I always felt like, if there was something weird to be done, you'd find me working on it. I never knew from day to day what the next job was going to be. But that was the fun of it."

He retired three years ago. But there's been no slowdown since then. When he isn't traveling between one of his three homes—in Costa Rica, Florida and on the New Jersey coast—and one or more of an almost breathtaking succession of exotic destinations—India, Denmark, Prague, Southeast Asia, Australia, the Arctic Circle, to name only the most recent—he's probably busy making things happen for one of the several causes he backs.

Perhaps the dearest to his heart is the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel. A research university funded in the U.S. through the American Technion Society—which has raised nearly $2 billion in support—it was founded in 1912, and now has 13,000 students, 18 academic departments, more than 50 research centers and a faculty that currently includes three Nobel laureates in chemistry. Its recent partnership with Cornell, to build a new science and engineering campus on Roosevelt Island in New York City—scheduled to open in 2017—is "one of the most ambitious and forward-looking economic development projects any city has ever undertaken," according to former mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Cosiol's involvement with it began, he says, over lunch with a friend in the early 1990s: "There was this presenter at the lunch that day, this doctor [from Technion], and he was talking about the new treatments they were developing for shock. I was fascinated, and began going to other talks they were giving, other presentations—about medical treatments, biochemical devices. They're one of the only engineering schools in the world, you know, that also have a medical school. Anyway, I just got more and more interested, more and more involved, both financially and otherwise." He has been a member, for nearly six years, of Technion's national board, and is a former president of its Philadelphia chapter.

His involvement with UMass Lowell, at least as a benefactor, has been more recent but no less whole-hearted. Named last fall to the University's Circle of Distinction, with more than $1.5 million in giving, his chief legacy is the Jeffrey Cosiol International Merit Scholarship. This fund, established just three years ago, supports incoming freshmen in the Francis College of Engineering, with preference given to international students. (He is in the process, he says, of restricting eligibility still further, to benefit only students from his home country of Costa Rica—a move he hopes will serve to stimulate applications from there.)

What's happening at the university today, he says, is in such stark contrast to what he remembers from his students days, it would be next to impossible not to want to take part:

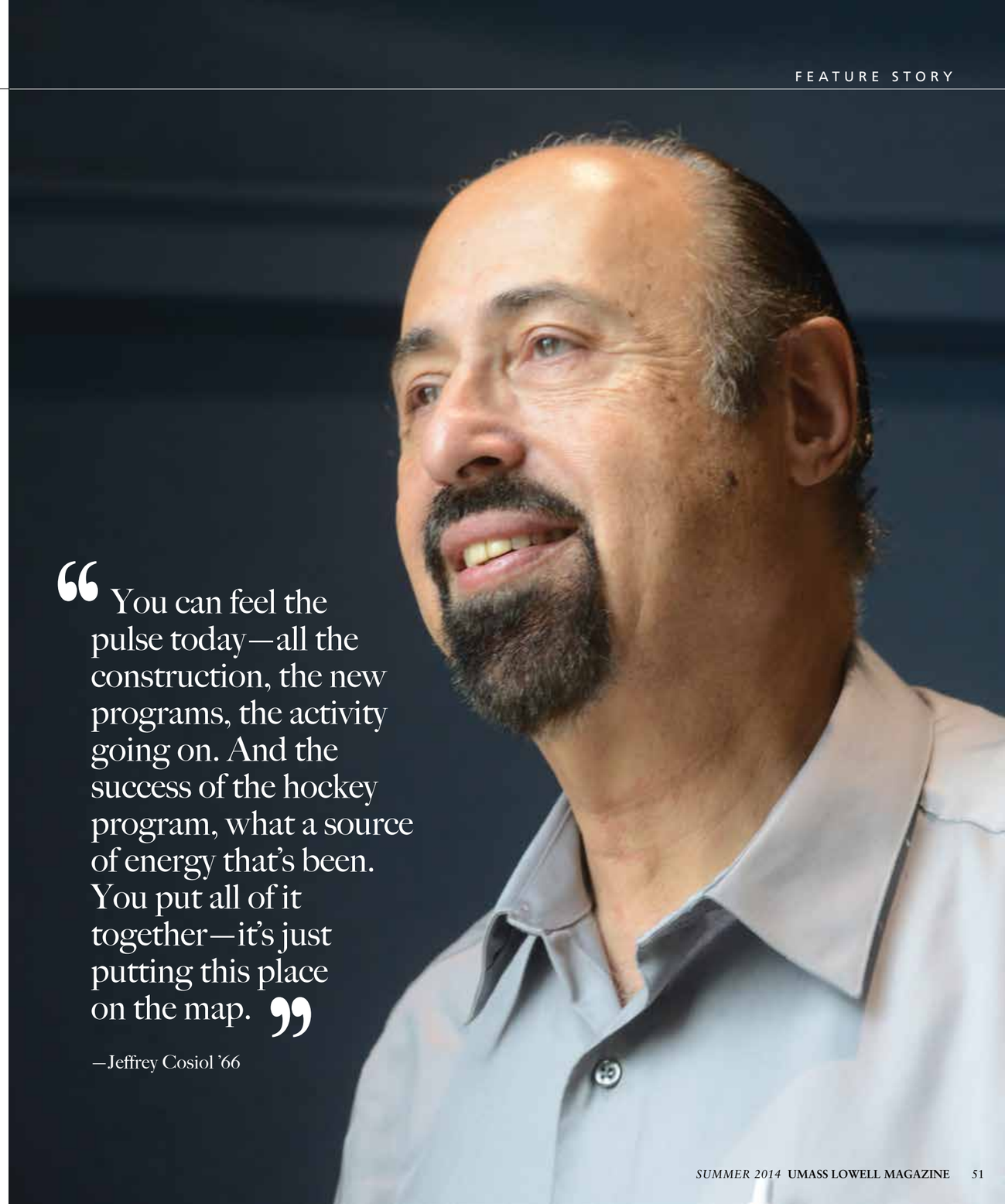
"There wasn't much going on here then, neither with the city nor with the campus. Just to go downtown, you had to walk through what almost amounted to a slum—bar after bar on Merrimack Street, most of them catering to the soldiers stationed at Fort Devens. And as far as the campus—well, there really wasn't much to it at all.

"The difference is night and day. You can feel the pulse today—all the construction, the new programs, the activity going on. And the success of the hockey program, what a source of energy that's been. You put all of it together—it's just putting this place on the map."

There's not much question in his mind where the energy originates:

"Marty Meehan is the spark. He's created a terrific deal here for the students—a great education on a great campus, at a low price. He really gets what the movie says: 'You build it, and they will come.'

"It's an exciting place he's creating here. It makes you want to be a part." ■

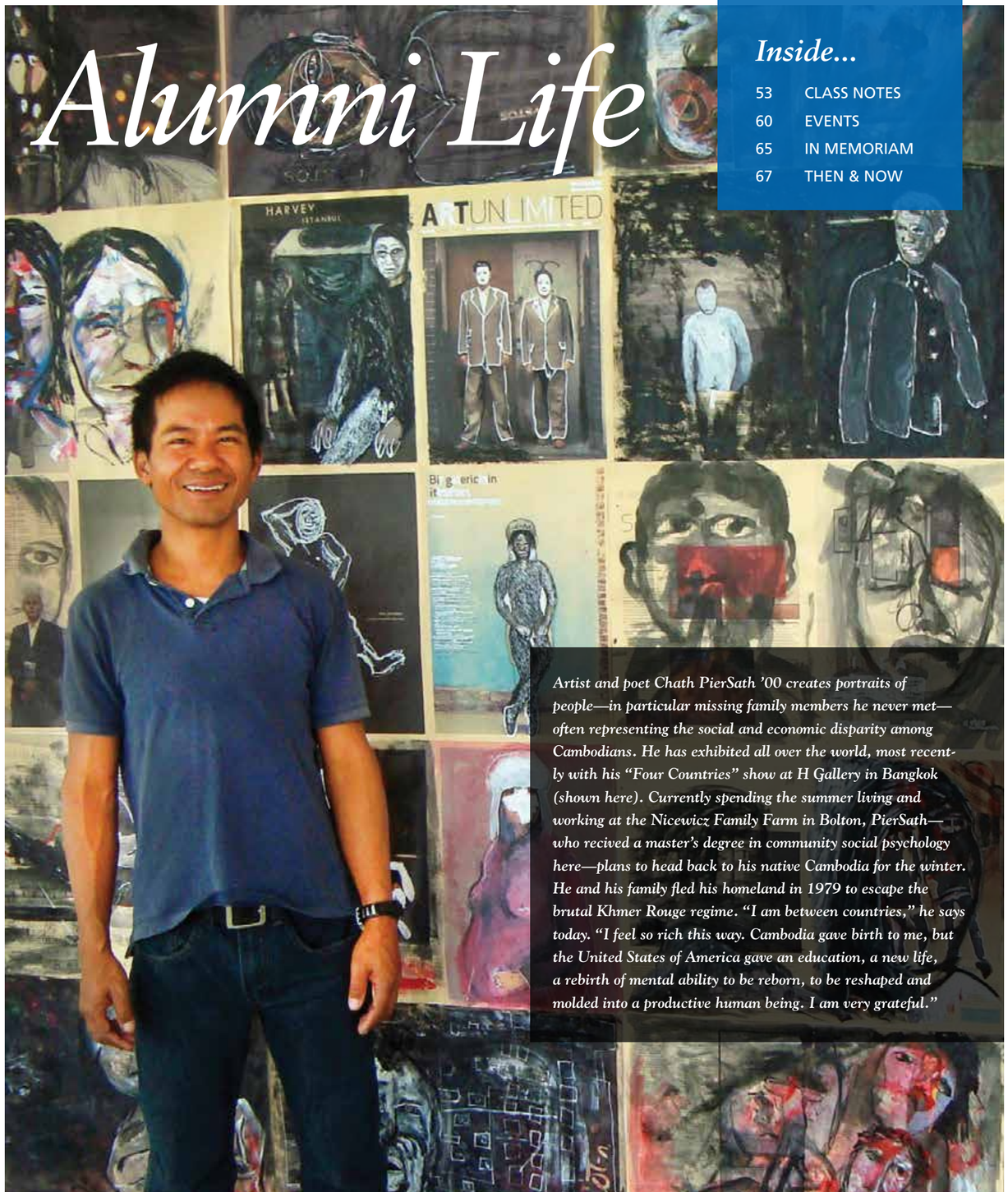


"You can feel the pulse today—all the construction, the new programs, the activity going on. And the success of the hockey program, what a source of energy that's been. You put all of it together—it's just putting this place on the map."

—Jeffrey Cosiol '66

Alumni Life

Inside...



Artist and poet Chath PierSath '00 creates portraits of people—in particular missing family members he never met—often representing the social and economic disparity among Cambodians. He has exhibited all over the world, most recently with his "Four Countries" show at H Gallery in Bangkok (shown here). Currently spending the summer living and working at the Nicewicz Family Farm in Bolton, PierSath—who recived a master's degree in community social psychology here—plans to head back to his native Cambodia for the winter. He and his family fled his homeland in 1979 to escape the brutal Khmer Rouge regime. "I am between countries," he says today. "I feel so rich this way. Cambodia gave birth to me, but the United States of America gave an education, a new life, a rebirth of mental ability to be reborn, to be reshaped and molded into a productive human being. I am very grateful."

JACK NEARY '73 HAS A ROLE IN THE JOHNNY DEPP-LED FILM based on the book "Black Mass: The True Story of an Unholy Alliance Between the FBI and the Irish Mob." Jack plays a bartender at Triple Os, the unofficial headquarters of Whitey Bulger. The film is slated to open in 2015. A playwright and co-founder of the Greater Lowell Music Theatre, Jack is also helping stage two musicals on campus this summer—"Fiddler on the Roof," which ran in June and starred "Laverne and Shirley" actor Eddie Mekka, and "Chicago" which will run Aug. 1-2. Visit glmt.org for information.

Bonnie Comley '81 and husband Stewart Lane, Broadway producers, won a 2014 Tony Award for "Best New Musical" for their show "A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder."

1950

Allen Merrill held a Merrill family reunion in Asheville, N.C., in August 2013. The participants included spouses, children, grandchildren and great granddaughters. In the photo, Allen is near the middle wearing the blue shirt and tan slacks.

1958

Robert (Bob) Munroe traveled to Mexico, Norway, Canada, Ireland and throughout the United States within the past 24 months.

1960

Jose Manuel Irurita passed away in February 2010 due to lung cancer. Jose graduated from Lowell Technological Institute with a B.S. in leather engineering.

1970

Phil Shroff reports that he has been published in 85 publications (both domestic and foreign) a total of 558 times since graduation. He has been

photographed in newspapers and trade publications 137 times, including in The New York Times. Phil has been a guest lecturer at numerous universities including New York University and the Pratt School of Design. Most recently, his company was featured in a seven-page article with a house that they built on stilts just 20 miles outside of Midtown Manhattan. Phil mentions Lowell Tech as his alma mater in the article.

1971

Ken Classon retired in May.

John Mcsheehy was recently named team leader/sales manager at Weichert, Realtors - Metropolitan Boston Real Estate in Boston.

1972

Joanne Achille recently moved to Florida.

1973

Anthony Caputo has been a professional fire protection engineer of the Massachusetts Board of Fire Prevention Regulations since 2000.

1974

Mike Ryan '74, '76 won the 2014 John C. Villforth Award to honor his contribution toward radiation protection issues at the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors' annual meeting, the National Conference on Radiation Control.

1975

William Smith, semi-retired after 24 years as EHS manager with The Gillette Company, is a professional science master's adviser and instructor at UMass Lowell.

1980

Thomas C. O'Connor '80, '97 has been appointed to the board of directors of Keyera, a company that provides key products and services to oil and gas producers in western Canada. Tom earned a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in environmental studies at UMass Lowell.

1981

Suzanne (Lane) Conrad, who earned a bachelor's degree in nursing, is CEO of the Iowa Donor Network, which facilitates organ and tissue recovery and transplantation for the state. Suzanne herself became a kidney donor in 2004 after finding she was a match for an Iowa Donor Network board member who needed a transplant.

1982

Lauren (Chin) Johnson has written a novel, "Tri-Hard," which revolves around a group of triathletes and college students. It contains information about training and is "a love story of sorts," she says. Her husband, Rubin, also has written a novel, "Well Oiled." Both books are available on Amazon.

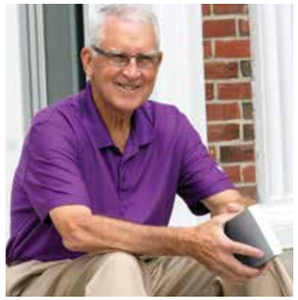
Eric D. Forman '82, '88, '12 is currently director of bands for the North Reading Public Schools. He graduated from the Graduate School of Education with an education specialist degree in administration, planning and policy in May 2012. Previously he received a master of education degree in curriculum and instruction from the College of Education of the University of Lowell in 1988.

Continued

▶ CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1969

BY DAVID PERRY

Who Can Write a Sweet Summer Read? The Candi Man Can



As a student and later a teacher, Jim McGuirk spent decades at Lowell High School.

He graduated in the usual time, in 1964, with good grades, lots of friends and the seed of a Lowell sports legacy. He took in some pretty good stories, too. He even played a role in some of them.

McGuirk, 67, lays out a bunch of those moments in "Candi Girl," a breezy tale of romance and friendship played out in the Mill City, among Lowell High classmates and laced with familiar landmarks and references. HoJo's, Skip's Restaurant, St. Margaret parish, the Dutch Tea House. Seminal rock lyrics are reference points.

"I sort of had 'American Graffiti' in my mind," says McGuirk, who earned an education degree at Lowell State College in 1969 and matured into a UMass Lowell Athletic Hall of Fame (1980) basketball player. "Just similar in tone. But that's on another level."

How true is its fiction?

"There were things that really happened in college, things that happened to friends, and some that didn't happen," says McGuirk. "And some things I observed in teaching and coaching, too."

On top of that, he adds, "I embellished a bit."

He taught in Lowell middle schools for more than two decades before returning to Lowell High School to teach English from 1991 through his retirement in 2004. At Lowell State, McGuirk ranked fifth among all-time career scorers with 1,128 points. He scored 43 points during a game against Keene State as a senior, one shy of the school record.

At Lowell High, he was an assistant boys basketball coach (1971-1979) then coached girl's track from 1979 to 2000, earning a long list of wins and kudos.

He never forgot his Lowell High pals, one of whom still lives around the corner.

"Candi Girl," set in motion at the urging of his wife of 18 years, Pat, took three years to write. The work was sparked by his 45th high school reunion in October 2009, when the stories popped up again.

He settled on the title after seeing the play "Jersey Boys," based on the Four Seasons. (The group had a hit in 1963 called "Candy Girl.")

As he wrote, McGuirk sent out little snippets of the book to various friends for reaction. When the buddy who shows up as Brian Cray read it, his lips curled up into a smile, recalls McGuirk. "And he said to me, 'This is it?' I want more.'"

Self-published in a run of 500, "Candi Girl" has sold around 400 copies since it left the press in September, says the author. It's alongside Elinor Lipman and Jack Kerouac among local authors at Pollard Memorial Library in Lowell, and McGuirk has done a couple of book signings, including one between River Hawks men's and women's basketball games in January.

He came to Lowell State following a poor start at Northeastern. "I was only 17, young, and had no idea what I wanted to do," he says. "So I left, came home and tried to figure out what I was going to do."

He worked in McQuade's Department store. One of his Northeastern teachers came in. The professor suggested English. "You were a good student," he told McGuirk.

He entered Lowell, where his passion for English morphed into a career. "I went to take the Lowell teacher's test, which allowed you to teach here. It was a couple months after graduation, I walked in, nervous, and I looked at the test. And I thought, wow, I know all of this. So I was prepared well."

And finally, he wrote the book on it.

"I gave it three years of my life. Only one day was it painful. My daughter, Jen, said, 'You know, dad, you can never be sure it will be published, but you have so much love and enthusiasm for doing it, I'm not sure that part matters.'" ■

1985

Kathleen Carroll is a business and accounting manager for Covanta, an organization that provides sustainable waste and energy solutions by converting non-recyclable waste into clean, renewable energy.

Kyle McInnis, health sciences chair at Merrimack College, has been awarded a $500,000 grant by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in partnership with the Merrimack Valley YMCA to support his work in addressing the reduction of child obesity. Kyle created Active Science through which children wear "activity trackers" that send exercise data to mobile devices. The data, displayed on handheld tablets, also encourage the children to develop an interest in academics.

Albert Larose was promoted to executive vice president of Secure Care Products, LLC. in Concord, N.H. Al has spent the last 26 years of his career building value in and growing startup companies like VST Technologies and Quantum Leap Packaging. He joined VST in Massachusetts as employee number three and was instrumental in building a sizable and successful company, which he ultimately helped sell to a division of SanDisk Corp. He was the general manager of Quantum Leap Technologies. He recently developed an IP and patented Real Time Locating System (RTLS) for Secure Care Products. He lives in Dracut with his wife, Kimberly, their daughter, Sydney, and son, Ben.

1988

John Schoenfeld was named a project manager in the transportation engineering department at Nitsch Engineering. His previous experience involved managing, designing and permitting highway, roadway, and utility design projects, from complex multi-level flyover interchanges for the Federal Highway Administration, to municipal improvement projects for cities and towns throughout New England. John received a B.S. in civil engineering at UMass Lowell and an MBA from Babson College.

William L. Stefanov has joined NASA as the associate International Space Station (ISS) program scientist for Earth Science in the ISS program science office and leads the Earth Science and Remote Sensing Unit in the Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science Directorate at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. He holds a doctorate in geology from Arizona State University.

1989

Ron Chapdelaine has closed the business he has run for 22 years, a popular snack shack inside the Post Office in Haverhill's Washington Square. Ron, who has limited vision due to a degenerative disease, majored in music business but had difficulty finding work in the industry. So, in 1992 took over the stand sponsored by the state Commission for the Blind. He says now he'll have more time to play his guitar and take care of other things.

Continued

▶ CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1973

When a Career Becomes a Calling: In Pursuit of the 'Double Bottom-Line'

Her grandfather ran a shop on the Lowell Tech campus in the 1940s, which was as close as anyone in the family had ever gotten to college.

Fifty years later, 25 years after her own graduation, Christine Cournoyer stood in front of the 1998 senior class at UMass Lowell, as commencement speaker and chief information officer of a billion-dollar company, and spoke to them of life's lessons. Her mother and father were in the audience. It was, she says today, "the proudest day of their lives."

"My father wanted me to go to college more than anything else in the world," says Cournoyer, who worked in a grocery store throughout her undergrad years at Lowell Tech to make it happen—and was the first in her family ever to do so.

(Her father died in May of last year. To honor him—and "to give a hand to other kids like me, so they'll maybe have a little easier time of it"—she recently endowed a scholarship in his name.)

The path she pursued, almost from the day of her 1973 LTI graduation, has been an uninterrupted upward progression. After earning her master's in economics at Northeastern, she worked briefly as an economist for the Labor Department, then for Wang Labs in Lowell, followed by ever-more-ascendant positions at Bolt, Harte-Hankes, Lightbridge Inc.—as COO—then as a senior VP at Lotus and chief information officer of IBM's software group. She sat on the boards of three public companies, including BJ's Wholesale Club and Stride-Rite (where, she notes, she was the first-ever female member). She was named by Businessweek as one of its "10 Most Influential Women in Technology" and by Boston Magazine as one of the "Top 100 Women Who Run This Town."

It wasn't until 2006, though, that her career took the turn that would be decisive. It was in that year that she accepted her first

position in the health-care world: as chief operating officer of Picis, a Massachusetts-based IT company that offers software solutions to the acute-care sections of hospitals. Named as president two years later, she oversaw a doubling of the company's revenues and profits, resulting in its sale to United Healthcare in 2010.

But the real index of her success at Picis, she says today, as well as at the job that would follow, was not something that could be pulled off a spreadsheet or quarterly report:

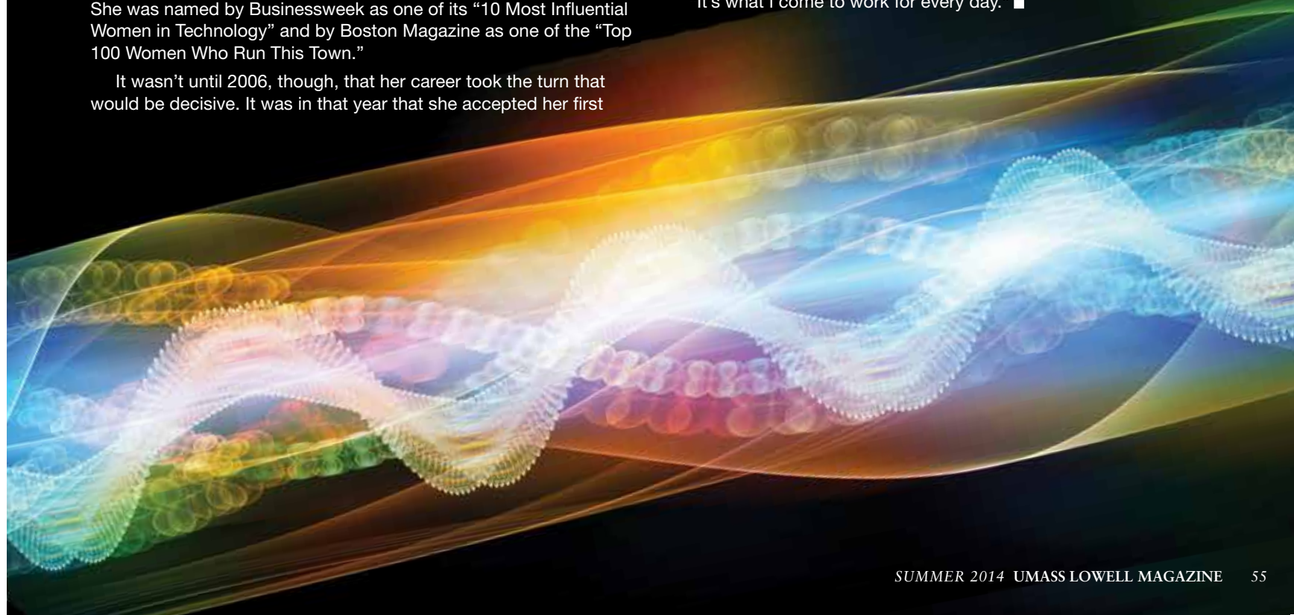
"It was almost as if, for the first time in my career, there was a double bottom-line: You're not only running a company to earn a profit—you're actually helping people. I can't tell you what a difference that made," she says.

Then, two years ago, at a time in her life when, she says, she had begun to think about retirement, she made the move to the position she holds today: as CEO for N-of-One, a provider of diagnostic and treatment strategies for personalized cancer care, based in Waltham. Working from genetic information as well as a particular tumor's profile, she explains, the company devises therapeutic options for the oncologist.

"For the first time in history, we have the knowledge and capabilities to transform cancer outcomes," she says. "We've reached the point today where doctors can realistically aspire to make cancer a chronic disease—not necessarily curable, but definitely manageable, through treatment with the right mix of drugs. Not so different from what we've managed already with AIDS.

"It's an incredible goal to work for. It's what drives me. It's what drives all of us here.

"It's what I come to work for every day." ■



▶ CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1977

STORM SMART

Going Where the Weather Leads You: A Primer for Success

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

It was snowing hard in Lowell the day Brian Rist got his diploma in December of 1976. The drifts were so high, he remembers, he could barely see over the top of his VW Bug.

"So I just dug out and drove south, for Florida," he says. "I wasn't sure what I'd do down there, but I figured there'd be opportunities. I'd been promised a job at Wang Labs"—where he'd interned during his college summers—"but in the end that hadn't come through, so I didn't have anywhere else to go. And it had been a hard winter—I wanted to be somewhere warm. The other thing was, I'd met a girl."

He doesn't say so, but he was probably also ready for a change. Growing up in Stoughton 20 miles south of Boston, he'd begun in 7th grade working with his brother in the self-service laundromat their father, who owned the dry-cleaning business next door, had set up for his boys. "We'd take care of the machines, wait on the customers, roll the coins every Sunday," Rist says. "I did that right through college. It was most of what paid my way."

The graduation-day Florida decision, as it turned out, was eventful. The first job he landed was as night manager for a business in Hollywood. From there he moved on to a job in real estate, then one with a garage-door manufacturer. As for the girl, it wasn't long before she would be his wife. He hasn't left the state since.

There were a couple of turning points along the way, though, that helped to keep him there. The first was in 1992, when Hurricane Andrew, among the deadliest storms ever to hit the U.S., came ashore in south Florida. In the weeks that followed, most of the work at the garage-door company where Rist was still employed revolved around storm recovery. It was during this time that he had his first eureka moment:

"It came to me that that the garage door of a house was nearly always its largest opening—but also its weakest—and that if you could do something to strengthen it, you could save yourself a lot a damage."

So he designed a bracing system that could fortify the door against heavy winds. It sold to area stores, then to Home Depot.

Time passed. He moved with his wife from the east coast to the west ("It's much more tranquil here, a whole different way of life"), founded one company, went to work for another—where he took annual sales from $2 million to $20 million in three years—and at some point along the way had another one of those moments.

He was just sitting around one day, he says, watching a child bouncing on a trampoline, when the thought occurred to him: If the trampoline material—polypropylene—was durable enough to withstand all that up-and-down pounding, maybe it could handle the pummeling of a hurricane. He tested it, and found that it could. And that was the beginning of another company: Storm Smart, a manufacturer of hurricane shutters, which he launched with a partner in 1997—and which since then has been a perennial presence on Inc. Magazine's list of the country's fastest-growing, privately held companies.

After that, one thing led to another. From Storm Smart it was a natural step to Smart Energy, a maker of solar screens—because, as it turned out, the same material was effective not only against wind but also against solar heat, another liability of Florida living. Somewhere along the line the two companies came together under a single umbrella: Smart Companies, a one-stop destination for the shopper in search of a weather-protected, energy-efficient home—and today, according to its founder, the largest manufacturer of hurricane-protection products in the world.

It hasn't all been smooth sailing. When the Florida economy went south in the 2007-09 recession, Smart Companies found itself short on customers for a while. But only for a while. "When you're not catching fish in one pond, sometimes you've got to change ponds," is how Rist explains the reasoning that took his business to Mexico, where a hurricane-protection system in the Hotel Presidente in Cancun led to another hotel, then another. "We were the only ones down there," he says.

Smart Companies today is a $22 million-a-year business with 140 employees and 50,000 satisfied customers, across several states and Mexico. "The company these days pretty much runs itself," says Rist. "The key is to find great people, then empower them to do their jobs."

Which isn't to say that he's slowed down much. Today on the board of six non-profits—"The more I give there, the more I seem to get"—he is also currently pursuing a graduate degree online at UMass Lowell's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

"It's a great, great university," he says. I wouldn't be where I am today without what I learned at ULowell. The most valuable thing of all, I think, was the lesson of perseverance.

"Someday maybe I might like to be a teacher myself—try to pass on some of those same lessons." ■

1991

Shikha Barman '91, '95, CEO and CTO at startup Integral BioSystems LLC, was named "One of the 20 Women to Watch in 2014" by Mass High Tech. Shikha earned a master's degree in polymer chemistry and polymer science, and a doctorate in plastics engineering and polymer science.

Christopher M. Owens '91, '92 has been named president and chief executive officer of Gynesonics Inc., a women's healthcare company with headquarters in Redwood City, Calif. Chris earned both bachelor and master's degrees at UMass Lowell.

Dr. Demetrius Rizos has been named director of Nephrology Research at ActivMed Practices and Research in Methuen.

1992

Curtis E. Dalton has been named chief information risk & security officer and senior vice president of Pactera Technology International Ltd. Headquartered in China, Pactera is a global consulting and technology services provider.

1998

The Honorable Raymond M.P. Drewnowski was elected to serve in the 2012 Massachusetts College of Presidential Electors.

1998

Braulio Polanco recently accepted a job with Nypro.

Ludwig Marek is a senior lead product strategist at Multi-Sector Fixed Income Strategies. He is a former journalist and published author.

2001

Kevin Blakeman has been a U.S. Naval Officer and a Foreign Affairs officer for the U.S. Department of State since graduation. He currently works for the U.S. government.

2002

Ian Underwood '02, '05, '07 is happy to announce the birth of his second child, Oliver Andrew Underwood. Oliver was born on May 25th at 12:02 a.m. weighing in at 7 pounds, 11 ounces. His mother, Sara, has recovered very well. His older sibling, Owen, is very happy to be a big brother.

Erin Caples '02, '04 took on the role of stewardship manager in the UMass Lowell Office of Advancement in January 2012. This follows six years in health care administration, focusing on community benefit management, patient advocacy/corporate culture, strategic planning and social media community management. Erin team-teaches the new Social Media Marketing for Business Certificate program at Middlesex Community College, and serves on the Board of the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Erin partnered with fellow community social psychology alumnus **Amy (Stanley) Tobin '10** in 2011 to form LEAP Consulting—providing personal coaching, job search assistance, social media marketing, grant writing and more. Erin lives in Dracut with her husband, Keith, and daughter, Melanie.

2004

David Sachs is a senior Windows server administrator at Charles Stark Draper Laboratory. He is focusing on storage and messaging (Exchange, Lync, faxing) and recently

Continued

initiated the first Voip circuit when he virtualized a fax server during an upgrade project. "I love working at Draper Lab," he says. "I have been given many challenging assignments and work with some really great people." David has been at Draper Laboratory since shortly after graduation.

2005

Army Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri is deployed to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in accordance with Operation Enduring Freedom to provide public affairs support for Joint Task Force Guantanamo. JTF GTMO's mission is to provide safe, legal, humane and transparent care and custody of its detainees.

2006

Justin E. Angert was married last August in Gibsonia, Penn., to Piper Treece, a benefits consultant for Seubert and Associates in Pittsburgh. Justin is a senior plastics engineer at Philips Respironics in Murrysville, Penn.

2007

Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorellow, director of the Council on Aging in Georgetown, has received a Mental Health in Aging Certificate from Boston University's Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research.

John Kneeland adapted Shakespeare's "Othello" for the Gaslight Theater Co. of New England, making the story into a drug war on the streets of urban America populated by corruptible government agents and angling politicians. "Othello struck me as a uniquely American story," says John, who majored in English.

2008

Susan Hamilton '08, '12 graduated from UMass Amherst in 1971 with a B.S. in nursing and went on to receive her graduate certificate in nursing education in 2008 and her Ph.D. in nursing in 2012, both from UMass Lowell. She is an assistant professor of nursing at the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions in Boston.

Amanda Jarski got married on Sept. 22, 2012 and recently started a new job as a credit analyst at a community bank.

2009

Danielle Forest received her Ph.D. from Old Dominion University in May 2014. She is an assistant professor of elementary education and literacy at the University of Southern Mississippi.

James H. Richard has joined Fish & Richardson as part of the firm's Patent Group, focusing on patent prosecution and strategic advice in the areas of electrical engineering and computer science. Jim majored in electrical engineering and later earned his J.D degree from the Boston University School of Law.

2010

David Gutierrez, who worked at the Avedis Zildjian Co. for three years, recently joined Nuance Communications.

2011

Richard LaFlamme III moved from Massachusetts to Denver, Colo., in March 2013.

2011

Andy Chau returned to his hometown this spring to serve as guest conductor of the Fall River Symphony Orchestra's spring concert. Andy majored in music education and clarinet at UMass Lowell and later received a master's degree in music education at the Boston Conservatory.

Laurette Patten, a nurse practitioner, has joined Hampshire County Internal Medicine in South Hadley. Laurette, who earned her master's degree in family health, says her goal is "to provide care to adults with a mix of diagnosing and treating health conditions."

Ryan McGovern, a senior engineer with Aerodyne Research Inc. in Billerica, is engaged to Samantha Elsy, a speech therapist for Genesis Rehab Services in Reading.

2012

Clara Berry is a coordinator in marketing and development at the Portsmouth (N.H.) Music and Arts Center. Clara, who lives in Exeter, N.H., earned her bachelor's degree in music education.

2013

Chris Federico has been accepted into the fall term of the New England School of Law with a $10,000 scholarship.

Holly Anne Robdau, a registered nurse at Emerson Hospital, has become engaged to Joshua West, a collections representative with DCU.

2014

Kimberly Chao, who graduated from the Manning School of Business with dual concentrations in accounting and finance, was chosen as one of the "29 Who Shine," a group of outstanding Massachusetts public college and university graduates honored by Gov. Deval Patrick and the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education at the State House on May 8. Kimberly—who was president of the Accounting Society while here—was also vice president of the Finance Society and the Student Managed Fund and was head of committees for Omicron Delta Kappa, the national college leadership honor society, and the campus chapter of Tau Sigma, a national honor society for transfer students. The summer before her senior year, she worked as an audit intern at Feeley & Driscoll, a public accounting firm in Boston. She began a full-time job with the firm after graduation and plans to prepare for the certified public accounting exam. ■

2014

Akeem Williams, a former River Hawk basketball standout, was invited to the Boston Celtics pre-draft workout on June 4, "It's a little bit of a dream come true," says Akeem, who's from Brockton. "I got the call a couple of days ago. … I was lying in bed, and as soon as I got off the phone, I went to the gym." Akeem—who broke UMass Lowell's freshman points record and led the nation in scoring during both his sophomore and junior years—went on to excel in Division I as well. "I thought I'd be playing Division II for four years," he says. "Then we get an unsuspected bump to Division I, and next thing I know, I'm working out with the Celtics. I couldn't ask for a better career."

Szava-Kovats Captures the RAT

BY DAVID PERRY

As he watched television one evening four years ago, Andrew Szava-Kovats came upon a documentary about CBGB, the notoriously skanky yet influential New York punk club.

Hmmm, he wondered to himself. Why hasn't anyone done one of these on the Rat?

Not the rodent, of course, but the notoriously skanky yet influential Boston punk club, The Rathskellar. REM, The Police, Ramones and Joan Jett played the place on the way up, or on the way through, dropping the club's name as street credibility. The Cars played there, The Neighborhoods and LaPeste showed their chops often and Willie Alexander practically lived there.

Szava-Kovats, now 56, spent a lot of time there in the 70s, 80s and 90s—and decided to memorialize the Kenmore Square club himself. Not that it was easy.

"It was going to be my first project," he says, sitting in the basement of his Lowell home, amid artfully stacked keyboards, electronic equipment and a long row of vinyl LPs. "But it turned out to be my fourth."

He says the philosophy degree he earned at UMass Lowell has been instrumental in the way he has approached projects and his time in music.

"It runs all through my work, quite clearly," he says. "I'm so glad I got a degree in philosophy. It runs through every part of my life, especially the part that is an artist." He said what he learned about the study of beliefs, critical thinking and rational thought has helped him find ways into approaching subjects.

While he toiled on the Rat project, others were conceived and born: He produced and directed "The Last Pow-Wow Oak," which chronicled a historic tree and landmark in his Lowell neighborhood; a film called "The Last Farm in Lowell," and he produced, wrote and directed "Grindstone Redux: the 1980s Underground Music Network," which looked inside the underground music scene to which he belonged.

"Let's Go to The Rat" shows not only the history of the long-dead Boston club, but captures the essence of the DIY style that ruled the scene. Szava-Kovats' production firm, True Age Media, is a one-man venture, where he produces, writes, directs and edits his work. It is DIY personified.

"The format of the work afforded a way to relive and re-think a lot of this," he says. "It's a case of the old days coming back."

His path through UMass Lowell (then University of Lowell) was not a direct one. He began in the fall of 1975, following graduation from Chelmsford High School, then left in his junior year, 1978.

"It was a mistake made due to financial concerns, and would have remained a mistake had I not gone back in 1990," he says. "I'm not sure I could do the same thing now, but enrollment was down when I wanted to come back and standards aren't what they are now."

While he painted and drew early on, Szava-Kovats didn't begin making music until his college years.

"My girlfriend's brother and I were just noodling around with sounds," he says. "This was back in the '70s, when you could get all of that cool electronic stuff. It was just out there, and you could pick any of it up cheap. And next thing you know, we'd formed Data-Bank-A. And a few years later, in 1983, we put out our first record."

They got some college radio play, and entered into the world of DIY promotion.

"It's not like there was Facebook back then," Szava-Kovats says with a smile.

By the late '80s, the band cultivated loyal followings in Germany, France and Belgium, though there wasn't much demand for local shows.

"Boston wasn't as into electronic music then," says Szava-Kovats, adding that Data-Bank-A finally launched a brief tour of Europe in 1993, meeting diehard fans face to face.

The road to finishing his Rat project was disjointed. At some point, he just hit a wall. He'd been through Willie Alexander's vast cache of scrapbooked memorabilia, and had a few interviews, but a valve had shut. The film had stopped coming in, and the big names ignored his requests for interviews.

He stopped chasing the Rat, busying himself with other projects.

Eventually, he ran into Terry Kitchen, a musician, songwriter and Rat regular. Kitchen offered to help. He organized a benefit show for the movie, "and that turned everything around," says Szava-Kovats. "People came out of the woodwork to talk and I could afford to continue the project."

The famous never responded from behind layers of managers and lawyers, but Szava-Kovats says his finished product reflects the truth of the Rat.

"This is a metaphor for punk in America, and I'd say the rat was neck-and-neck with CBGB in terms of being home to a legitimate culture moment," he says.

For more information, or to order the film, visit www.trueagemedia.com. ■

[1] *UMass Lowell River Hawks face the Northeastern University Huskies at Frozen Fenway in Boston.*

[2] *Hundreds of alumni watch as hockey alumni, Ryan Sandholm '97 and Christian Sbrocca '00 perform at the Frozen Fenway pregame reception.*

[3] *The Graduate School of Education celebrates its alumni with a special reception before a River Hawks hockey game. From left: Ted Rurak, Dean Anita Greenwood '84,'92, Bob Gower and George Tsapatsaris '77.*

[4] *College of Health Sciences alumni gather for a reception at the Tsongas Center prior to the hockey game. From left: Ed and Diane Mahoney '80 with Dean Shortie McKinney.*

[5] *Manning School of Business alumni and friends gather before the River Hawks men's ice hockey game against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. From left: Wayne Aruda '71,'83, Dave Cate '74, Steve Cate and Mikey Kilbride.*

[1] *From left, Head Coach Gary Gardner; George Davis and Athletic Director Dana Skinner gather for the Cross Country and Track & Field Alumni Reunion at a River Hawks hockey game in January.*

[2] *Alumni gather for the annual Student Leader Alumni Reunion before a hockey game. From left: residence life alumni Rich Connelly '87, Stephen Dagle, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and University Events Larry Siegel, Mike Erickson '84 and Andrew Scribner MacLean '87.*

[3] *Emeriti faculty Donn Clark, left, and Alan Rux, right, with Department Chair Martin Margala, are recognized at the 60th Anniversary Celebration for Electrical and Computer Engineering.*

[4] *Civil Engineering Department Chair Clifford Bruell '74, '76 presents a plaque to Vice Provost for Enrollments John Ting recognizing the creation of the Ting Civil Engineering Discretionary Endowment Fund during the Civil Engineering 45th Anniversary Celebration.*

[5] *Civil Engineering Department Chair Clifford Bruell '74, '76 presents a plaque to Prof. Donald Leitch during the Civil Engineering 45th Anniversary Celebration. Friends of Leitch helped to create the Professor Leitch, Civil Engineering Concrete Canoe and Student Activities Discretionary Endowment Fund.*

[6] *UMass Lowell football alumni gather at the River Hawks men's ice hockey game against Clarkson University's Golden Knights to reconnect and celebrate the proud legacy of UMass Lowell football.*

[1] *Sigma Phi Omicron members cheer on the basketball team as it takes on the University of New Hampshire at the Tsongas Center.*

[2] *Alumni award recipients gather with the chancellor, executive vice chancellor and deans during the awards ceremony. Back row, from left: Dean of the Francis College of Engineering Joseph Hartman, Dean of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Luis Falcón, Dean of the College of Health Sciences Shortie McKinney, Acting Dean of College of Health Sciences Mark Hines, Dean of Graduate School of Education Anita Greenwood and Dean of the Manning School of Business Kathryn Carter. Front row, from left: Mark Cocozza '71, James Barry '88, Adam Hogue '03, Patricia Dyer McPhail '54, Richard Pierro Jr. '83, Louis Coiro '82, Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92 and Chancellor Marty Meehan '78.*

[3] *Dean Hartman awards the College of Engineering's Dean Cup to the 2014 winning team from the Plastics Engineering Department. The challenge takes place annually during National Engineers Week.*

[4] *Alumni gather on Valentine's Day to show their love for the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at its Alumni Appreciation Night. From left: John '80 and Anne '83 O'Connell, Michelle Bazin '93 and Walter Toomey '03.*

[5] *Alumni from the San Francisco Bay join university leaders and faculty to watch a live showing of the River Hawks men's ice hockey team against Notre Dame University's Fighting Irish during the Hockey East Championship Game.*

[6] *Paul Johnson, Lowell Textile Institute Class of 1951, left, and his wife, Margot, visit with UMass President Robert Caret at a system-wide reception at The Villages in Florida.*

[1] *Alumni spend the afternoon and evening together at the exquisite home of Gail and Bob Ward '71 in Orinda, Calif. From left: Bob '71, '12 (H) and Gail Ward '12 (H), Kunal Sampat '05, computer science Assoc. Prof, Haim Levkowitz, Ethel Schuster, Dean of the Francis College of Engineering Joseph Hartman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Entrepreneurship & Economic Development Steven Tello '80, '02, Associate Vice Chancellor for Principal Gifts John Davis, Debra and Brian '79 Scappaticci and Major Gift Officer Sally Washburn.*

[2] *From left: Tom McAvinew '63, Karen McAvinew and Kathy Lemire show their UMass Lowell pride at a Boston Red Sox vs. Philadelphia Phillies spring training game.*

[3] *UMass Lowell celebrates the achievements of the Class of 2014 and recognizes Honorary Degree Recipients and Distinguished Alumni. From left: Chancellor Marty Meehan '78, Distinguished Alumni Recipients Jerry '78 and Joyce '77 Colella, Honorary Degree Recipient Brian MacCraith '14 (H), Assoc. Prof. Andre Dubus III, Honorary Degree Recipients Joy Tong '14 (H) and John Pulichino '67, '14 (H) and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92.*

[4] *Alumni and friends gather in Tampa to meet one another and enjoy watching a Boston Red Sox vs. New York Yankees spring training game.*

[5] *New York City regional alumni gather with University staff at the Tiffany Salon. From left: Stewart Lane, Bonnie Comley '81, Bill Ghitis '69, Anda Andrei, Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92, Ed Moloney and Director of Development Ted Priestly.*

[6] *Alumni and friends enjoy our first sunset cruise in Fort Lauderdale. From left: Ed and Justine '69, '74 Quimby, Christina McGuirk '67, Ann Marie Clark '74, Janet Lambert-Moore, Athena Letsou '58 and Tom McGuirk.*

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Since its inception in 2008, the annual Commencement Eve Celebration has raised more than $3.1 million for student scholarships. These scholarships allow students to take full advantage of educational opportunities without financial restrictions. Gifts to the university represent an investment in tomorrow's experts, leaders and difference makers.

FELLOWS CIRCLE ($25,000)
Larry Acquarulo Jr. '81
Aramark
Gerald '78 and Joyce '77 Colella
Jeff Cosiol '67
Robert Delhome
Gururaj '08 (H) and Jaishree Deshpande
Digital Federal Credit Union
Nancy L. and Richard K. Donahue Foundation
Charles '66, '04 (H) and Josephine Hoff
John F. Kennedy '70
L. Donald '59, '07 (H) and Gloria LaTorre
Chian-Hsiang Lawrence Lin '90 and Jang-Li Chang '80
Robert '84, '11 (H) and Donna '85, '91, '11 (H) Manning
Francis '56, '00 (H) and Tonita McKone
Leo Montagna '70, '77
John Pulichino '67, '14 (H) and Joy Tong '14 (H)
Mark '81, '13 (H) and Elisia '13 (H) Saab

INNOVATORS CIRCLE ($10,000)
Anonymous
Cabrera Services
Kathy Carter '78
George '61 and Cynthia Chamberas
The Family of Nina Coppens
Richard Denning '66
Mark Forziati '78
May Futrell
Richard Grande '72, '80
International Wire and Cable Symposium
Arnold and Maureen Lerner
Circle Health
McCallum Family Foundation
Chancellor Martin T. Meehan '78
Marty Meehan Educational Foundation
Ashwin Mehta
Jacqueline '75, '92 and Edward Moloney
William '69 and Elizabeth O'Shea
Amy '89, '90 and Jim '88 Regan
William Rhodes III '82
Professor Emeritus Bernard '56 and Yana Shapiro
Ashwani Singhal '84, '87
President Emeritus Jack Wilson and Judi Wilson
David Wunsch

PRINCIPALS CIRCLE ($5,000)
Ahmed Abdelal
Accellent
David Ameen '84
Ardito, Toscano & McCollum, PC
Linda Barrington '04, '06
Carol Barry '96
Johanna Bohan-Riley
Pauline '70 and Charles Carroll
John and Linda Chemaly - Trinity EMS, Inc.
Julie Chen
Edward Chiu
Scott Christensen
Michael Cipriano
Mark '71 & Susan '69 Cocozza
Thomas Costello and Kary Robertson '76
Alan Desrochers '72
Joseph P. Donahue Charitable Foundation Trust
Jacqueline Dowling
Ellen and Neil Duggan
Eastern Salt Company, Inc.
Enterprise Bank
Richard Ferrante '83
Robert Findlen '81
Edward Gallagher '84
Steven Grossman
Mitchell Kertzman '96 (H)
Sangphill Kim
Jayant Kumar
Francis Lai
Richard '96 and Janice '00 Lemoine
Joey Mead
Jack and Therese O'Connor - Commencement Photos, Inc.
Thomas '77, '80 and Diane '84 O'Connor
Peg Palmer '73, '77
John Pearson Jr. and Barbara Pearson
Richard Pierro Jr. '83 and Eileen Pierro
Donald and Patrese '05 Pierson
Red Mill Graphics
Marilyn Real '75
Sheila Riley-Callahan '80, '88
Brian Rist '77
Sage Bank
John Silveria '67, '71
Andrew Sutherland '94
Amad and Alexa '94 Tayebi
John Ting
Charles '76 and Joanne '76 Yestramski

PATRONS CIRCLE ($2,500)
Joseph Albanese '84
Peter and Kathleen '77 Allen
Frank Andrews '07
Lawrence Ardito '69 and Linda Carpenter '89
Thomas Baillie '89 and Ann Domigan '85
Bob '71 and Sandy '72 Barnett
Battles Foundation
Ron Boudreau '75 and Susan Pasquale '75
Robert Davis '60
Stephen Driscoll '66, '72
Mark Dyment '86
Deborah Finch '03, '06, '12
Roseanne '85 and Peter '84 Howe
Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union
Edward '67 and Roberta Kittredge
Michael and Cindy '91 Kuenzler
David Laurello '81, '88
The Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank
Prof. Emeritus Stuart L. Mandell '11 (H)
Matthew '79, '84 and Patricia McCafferty
MEC Electrical and MEC Technologies
Yash Puri
Robert and Jean Sheridan
Dana Skinner
Steven Starkey '79
George Toscano Jr.
Noel Vander '72, '79
Gerard Vitti '69

Mary E. McGauvran '39: a 'Beacon of Success' and a 'Great Role Model'

BY JACK MCDONOUGH

If you want to help build on Dr. McGauvran's legacy, please consider contributing to the scholarship being established in her honor. Visit www.uml.edu/givenow and specify the Mary McGauvran Scholarship Fund.

It was a sports banquet held somewhere off campus.

Jim McGuirk thinks it could have been at the Coq D'Or in Dracut but he's not sure. It was a long time ago in the spring of 1966.

Being the annual awards dinner, the place was filled with athletes, coaches, athletic department personnel and parents of the students.

And one other woman.

What, the young athletes wondered, was Mary McGauvran, the dean of women, doing there? She was the only non-athletic administrator at the event.

McGuirk, then a Lowell State freshman basketball player who went on to be elected to the university's Athletic Hall of Fame (read his full profile on Page 54), remembered recently, "We weren't sure why she would be interested in athletics. So someone asked the athletic director, Jim Ciszek."

"She's interested in you guys as young men," Ciszek said. "She takes an interest and she came to support you."

Taking an interest and providing support were two of the many contributions that Mary E. McGauvran made to the institution and its students from the time she joined Lowell State College in 1951 until she retired as a vice president of the University of Lowell in 1987.

Dr. McGauvran died in Chelmsford on May 12 at the age of 96.

Describing her as "a beacon of success to aspiring teachers, women and men, especially in Lowell," Chancellor Marty Meehan said, "Countless teachers who graduated during the Mary McGauvran years considered her a mentor and role model. She carried a deep affection for our university and exemplified our constant drive for excellence in all we do."

Growing up in the Acre section of Lowell, McGauvran graduated from the Academy of Notre Dame in Tyngsborough and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Lowell State Teacher's College in 1939. She taught in Chelmsford and Newton public schools for a dozen years before returning to her alma mater as a member of the faculty.

Over the next three and a half decades, she not only taught but also served as an administrator in a number of posts, including director of admissions, assistant dean and later dean of women, director of student affairs and, finally, vice president of student affairs when the school became the University of Lowell in 1975.

She retired in 1987.

Along the way, McGauvran also enrolled at Boston University where she earned a master's degree in education and, in 1955, where she became Doctor McGauvran when she was awarded a doctorate in education. She taught in BU's Graduate School of Education from 1957 to 1964.

As a specialist in educational measurement, she co-authored the Metropolitan Reading Readiness Test and published several books and articles in her field. She received many awards and citations during her career, including the Commonwealth's Citation for Outstanding Performance in 1986 and the Distinguished Alumni Award from UMass Lowell in 1997.

She also served on the Statewide Assessment and Institution Review committees of St. John's Hospital, was vice chair of the Northeast Regional Education Council and chair of the board of directors of Notre Dame Academy.

Jacqueline Moloney, UMass Lowell's executive vice chancellor, remembers McGauvran as "a great role model for me as a student and later as an administrator. She set a high bar for those around her and set in motion the foundation for the kind of compassionate, student-focused culture that is a hallmark of the student experience at UMass Lowell."

Larry Siegel, as associate vice chancellor for student affairs and events, today serves in a capacity similar to that held years earlier by McGauvran.

"She personified the profession of student affairs," Siegel says, "always reminding us that our students are the university's purpose for existing. She always prioritized the students' voice, needs and concerns and set the tone, expectation and example of our university as a caring and student-centered institution."

Of all the awards and titles bestowed on McGauvran, perhaps the most fitting and the one she would most cherish came at the time of her retirement when the Student Government Association recommended, and the Board of Trustees agreed, that the students' building on South Campus be named the Mary E. McGauvran Student Union Center. ■

In Memoriam

YEAR	NAME
1926	Gertrude R. (Martin) McCann
1929	Catherine E. (Deasy) Wadden
1929	Evelyn B. (Fuller) Ferrin
1933	Elizabeth E. (Nesmith) Outhuse
1934	Mary C. (Hickson) Walker
1934	Ruth M. (Rothwell) Brodeur
1936	Rita J. (McCarthy) O'Neill
1936	Florence E. Sullivan
1936	Evangeline I. Nicolaides
1936	Mildred N. Scanlon
1937	Virginia B. (Hunt) Newman
1937	Ruth T. (McGarry) Clare
1937	Irene M. (Profio) L'Herault
1938	Carolyn M. (Allen) Fowler
1938	Mary E. (Carboine) Doyle
1938	Mary E. (Pollard) Mogan
1938	Leo D. Rosenstein
1938	Evelyn H. Banne
1939	Helen F. (Nichols) Donahue
1939	Josephine H. (Rhones) Gleason
1939	Mary E. McGauvran
1940	Camille T. (Marquis) Lacey
1941	David Pernick
1942	Gertrude L. (LeQuin) Hirsch
1942	May V. (Lundgren) Latinen
1942	Douglas H. McElhinney
1947	Shirley A. (Sevrens) Smith
1947	John J. Bernard
1950	Frank B. Struzik
1950	Kenneth M. Adler
1951	Eugene C. Winter
1951	Ira H. Pantell
1951	Peter M. Rowe
1951	Irwin R. Needle
1952	Vito J. Selvaggio
1953	Harold M. Stein
1954	Joanne S. (Curran) Morse
1954	Marcia A. Scully
1954	Athanasios P. Anninos
1955	Carol G. (Lacasse) Veilleux
1955	John W. Chapin
1958	Patricia (Hogan) Farrell
1958	(McGuire) Lambert
1958	Paul J. Sheehy
1958	Edward R. Sheldon
1959	Paul D. Finnegan
1959	George F. Dillon
1959	Harry K. Thomas
1960	John P. DeSilva
1961	Richard B. Hayes
1961	Judith C. Dwyer
1961	Russell J. Gould
1968	Paula F. (Casey) Beaulieu
1969	Wayne E. Bantle
1970	Joan Whittenberger
1970	Charles R. Johnson
1974	David P. Lizotte
1975	James G. Serven
1975	Richard K. Johnson
1977	Floyd O. Earl
1978	Daniel M. Cunningham
1978	Kevin W. Kleynen
1979	John J. Condon
1980	John J. Sweeney
1980	Noel R. Metcalf
1982	Lois A. (Bratt) Genis
1984	Stephen A. Goulet
1984	Joyce K. Brown
1985	Frederick S. Lospennato
1986	James A. Vachon
1986	John P. Pinette
1988	David J. Flanagan
1989	Joanna M. Iwanow
1989	Terry R. Peterson
1991	Sharon L. Fair
1992	Vera M. McAnespie
1994	Mary Lou Sullivan
1994	Dennis P. Doughty
1998	Stephen W. Lake
2002	Mary Ann Gormley
2005	Jeffrey Brian Arruda
2005	Kirk Patrick Walsh
2005	R.N. Mattingly
2005	Jon Clauson
2005	John Antonitis
2005	Arthur Cherkerzian
2005	Marion Mitchell
2005	Sarah Matthews Jones
2005	Andrea Sullivan
2005	William Muller
2005	Paul Garrity
2005	Dan Golomb
2005	Louis Tarantino
2005	Margaret A. Sproul
2005	Anna B. Smith
2005	Mary B. Smith
2005	Edward B. Stevens
2005	Patricia G. McMahon
2005	Joyce G. Denning
2005	Harland I. Main
2005	Maurice L. Albertson
2005	Dorothy M. Dash
2005	Ruth M. Hard
2005	Bette R. Hook

John Pinette '86, a 'Funny and Sweet' Comedian, Dies at Age 50

John Pinette '86 graduated with an accounting degree and worked in that field for half a year.

Then a funny thing happened. Him.

He always had the ability to make people laugh and that's what he really wanted to do for a living. Not accounting. "I didn't have the heart for it," he would say later. "After six months, I said, 'Something's got to give.' "

So the young man from Malden went on stage and stayed there for nearly three decades, regaling audiences with his stand-up routines that poked fun at his own portly frame and the nirvana of all-you-can-eat buffets.

"I talk about food not so much because I'm a big guy," he explained. "I think it's the perfect common ground. Everybody eats."

John Pinette died unexpectedly in April while in Pittsburgh to attend a family function. He was 50.

Nick's Comedy Stop in Boston was one of the first rungs in John's climb to comedic success. He went on to national prominence, opening for Frank Sinatra in Las Vegas, Shirley MacLaine on tour and other luminaries such as Ray Charles and Julio Iglesias. In 1999 he was named one of the funniest stand-up comics of the year at the American Comedy Awards.

But stand-up wasn't all he did. John also appeared in movies, made several DVDs and played a prominent role in the famous final episode of the Jerry Seinfeld television series. He also appeared in a Broadway production of the musical "Hairspray."

A number of fellow comedians and actors mourned John's passing. Here is what three of them said:

"I was so lucky to work so many gigs with John Pinette who was as kind as he was funny." – Caroline Rhea

"A headliner both on and off stage. Such a great man. Truly inspirational." – Bill Burr

"John Pinette you were a funny and sweet man and you left us too soon." – Lizz Winstead — *JMcD*

In Memory of Mack

He was Mack.

And folks who never before considered bird watching were riveted to his life, which became something of a reality show atop Fox Hall. Eighteen stories up, for at least seven years, Mack and his mate, Merri, made a life.

It was peregrine falcon TV, always on.

Off in the distance, far below, viewers could see the rocky flow of the Merrimack River, for which they were named during a campus-wide contest.

On April 22, the University adopted the couple as official "River Hawks," in a full-fledged ceremony, as students, staff, wildlife officials and animal lovers looked on.

This spring, Merri and Mack took turns sitting on their gravel nest and hunting. The cameras installed in the box-like home flashed every detail from two angles. The inside camera showed the arrival of food, usually other birds. As a peregrine, Mack was capable of attack dives of up to 200 miles per hour making him not only the fastest animal on earth, but a pretty sure bet to spear a pigeon mid-flight before it ever saw him coming.

Teachers across the area found ways to use the birds and their lives in the classroom.

For fifth-grade teacher Christine Panagiotakos of Chelmsford's McCarthy Middle School, the lesson was about endangered species, which included peregrines until recently.

"But you know what?" she says. "I became addicted. We all did. None of it ended with the school day. First thing I do every day is get a cup of coffee and check in on the birds."

As May rolled to a close, four chicks hatched into gawky balls of white fluff. Merri fussed over them, as she does to this day.

On the afternoon of June 7, a Saturday, university workers found the body of a peregrine falcon on the ground near Fox Hall. A numbered tag on the dead bird's leg confirmed it was Mack. As of this writing, nothing untoward is suspected in the death.

Hearts broke with the news. Messages of mourning began to pour in over the university's web and social media sites.

It was clear people connected with the day-to-day lives of the family and that we had lost one of our own.

RIP, Mack. — *DP*

Editor's note: Watch Merri and her chicks live at uml.edu/hawk-watch.

Then...

In 1979, Commencement took place outside (in the pouring rain) at Cawley Stadium. About 1,750 students graduated, divided into sections marked by home-made signs on sticks. The commencement address was given by Everett V. Olsen, then an executive vice president at the university.

Now...

Although this was the third year in a row that UMass Lowell has held two Commencement ceremonies to accommodate a record number of graduates, this is the first time undergrad degree recipients were split up. The 3,478 members of the Class of 2014 represent a 10 percent increase over last year and 77 percent since 2008—evidence of the university's 45 percent increase in enrollment since 2007 and climbing student success rates. As morning commencement speaker Bill Nye told graduates, "You are really among the best in the world at thinking about new arrangements, new tools and new elegantly engineered designs to reach for what I like to call 'the high-hanging fruit'—the big prizes and great big prizes. That's what we want you to do for us. I'm not kidding; change the world in new, exciting and big ways." U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Howard Koh spoke at the afternoon ceremony.

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- UMASS LOWELL HOCKEY VS. MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
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