THIS IS

BIG

125TH
SPECIAL
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

Happy Birthday to us!
The university turned 125, and we have a lot of big stuff to celebrate. Big ideas, big dreams, our big happy family.

We are:

1894 - 1932
LOWELL NORMAL SCHOOL

1895 - 1929
LOWELL TEXTILE SCHOOL

1929 - 1953
LOWELL TEXTILE INSTITUTE

1932 - 1960
LOWELL TEACHERS COLLEGE
You’ll see the whole big picture in this issue.

As someone once said, the great thing about getting older is you don’t lose all the other ages you’ve been. And in the university’s case, we haven’t lost all the other institutions we’ve been. The mission our founders launched more than a century ago in the hallways of Lowell Normal School and Lowell Textile School—which evolved over the years into Lowell State, Lowell Tech and ULowell—continues today at UMass Lowell.

Our purpose, at its very core, has always been to prepare hardworking students to go out into the world and shake things up. Our graduates are innovators and leaders—and we’re proud to have a little something to do with that.

In this commemorative photo issue of UML Magazine, we pay tribute to you, to those who came before you—and to all the distinctive facets of this university that make it uniquely ours.

Happy 125th! It’s a big deal.
...And then this happened.

Just as we were preparing to send this commemorative issue to print in the spring, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. And as the people of this university have done countless times over the last 125 years, our community sprang into action. Our faculty and staff transitioned thousands of classes to remote platforms in just days. Student support services quickly followed—from health care to career fairs to tutoring. Our researchers, meanwhile, got right to work looking for solutions to help the world better understand, treat and eradicate this novel virus. We worked with Lowell General Hospital to build a 90-bed field hospital in our Campus Recreation Center. Many members of our community rushed to the front lines—in hospitals and public health offices; in EMS and police roles; as grocery store workers and safety trainers. We jumped in to help make face masks and donate personal protective equipment to area hospitals. We became volunteer contract tracers and provided guidance for public school teachers struggling to adjust to their new virtual classrooms. We’ve had much to be proud of over our long history, but we are confident that in another 125 years, this moment in time—and the way our River Hawks have pulled together—will stand out in the UML history books.
This 125th anniversary issue is dedicated to:

the members of our community

on the front lines, behind the scenes,

saving lives, chasing dreams, grieving loss,

giving back, keeping children’s lives on track,

spreading cheer, holding faith,

keeping hearts and hopes in place,

baking bread, staying in,

waiting to begin again—generations knit together,

with UML right at the center: yesterday, today, forever.

A NOTE ABOUT THIS ISSUE

If all had gone according to plan, you would have received this issue in early April. But you know what they say about plans. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, we made the difficult decision to suspend production of the magazine and redirect its budget to supporting students. We weren’t sure if we’d ever print this issue—until an exceptionally generous group of alumni and friends reached out this fall and offered to help fund it. This holiday season, we are so grateful to our big-hearted River Hawk community. Thank you to our magazine benefactors (whom you’ll be hearing more about soon!)—and thank you to all of you. We couldn’t have made it to 125 without you.
UMASK LOWELL
You can’t keep a good River Hawk down. Over the past year, our students, faculty and staff have been tested as never before, and have responded with resilience and ingenuity. The UML spirit endures.
The men of Lowell Textile Institute, 1929
The women of Lowell Normal School, 1928
The Big Time, Baby

Our university has always had a unique and vibrant culture, and in this section, we celebrate it. From our Division I athletics program and the extraordinary luminaries we attract (like Oprah Winfrey, right, who visited in 2018), to our glorious Depression-era murals and Jack Kerouac’s writing chair—our campus culture is big time, baby.
“It’s safe to say, we were in the presence of the greatest actress of our time.”

UMass President Marty Meehan ’78
“I do some colleges, but I don’t do a lot of stuff because, frankly ... it’s kind of scary. I’m a writer, I’m not a performer. And when I get out in front of a bunch of people, I get a little nervous and a little self-conscious.”

Stephen King
The Big Time, Baby

FAMOUS FACES

2018

Oprah Winfrey
“When I heard you all were going to use [my visit] as a tool for service, to raise money for scholarships ... I thought, ‘That’s worth firing up the jet for.’”

Oprah Winfrey
The late civil rights leader and U.S. Rep. John Lewis offered a rousing address at the 2007 Commencement, calling on graduates to “get out there, push, pull, get in the way. Stand up and fight for what you believe in. … It is the struggle of a lifetime, but that’s what it takes to build a love of community.”

Bill Nye—best known as “the Science Guy” from his award-winning TV show—delivered the UML Commencement address, challenging grads to find solutions to problems like climate change: “I believe you all can help us avoid disaster, but I am also hoping you can help us avoid another disco era.”

In 1956, then-Senator John F. Kennedy visited campus to receive an honorary degree in recognition of his public service. Eleven years prior, his father Joseph P. Kennedy Sr. gave a scholarship to Lowell Textile Institute for graduate research in memory of his oldest son, Joseph, a U.S. Navy pilot killed in World War II.
Doris Kearns Goodwin
HISTORIAN

Richard Goodwin
PLAYWRIGHT & AUTHOR
Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and author Doris Kearns Goodwin and her husband Richard Goodwin, a presidential speechwriter and advisor, spent an evening on campus in 2010, picking up a pair of honorary degrees and regaling a rapt crowd with insider stories during “A Conversation with Dick & Doris.”

Leymah Gbowee
PEACE ACTIVIST & EDUCATOR
Liberian peace activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee spent time on campus in 2011, serving as that year’s Greeley Peace Scholar. Speaking during UML’s 2011 International Women Leaders Summit, Gbowee inspired the campus with her courage and her unflagging commitment to peace and equality.

Paul Cellucci
MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR & U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CANADA
As governor, Paul Cellucci visited UML for the groundbreaking of the Campus Recreation Center in 2000, and six years later as a guest speaker in Assoc. Prof. Jeffrey Gerson’s political science class. In between, he served as U.S. Ambassador to Canada. Cellucci died in 2013 of Lou Gehrig’s Disease, or ALS. The Massachusetts ALS Registry is named after him, as is the UMass ALS Cellucci Fund.

Mary McAleese
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND
Mary McAleese, who led Ireland from 1997 to 2011, spent time on campus in 2013, receiving an honorary degree. The first person born in Northern Ireland to hold the office, McAleese shared insights on her efforts to advance the peace process and reconciliation.

John Updike
AUTHOR
Born in Pennsylvania but a longtime resident of Massachusetts, acclaimed novelist John Updike was awarded an honorary degree by UMass Lowell in 1978. A few years later, he gave a reading of his work at an event produced by Lowell Celebrates Kerouac! Inc. A longtime partner of the university, LCK celebrates its 35th anniversary this year.
Marian Edelman
Founder and president emerita of the Children’s Defense Fund, Marian Edelman accepted an honorary degree at UMass Lowell in 1975. Edelman began her career in the mid-60s when, as the first Black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, she directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Miss. In 1968, she moved to Washington, D.C., as counsel for the Poor People’s Campaign that Martin Luther King, Jr. began organizing before his death.

Paul Tsongas
Senator
U.S. Senator and presidential candidate Paul Tsongas was instrumental in the revitalization of his hometown of Lowell—and more than deserving of the honorary degree he received here in 1980. After Tsongas’ death in 1997, the university’s arena was renamed in his honor. Today, his archives are housed at UML.

Harish Hande
Social Entrepreneur
Engineering alumnus Harish Hande ’98, ’00, ’13 (H) began his career by going house to house in his native India, peddling solar panels. By 1995, he had founded Solar Electric Co. (SELCO India), devoted to the delivery of solar lighting systems to India’s poor. SELCO has lightened the lives of more than a million people since. In 2011, Hande received Asia’s annual Magsaysay award, comparable to the Nobel Prize, and in 2013 an honorary degree from UML.

Edward Kennedy
U.S. Senator
The late Sen. Ted Kennedy was a regular presence on campus—some days touring research labs, others carving pumpkins with then-Chancellor Marty Meehan. During one visit to learn more about UML’s nanotechnology research, Kennedy said, “You are where it’s at. It’s important that the state catch up with you. It is important that the country catch up with you.”
Mico Kaufman
Sculptor

Renowned sculptor Mico Kaufman (some of whose works reside in a collection at UMass Lowell) spent most of his life in Tewksbury. The only sculptor to receive commissions to design four Presidential inaugural medals, Kaufman was on campus to receive an honorary degree in 2011, five years before his death.

Elie Wiesel
Holocaust Survivor

Author, teacher and political activist Elie Wiesel wrote the internally acclaimed memoir “Night,” which recounted his experiences surviving the Holocaust. Wiesel won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, and 11 years later was on campus to accept an honorary degree at UMass Lowell.

Elizabeth Warren
Senator

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren knows her way around campus. The former presidential candidate has toured our facilities, read from her book “A Fighting Chance” in the campus bookstore—and, in 2012, was featured in a pivotal U.S. Senate debate with then-incumbent Scott Brown, held before a crowd of more than 5,000 at the Tsongas Center.

Richard Nixon
U.S. Vice President & President

Vice President Richard Nixon visited the university to accept an honorary degree from LTI (an honor that the student council rescinded in 1972, two years before Nixon resigned the presidency during the Watergate scandal). While on campus, Nixon attended the dedication of then-new Cumnock Hall, and obligingly wore a freshman beanie given to him by the students.
“I got up there tonight and I was terrified at first. I told myself, ‘Get your head in the game!’ And the rest just came. I looked up and across from me was Billy Joel. And I thought, ‘Oh my God.’”

—Music student David Schockett, who played “Leningrad” on the piano with Billy Joel at Durgin Hall, during the rock star’s master class
From Aerosmith to Aoki, from Dylan to Drake, students have been instrumental in bringing some of music’s biggest names to campus over the years.
ATH
LET
ICS
The Big Time, Baby

ATHLETICS

7 NCAA TEAM NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

9 NCAA INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

7 OLYMPIANS
ELEVATING THE GAME
The university has long had a tradition of winning, and all 16 varsity sports joined the NCAA Division I in 2013. This past year, the River Hawks proved that they belong there, both athletically and academically, in their second year of being fully eligible for Division I competition. The UML athletic program scored a third-place finish in the America East Commissioner’s Cup standings, which ranks the nine conference members on an annual points system. It was the River Hawks’ best showing in six years of AE membership. They fared just as well in the classroom, with 172 UML student-athletes making the America East winter/spring honor roll with a 3.00 GPA or higher.
The Big Time, Baby

ATHLETICS

Hockey East Champs 2013
“It was the most precious moment in my career. Everywhere I’ve been—and I’ve done my share of traveling—I’ve been asked about that team. In many hours on the road, analyzing after a loss, I’ve always tried to make comparisons to that team. It was a very special group.”

—former men’s basketball coach
Don Doucette, on the university’s 1988 Division II national championship team
Mascots

**BEFORE 1948**
- THE MILLMEN
- GLOBETROTTERS
- INDIANS

**1948-1975**
- TEX THE TERRIER

**1975-1994**
- THE CHIEFS

**1994 - PRESENT**
- ROWDY THE RIVER HAWK
FIELD OF DREAMS

Launched in 1975, the university’s field hockey team captured eight Division II Northeast 10 tournament titles in 10 years with 10 NCAA tournament appearances. The program won its first national championship in 2005, and again in 2010—all under the guidance of head coach and former River Hawk standout Shannon LeBlanc Hlebichuk ’98, the longest-tenured and winningest multiyear coach in program history. Since rising to Division I in 2013, the team has qualified for the two most recent America East championships.
They’re a special breed, our River Hawks—and the same was true when they were Chiefs, Terriers, Globetrotters, Indians and Millmen. Our students become alumni, and our alumni have become our legacy. In this section, we celebrate our one, big, happy family.
UMass Lowell kicked off its 125th anniversary celebration in September 2019 by welcoming its largest-ever group of incoming students.
One Big Happy Family

OUR STUDENTS
A RECORD NUMBER OF FANS PACK THE TSONGAS CENTER IN 2014 TO CHEER ON THE THREE-TIME HOCKEY EAST TOURNAMENT CHAMPION RIVER HAWKS HOCKEY TEAM.
One
Big
Happy
Family

OUR
STUDENTS

Style

1900s
20s
30s
40s
50s

UMASS LOWELL MAGAZINE
They're accountants and activists, poets and politicians. They enforce the law and philosophize about it. They serve on the front lines as nurses and as public health educators around the country. Therapists and technicians, mathematicians and musicians. They're inventors, engineers, builders and business leaders. They educate our children, predict the weather and run nonprofits. But they all have one thing in common:

They are ours.

1. Ruben Sanca ’10
2. Stephen Driscoll ’66, ’72
3. Joyce ’77 and Gerry ’78
5. Brian Ris ’77
6. Frank ’66, ’17 (H) and Mary Jo ’66, ’17 (H) Spinola
7. Barry Burbank ’72
10. Ted Leonsis ’15, Charles ’66, ’04 (H) and Josephine Hoff ’16, Shari Spear ’07, ’17, Dianely Antigua ’10, ’16, Teresa Lew ’14, ’14
11. Emmanuel Lamour ’05, ’16
12. Linda FitzPatrick ’68, ’81
13. Bonnie Comley ’81, ’22, Desh Deshpande ’08 (H), John and Mary ’60
14. Alden ’24, Lawrence Lin ’90, ’25, Bobby ’05 and Alivia Tugbyele ’08
16. Gordon Halm ’12, ’30, Mike Johnston ’68, ’31, Sarah Wroblevski ’05
17. Richard Grande ’72, ’33, Connor Hellebuyck ’34, May Futrell ’35, Jim ’68 and Amy ’89, ’80
18. Regan ’36, Bob ’71 and Gail Ward ’37, Nora Gorton ’36, ’38, Anil and Abha ’69, ’08
21. Jack Wilson ’47, Vania King ’15 with Serena Williams
22. Janis Raguin’92
One Big Happy Family

LOWELL LORE
Gertrude Bailey
At 94 years old, Gertrude Bailey is one of the university’s oldest living alumni. Enrolling at State Teachers College in the fall of 1944 at the height of World War II, Bailey was one in a class of about 40 women (annual tuition was $75). She went on to teach in Lowell public schools and served as principal at the Lincoln School. The Dr. Gertrude M. Bailey Elementary School is named in her honor.

African American Student Graduates.
Teresa Garland Lew was the first African American graduate of the Lowell Normal School. Born in Lowell in 1896, her grandparents served as agents in the Underground Railroad.

1902
Lowell Textile beanie

1983
State 14
Those Were the Days.

Back on campus for the university’s 125th anniversary celebration in October of 2019, Patricia O’Brien ’53 was surprised to find herself featured in the event’s memorabilia display. O’Brien is first on the left in the front row of this photo of State Teachers College at Lowell students posing in front of Coburn Hall on South Campus in the late 1940s.

PRESIDENT’S CUP

“Ms. Kennedy” (as the note on the back of the photo identifies her), a secretary for the Lowell Tech Alumni Association in the early 1950s, jokingly guzzles from the President’s Cup. Every year, starting in 1920s, the president of the Alumni Association awarded the Cup to the alumni class with the largest attendance at Homecoming. This photo was taken in the newly opened Alumni Office in Alumni Hall by George C. Armstrong ’39, an LTI alum and professor until his death in 1959. The Alumni Association built and donated the building in 1952.
The university’s first student newspaper was founded at Lowell Textile School in 1921. The Text covered campus news, student activities, athletics and social events. In 1968, Lowell State College launched The Advocate, and in 1976, both newspapers merged to form the Connector.

**Giving the Nod**

The first 1,000 fans at a 2016 River Hawk hockey game received UMass President Marty Meehan as a giveaway—or his bobblehead likeness, rather.

The Rathskeller (or “The Rat”) was a popular student pub in Fox Hall in the 1970s and 1980s.
**DR. PAT**

Dean Patricia Goler (shown here in a photo from the 1970 Knoll yearbook) was the first Black woman with a Ph.D. hired by the state college system. She joined the history faculty at Lowell State Teachers College in 1957 (“Be specific and cite examples!” was her mantra, according to former students) and later became a dean, when the school was Lowell State College. The Goler Fellows Program is named in her honor.

**Saint Joan**

She is in a corner of Coburn 205, in plaster on a pedestal. She kneels, hands clasped in front of her, head slightly tilted back. She is Joan of Arc, and seems poised for instruction from the heavens. All over her are the signatures of former students, mostly from the 1960s, in pen and pencil. Like the plaster casts that share the room, says art history Prof. Marie Frank, it is by the Boston-based sculpture studio Caproni, probably purchased around 1911 for Lowell Normal School.

**KEROUAC SAT HERE**

The Sampas family donated dozens of Jack Kerouac’s personal effects to the university in 2015, including the beat writer’s swivel walnut desk chair, circa 1940. It is now part of a permanent exhibit at Allen House on South Campus that is open to the public.

**1900**

Five years after the Lowell Textile School was established, its graduates organized an alumni association that held annual reunions and provided for “the welfare of their alma mater.” Over time, the Independent University Alumni Association raised millions of dollars for student scholarships.

**1957**

**1900**
Every October, hundreds of alumni of every generation flock back to campus for River Hawk Homecoming. (Even a pandemic couldn’t stop it: An extensive lineup of virtual events brought alumni together this year.) While celebrating where they’ve been, attendees also help look forward to where UML is going. From hockey games to live music, class reunions to chili cook-offs—homecoming brings the gang back together.
The university has had 17 leaders, but since it officially joined the UMass system in 1991, there have only been three. The chancellor’s job is to lead the campus in fulfilling its mission of education, research and service to the region.
WILLIAM T. HOGAN
(1981-2006)

After working as an engineer at General Electric and for the U.S. Army, Bill Hogan joined the campus as a professor of mechanical engineering in 1963. He quickly moved up the ranks, becoming dean of the College of Engineering, vice president of academic affairs and, eventually, president of the University of Lowell. He became UMass Lowell’s first chancellor in 1991.

Shortly before retiring in 2006, Hogan helped develop a plan for a $266 million renovation of the university’s three campuses, taking the first steps toward establishing UMass Lowell as a world-class research and development center.

He died in 2017 at the age of 84.
MARTIN T. MEEHAN ’78

During his chancellorship, Marty Meehan, the first alumnus to be named to the position, propelled UMass Lowell forward by every important measure of higher education. The institution achieved record growth in enrollment, student retention and funding for research and scholarships. And the campus underwent a stunning physical transformation with new academic buildings and residence halls, upgraded academic and research facilities, and enhanced student activity spaces.

Prior to his appointment, Meehan represented the 5th Congressional District of Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1993 to 2007, where he served on the House Armed Services and Judiciary committees. Widely respected as a reformer, he established a national reputation for his legislative leadership in transforming campaign finance laws and protecting the public from the health risks of tobacco use.
Jacquie Moloney is the first woman to lead the university since its founding in 1894.

In 2017 Moloney was recognized as one of seven prominent “Women Who Mean Business” by the Boston Business Journal and for the past three years, UMass Lowell was the highest-ranked educational institution among the Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts, as ranked by The Commonwealth Institute and Boston Globe Magazine.

In her more than 30 years with UMass Lowell, Moloney has served in a number of roles including professor, researcher, dean and executive vice chancellor. She was a pioneer in web-based learning and she revolutionized the Division of Continuing Education to include award-winning online programs. She created UMass Lowell’s Office of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development and established the DifferenceMaker program, a national model for entrepreneurial education.

As chancellor, Moloney’s leadership in the implementation of the university’s strategic plan has resulted in a remarkable institutional transformation. In less than a decade, UMass Lowell has achieved record gains in student enrollment, academic preparedness, diversity and graduation and retention rates. In addition, faculty hiring, research expenditures, fundraising and economic development activities have all reached new, historic heights. Under Moloney’s oversight, UMass Lowell launched its first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign, which surpassed its $150 million goal this year.

Simultaneously, Moloney has prioritized sustainable practices and climate change education, guiding UML to the highest score among Massachusetts colleges and universities for sustainability, as ranked by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.
Studying ancient ice in Antarctica to better understand climate change (right). Practicing teaching on computerized student avatars. Spending spring semester engineering new materials for next-generation Tesla vehicles. Serving as contact tracers during a pandemic. Discussing stock market trends with Warren Buffet in Nebraska. The academic and research opportunities students and faculty have today are possible thanks to a 125-year foundation of education that transforms both students and the world.
The Big Idea

THE WORLD IN THEIR HANDS
The Big Idea

ACADEMICS
In our earliest days, we trained teachers and textile workers. Today, the university offers nearly 200 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in business, education, engineering, fine arts, health, humanities, sciences and social sciences. Our Division of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education offers both fully online and blended programs and last year drew nearly 32,000 enrollments in its online courses. So yes, we’ve grown. But we’ve had the same mission since 1894: prepare students to work in the real world, solve real problems and help real people.
The Big Idea

ACADEMICS
The Big Idea

ACADEMICS
RESEARCH, INNOVATION & PARTNERSHIPS
The University's Economic Impact on the Region
From our earliest days as a source of brainpower for the Industrial Revolution unfolding in Lowell’s textile mills to the founding of the first plastics engineering department in the country, to the development of a regional medical device cluster in Massachusetts, UMass Lowell has spent all its days at the edge of what is possible. Working hand in hand with industry and government partners, students and faculty bridge the gap between research and solutions that change people’s lives.
The Big Idea
RESEARCH, INNOVATION & PARTNERSHIPS
UMass Lowell began in two buildings—but has grown to 4.8 million square feet of academic, research, athletic and residential space across its three campuses in Lowell. This is our place, this is our big picture.
As the university has grown, other things have shrunk. Despite doubling its physical footprint, UML has simultaneously eliminated more than 9 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions annually and cut energy costs by more than $1.2 million a year through the state’s largest Accelerated Energy Program.
The Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center, which opened in 2012, was the first new academic building constructed from the ground up to open on campus in more than 30 years. It was named in tribute to Mark ’81, ’13 (H) and Elisia ’13 (H) Saab for their generous contributions to UMass Lowell.
The $40 million Health and Social Sciences Building is home to some of the university’s most popular majors: nursing, criminal justice and criminology. Opened in April 2013, the building provides classrooms, simulation laboratories and observation facilities, a demonstration hospital wing, and meeting spaces for team projects and community engagement.

In 2017, the university renamed its College of Health Sciences in honor of Roy Zuckerberg ’58, ’99 (H), who studied textile sales at Lowell Tech. He went on to a successful career on Wall Street, retiring as the longest-serving partner in Goldman Sachs’ history. He is now a senior partner at Samson Investment Partners.

The Susan and Alan Solomont School of Nursing was dedicated in 2017 in recognition of the Solomonts’ decades of support for the university. Alan Solomont ’77, ’94 (H) is a former U.S. ambassador to Spain and Andorra who earned a degree in nursing at UMass Lowell before embarking on a career in health care, politics and higher education.
When it opened in fall 2013, University Suites became the first new residence hall on campus in two decades.

At 18 stories tall, Fox Hall is the tallest building in Lowell. It’s also home to a pair of endangered peregrine falcons. Oh, and 800+ students. The residence hall, which boasts the largest dining hall on campus, was named for Kenneth R. Fox, who as the youngest college president in the nation (he took the role at age 29), brought growth and change to the Lowell Textile Institute between 1945 and 1950.
Perched prominently on the corner of University Avenue and Riverside Street, the Pulichino Tong Business Center houses the Manning School of Business. UML named the building in honor of alumnus John Pulichino ’67, ’14 (H) and his wife, Joy Tong ’14 (H), successful entrepreneurs who in 2012 committed more than $4 million in scholarship funds for Manning School students.

In 2011, the university’s School of Management was renamed the Manning School of Business in honor of alumnus and Board of Trustees Chairman Robert J. Manning ’84, ’11 (H), chairman and CEO of MFS Investment Management. Manning and his wife, Donna ’85, ’91, ’11 (H), an oncology nurse, made a multimillion-dollar commitment to the school.

Named after Mary E. McGauvran, the university’s former vice president of student affairs, the new McGauvran Center opened in 2016 after a $34 million renovation.
Originally known as the Engineering Building when it opened in 1952, Perry Hall was later named in honor of plastics engineering alumnus Barry Perry '68, '15 (H) chairman and CEO of the Engelhard Corporation, and one of the university’s most generous benefactors. Perry and his wife, Janice, have endowed many scholarships and facilities improvements. After a $50 million renovation, Perry Hall is now home to labs for mechanical engineering; biomaterials and clean energy; and biomedical, chemical and environmental engineering.

The university purchased the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Lowell for $15 million in 2009. After an additional $4 million in renovations, the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center—whose back patios overlook the city’s canals—began housing hundreds of students and hosting dozens of professional and academic conferences every year.
The North Campus building formerly known as Pasteur Hall was officially renamed Dandeneau Hall in 2018, in honor of plastics engineering alumnus James Dandeneau ’80. The university completed a $15.75 million renovation of the second, third and fourth floors of the 80-year-old building, now home to the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the Department of Computer Science, UTeach and several Civil & Environmental Engineering offices.

In 2010, the university acquired the former Tsongas Arena from the City of Lowell for $1 and renamed it the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell. Since then, the Tsongas Center has undergone extensive renovations and welcomed millions of people. Now, more than 300,000 people attend events there annually.
The oldest academic building on campus reopened in 2020 after dramatic renovation and expansion. Built in 1897 to house the Lowell Normal School, Coburn Hall was named for Frank F. Coburn, the Normal School’s first principal.
The 2015 naming of what is now known as the William J. and John F. Kennedy College of Sciences recognizes John Kennedy’s long record of philanthropy at UMass Lowell. His major commitment to support the students, faculty and facilities of the College of Sciences included funding for major renovations to Olsen Hall, completed in 2019. John ’70 and his older brother, William ’54, who passed away in 1994, both graduated from programs in the sciences.
The stained-glass window that originally faced guests entering Coburn’s lobby was moved down the hall to make way for a large picture window, which offers a view into a model elementary school classroom.

The Murals
RESTORED TO LIFE

As part of Coburn’s renovation, art conservators stripped away paint to reveal the Works Progress Administration-era murals that cover an entire wall of the building’s former ballroom. Commissioned during the Depression, the 10-by-64-foot murals were the pride and joy of what was then State Teachers College at Lowell. The murals remained in Coburn for the next few decades, but during the late 1970s or early 1980s, for reasons not entirely clear, they were painted over and covered with a pleated curtain.

Restored in 2020
In the main entrance of Coburn Hall, the first-floor lobby’s original terrazzo flooring has been restored after being hidden beneath a layer of tiles for decades.
Southwick Hall opened in 1903 as part of what was meant to be—along with Kitson and Falmouth Halls—the “Textile School quadrangle.” The details of the proposed fourth building are lost to history. The arches at the entrance to Southwick Hall were built by Spain’s Rafael Guastavino, using his celebrated “Tile Arch System” (also seen in the Boston Public Library and the Queensboro Bridge in New York).
Southwick Hall was built with a donation of $35,000 from Textile School trustee Frederick Ayer (pictured), who stipulated that it be named for his grandfather, Royal Southwick, a Quaker abolitionist and state senator who established the Lowell Carpet Co.
St. Joseph’s Hospital’s history dates to the Industrial Revolution, when 11 textile companies in the city established it as Lowell Corporation Hospital to serve employees and their families. During the Great Depression, the hospital was transferred to the Archdiocese of Boston, which renamed it St. Joseph’s. In later years, the hospital was relocated to Pawtucket Street and grew into a full-service community hospital merging with St. John’s Hospital to form Saints Medical Center in 1992, at which time it vacated the Pawtucket Street site. UMass Lowell purchased the facility in early 2011, with plans to turn it into a student center.
A vibrant space for the campus and community, the $95 million University Crossing opened in 2014. The hub that links UMass Lowell's South, North and East campuses with the city's downtown business district and cultural attractions, the center brings together for the first time under one roof many of the services students need to complement their classroom experience.
Named for Alexander Cumnock, the first board chairman of the Lowell Textile School and an agent of the Boott Mills, Cumnock Hall was dedicated in 1954. The event was attended by Vice President Richard Nixon, who obligingly wore a freshman beanie given to him by the students.
AT THE (RIBBON’S) CUTTING EDGE

Let’s just say that it’s become pretty common to hear the sentence “please pass the giant scissors” on campus over the last decade. Since 2010, UMass Lowell has aggressively grown its infrastructure, investing nearly $945 million in new buildings, acquisitions and renovations and opening 18 properties, including six new buildings in just a year’s time.
Thanks to more than 300 traditional study abroad opportunities on six continents and partnerships with 38 educational institutions in 23 nations, UMass Lowell students can find a home anywhere in the world. Our place is every place.
The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Over the last 125 years, this university has gone by several different names. We’ve opened some new buildings, and offered new academic programs. We’ve upped our game in athletics and expanded our research portfolio. And in the process, everything’s gotten bigger: our campus and our community; our reach and our reputation. But in the most important ways—in our work ethic and in the way we care for those around us—nothing has changed since the days when we were Lowell Normal and Lowell Textile. And we wouldn’t have it any other way.

Here’s to the next 125!