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

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

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

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

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

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

Read on to find out how.

ON THE COVER

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

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 II Silver Excellence Award, an APEX Award of Excellence and honorable mentions in the PR Daily Awards and the PR Daily Nonprofit PR Awards.

WINTER 2014-15  University of Massachusetts Lowell  Learning with Purpose  WINTER 2014-15  University of Massachusetts Lowell  Learning with Purpose
THE SECRET LIVES OF PROFESSORS

PROF. SUSAN BRAUNHUT, graduate coordinator in the Department of Biological Sciences, focuses on improving the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients, limb restoration and regeneration, and counter-terrorism biosensors. An avid researcher and popular lecturer, Braunhut received UMass Lowell’s most prestigious recognition in 2008 when she was named University Professor. But when she’s not in the lab or classroom, she’s usually behind a camera lens in an exotic locale requiring her passport for entry.

Braunhut took this shot of a hiker in Dune Alley in Sossusvlei, Namibia last summer. “My photographs have won competitions, have been published in photography journals and Nikon uses one of my iguana shots in their manual for a new camera,” she says. Braunhut and photographer husband Dennis have traveled the world on photo trips, to places like Cuba, Iceland, Costa Rica, Madagascar and South Africa. In the next six months, they plan to hit Ecuador and Indonesia.
As a massive burst of balloons rained from the top of the four-story atrium into the lobby of University Crossing on Sept. 16, UMass Lowell officially opened the new, $95 million student-engagement center and with it, a new era in the institution’s history. More than 200 people—UMass Lowell students, faculty and staff, along with University of Massachusetts, state and local leaders—celebrated the opening during an event at the foot of a large latticework installation that hangs from the ceiling.

A vibrant space for the campus and community, University Crossing is the hub that links UMass Lowell’s South, North and East campuses with the city’s downtown business district and cultural attractions. For UMass Lowell students, the center brings together under one roof all the services they need to complement their classroom experience. With its sustainable and contemporary design, dramatic glass front and views of the Merrimack River, the complex is as beautiful as it is functional.

The building also includes features for the public, such as a new flagship bookstore, the River Hawk Shop, the Crossroads Cafe and 500-seat Moloney Hall (named after Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney and her husband, Edward, in appreciation of their lifetime of generous giving to the university).
PIPER KERMAN
AIMS TO MAKE ORANGE LAST YEAR’S BLACK

Piper Kerman looked guilty.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kerman cited an 800 percent increase in incarceration of women in the past 30 years, and noted that two-thirds of them are mothers. “When a dad goes to prison, the effect on kids is awful. When a mom goes to prison, the effect on kids is seismic,” she said. —SL
CAREER FAIR DRAWS RECORD TURNOUT

A record 190 companies representing a wide cross-section of industries attended UMass Lowell’s fall career fair, held for the first time at the Tsongas Center. More than 1,500 sharply dressed students and alumni showed up with resumes in hand—including 600 in the first hour alone.

“IT’S BEEN AN AMAZING CAREER”

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

PERSHING RIFLES ALUMNI HELP STUDENT-VETERANS STAY IN SCHOOL

UMASS LOWELL

Fifteen months after graduating, local Chelmsford woman and 2009 UMass Lowell graduate Kris Domico—whose brother is a Vietnam veteran—met with the University’s Veterans Services Janine Wert. “The loan program and the repayment process embody that sense of brotherhood when one student veteran in need repays his or her loan, thereby making funds available to help another student veteran in need.”

Since the fund was created in May 2012, Wert and her staff have made $32,000 in loans to 21 students and collected over $19,000 in loan repayments. The General Pershing Fund for Student Veterans currently stands at $129,000 through Wert hopes it will reach $250,000—over $80,000 of which will be available since the Pershing Rifles 50th Reunion six months ago.

Help Veterans Continue their Education

To contribute to the General Pershing Fund for Student Veterans—which provides emergency, interest-free loans to vets in need—visit http://alumni.uml.edu/pershing or call 978-934-2218.

Walker

Walker
LIM WINS PUSHCART PRIZE

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

**ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE LEAH BUECHLEY BLURS BOUNDARIES**

Leah Buechley is an artist, engineer, designer and educator—pursuits that speak to her love for creativity and structure. She has created a playable piano with a pen, paper and circuit board. In 2014, she was named the Center for Arts and Ideas’ Artist-in-Residence.

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

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

**BUSINESS DEAN TAKES NEW ROLE, LATHAM STEPS IN**

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

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

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

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

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

With the new $40 million Pulichino Tong Business Building slated to open in spring 2017, and with undergraduate enrollment eclipsing 21,000 students for the first time ever this year, this is a pivotal point in the Manning School’s history.

**PRODEEP KURUP NAMED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR**

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

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

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

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

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW FIGHT SONG!**

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

*UMass Lowell we will always be, a team of strength in unity. With River Hawk pride, we stand side by side, and fight for victory. Our wings unfurled and talons curled, we swoop and strike until we score! When blue sets sail, in flight we won’t fail. Let’s go UMass Lowell and soar!*

Hear the song at YouTube.com/umasslowell.

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LET THE SUN SHINE IN:
As part of a statewide clean energy initiative, UMass Lowell has installed photovoltaic systems on four campus buildings. The arrays provide insulation and reduce the heat effect. They also generated approximately 279,000 kWh per year in fiscal year 2013, saving about $30,000 in electrical bills and earning revenue of approximately 279,000 kwh per year in fiscal year 2013, saving about $30,000 in electrical bills and earning revenue of

IN 2008, WE RECYCLED 246 TONS OF GOODS. IN 2014, WE RECYCLED 742 TONS—A 302 PERCENT INCREASE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SOLID WASTE WE GENERATED DECREASED BY 54 PERCENT.

F[9] MOVIN’ ON OUT: This year, to cut down on the amount of waste generated during move-out while helping local residents in need, the university set up collection bins for the reusable items that students were discarding. These goods, combined with food collected during an Earth Week donation drive on campus, were then sorted, packed up and distributed to three Lowell non-profit organizations.

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

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

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A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

Here’s some interesting arithmetic: Take the population of Massachusetts (6.9 million) and divide it by the number of cities and towns in the state (351). What do you get? About 19,000—the same population as UMass Lowell. With over 17,000 students, nearly 2,000 faculty and staff and numerous visitors daily, the campus is a mid-sized town.

And that means a lot of energy consumed and a lot of waste generated, especially with about 4,000 of those students living on campus.

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

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

[1] CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES: THE DRIVING FORCE: It is possible for the campus to bring its contribution to global greenhouse gases to zero by year 2050! Yes, UMass Lowell signed on to the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment in 2012, pledging to do just that. The plan is an overarching, multi-pronged effort that includes dramatic changes to how the university consumes energy and integrates sustainability into the curriculum across disciplines.

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

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

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

[2] LET THE SUN SHINE IN: As part of a statewide clean energy initiative, UMass Lowell has installed photovoltaic systems on four campus buildings. The arrays reduce campus greenhouse gas emissions by 115 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent—that’s 300 households’ worth of electricity. They also generated approximately 279,000 kWh per year in fiscal year 2013, saving about $30,000 in electrical bills and earning revenue of $71,000 in solar renewable energy credits.

[3] CHARGE IT!: Driving an electric vehicle to campus has become a smooth ride for students, faculty and staff, thanks to a pair of recent grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program Workplace Charging grant will cover half the cost, or nearly $9,000, of three new charging stations—the first of their kind on campus. The second grant provides a $7,500 incentive for any faculty or staff member who purchases or leases a Nissan LEAF EV through the company’s vehicle purchase program.

[4] BUILT-IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY: University Crossing—the sparkling new student hub—was designed with energy efficiency and conservation in mind. It is a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building, which means that environmental impact and energy usage were closely considered in every aspect. Its sustainability features include:

• Skylights and a reflector in the atrium to help distribute natural light as far into the building as possible.

• Daylight harvesting controls that use photo sensors to measure the level of natural light and adjust the level of electric lighting to save energy.

• Green roofs with plant beds to absorb rain water, provide insulation and reduce the heat effect.

• Centrally controlled energy systems that exceed industry standard efficiency requirements by 20 percent.

• Flooring, carpeting and other furnishings made with low-emissions materials to reduce the presence of volatile organic compounds.

• Extensive lighting control systems with occupancy sensors to minimize energy use, low-flow toilets, sinks with automated sensors and the use of rain water from the roof to irrigate plantings.

[5] WASTE NOT, WANT NOT: UMass Lowell’s food composting program was recently praised as a prime example of an effective solution for handling food waste by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner David Cash. The university launched the program last year as a collaboration among students, staff, Dining Services and Casella Waste Systems, the university’s solid waste contractor. During the first eight months of operation, an estimated 184,000 pounds of food waste was composted. In addition, the university donates excess prepared food from campus dining operations to local non-profits.

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STUDENTS SOLVE REAL PROBLEMS IN CO-OP PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

CAMPUS NEWS

In addition to the 10 new buildings, the 18 Division I sports teams and the multimillion-dollar jump in research expenditures, UMass Lowell is seeing increases across all student measures. In fact, the university is hitting several all-time highs in the 2014-15 school year.

ENROLLMENT: 17,000+ (up 50 percent since 2007)

FRESHMAN RETENTION RATE: 84% (an all-time high)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: 1,300 (up from 300 in 2008)

STUDENTS LIVING ON CAMPUS: 4,000 (more than ever before)

HONORS STUDENTS: 900+ (up from 298 in 2008)

DO IT FOR JOHNNY

The third DifferenceMaker season kicked off with a visit from Johnny Earle, the founder of “Johnny Cupcakes,” who spoke to students about entrepreneurship and the successful apparel company he started out of his car. This year, DifferenceMaker features a new mentor program, in addition to a suite of competitions in which students vie for seed funding to advance their ventures.

2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR BREAKS RECORDS

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

LAUREN DUNN ASTLEY was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in Wayland in 2011. The crime was horrific, highly publicized and one of a string of murders by young men whose go-to strategy in the face of loss has been murder. When Lauren's ex-boyfriend, Nathaniel Fujita, was found guilty, Lauren's father Malcolm Astley walked across the courtroom to hug Fujita's parents. They'd lost a child, too, he explains today.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Student designers included: Anna Clifford '15, Isidro Esteves '16, Kerri McCarthy '16, Jillian Merrill '16, Emily Pacht '16, Lily Tan '15, Cynthia Tocio '16, Courtney Vermette '15.
STUDENTS PLAY INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN DONATION DRIVE

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

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

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

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

Fostering Learning Through Service

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

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

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

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

UTEACH STUDENT WINS TOP RESEARCH AWARD

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

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

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

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

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

Just a String Thing.

Neither the season’s first snow, nor the bluster of a stiff wind could douse enthusiasm for the initial foray between the Boston Symphony Orchestra and UMass Lowell’s nationally recognized String Project.

A crowd of 500 turned out at Durgin Hall in November for the event, which featured a BSO chamber ensemble performing after a group of children in the String Project. The UMass Lowell String Project, founded in 2001, and currently directed by John-Morgan Bush and Gena Greher, offers string-instrument lessons and music classes to Lowell public school students and helps prepare university students (like John Kelley, shown at left with Evan Blaschke) to become music teachers.

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

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

Be a Part of the Story

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

To make the university one of your philanthropic priorities this year, simply complete and return the attached envelope with your check made payable to UMass Lowell.

You can also visit www.uml.edu/givenow.
HOCKEY LURES SELL-OUT CROWDS!

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

NEW ACADEMIC CENTER A HIT WITH STUDENT-ATHLETES

The university’s 430 student-athletes have been quick to take advantage of the workspaces, resources and conveniences of the new and improved academic center— one of the key initiatives in last summer’s $3 million renovation of the 50-year-old Costello Athletic Center.

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

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

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

JUST 3 POINTS FROM TAKING THE TITLE

The men’s cross country team, pushed by a strong freshman showing, took second place at the America East 8K Championship this season—just points from winning the whole thing.

“All the guys really ran well, they came to fight and they raced their hearts out,” says Head Coach Gary Gardner. “And we return every single guy next year; that’s a great base for the future.”

Field Hockey Player Competes for Guyana National Team

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

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

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

Drive!

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

HOCKEY LURES SELL-OUT CROWDS!

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

YOU CAN FIND ME IN THE CLUB

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

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

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

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

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

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

“You can find me in the club.”

RISING ROOKIE

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

Kriebel Receives $1.4M Grant to Find Out

Retinal detachment—when the retina pulls away from blood vessels—ranks as one of the most common ophthalmologic emergencies, often leading to irreversible vision damage. Prof. David Chakrabarti of the Department of Work Environment recently received a $1.4 million grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to conduct research into the role of preventable factors in developing the condition.

Until recently, only a small portion of retinal detachment cases was considered avoidable. Emerging research identifies a strong association between heavy lifting and preventable factors such as heavy lifting.

"If the findings of this study confirm the association between heavy lifting and retinal detachment, our research team will be able to recommend strategies for preventing this dangerous ophthalmologic emergency," says Chakrabarti. "Many jobs in manufacturing, shipping and even health care that involve heavy lifting can be modified to use mechanical lifting devices."

The four-year study will be conducted in association with the Reliant Medical Group of Worcester. The research team will evaluate data from a large cohort of new cases of the condition. The study will also provide research opportunities for UMass Lowell students to collect and analyze the data.—KA

I Spy with My Little Eye: Wearable Devices Can Read Passwords, Study Shows

BEWARE: Thieves and hackers can use video from wearable devices such as Google Glass to spy on you, learning your passwords and PINs, say researchers at the university’s Cyber Forensics Laboratory.

Google Glass is a hands-free, head-mounted computer that allows the wearer to capture high-definition video via voice command. This makes the device discreet and stealthy to use, notes computer science Assoc. Prof.燕suen Fu, who led the study.

Fu and his team also conducted experiments using other video-recording devices such as a Logitech webcam, an iPhone 5 camera and a Samsung smartwatch.

The researchers developed video-recognition software that tracks the movement of a victim’s fingertip and uses the fingertip’s relative position on the touch screen to recognize the touch input.

The team tested the software using various camera angles, distances and lighting conditions. In 30 experiments, the software could automatically recognize from Google Glass video more than 90 percent of iPad passcodes recorded from up to 10 feet away. Using video recorded with a Panasonic HD camcorder and 12x optical zoom from a distance of more than 140 feet, the success rate jumped to 100 percent.

“As a countermeasure, we’ve designed an app called Privacy Enhancing Keyboard, or PEK,” says Fu. “Users can see the PEK when typing in sensitive information, then switch to a standard QWERTY keypad layout for typing normal text.”—KA

Researchers Hope to Discover the Next Earth with Help of $5.6M NASA Grant

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

The instrument—dubbed the Planetary Imaging Concept Testbed Using a Recoverable Experiment—Coronagraph, or PICTURE C—is scheduled to be launched on two separate flights, in the fall of 2017 and fall of 2019, from the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility in Fort Sumner, N.M., where it would be carried aloft to the edge of the atmosphere using helium balloons.

“PICTURE C will enable us to learn about the disk of dust, asteroids, planets and other debris orbiting the stars and gain a better understanding of the processes and dynamics that formed our own solar system,” explains Chakrabarti. “But in order for us to do this, we have to fly the instrument to altitudes of about 120,000 feet to get above most of the Earth’s atmosphere. Atmospheric turbulence distorts and blurs our image of the stars.”

The other members of the UMass Lowell team are physicists Assoc. Prof. Timothy Cook, who is the project’s co-investigator; graduate student Kuravi Heewaswam and post-doctoral associates Susanna Finn and Christopher Mendillo. Other collaborators include researchers from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Goddard Space Flight Center, Caltech, MIT, the Space Telescope Science Institute and the University of California Santa Barbara.—EA

$2.4M Study Will Result in a Less Toxic Path to Cleanliness

As treatment of serious illnesses in the home increases, so does the risk of infections typically only seen in hospitals and rehabilitation centers. To fight these infections, more cleaning and disinfecting products with toxic chemicals are being used, increasing health problems like asthma for home health-care aides, nurses, patients and the community.

To find the right balance between fighting infections and using safer cleaning and disinfection methods and products, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health awarded Prof. Margaret Quinn of the Department of Work Environment a $2.4 million four-year grant.

A project of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, the Safe Home Care Cleaning and Disinfection research team will determine which infectious agents can be reduced by using different cleaning and disinfecting options. Researchers will evaluate the health effects of respiratory exposure from cleaning practices and identify safer, and possibly more effective methods of disinfecting patient homes—an enormous benefit to both patients and medical workers.

Quinn will work in collaboration with Assoc. Prof. Nancy Goodyear of the Department of Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences and Department of Work Environment faculty members Assoc. Prof. Manuel Cinti and Research Profs. Pat McElhinney and Susan Stamey.—KA

Asst. Prof. Timothy Cook, right, and post-doctoral associate Christopher Mendillo prepare an early version of PICTURE C, which was flown in 2011 aboard a sounding rocket.
Students Create a Solar-Electric Taxi, Kazakhstan Government Wants Prototype

A team of electrical engineering and computer science students has designed, built and tested a prototype solar/electric powered taxi called "the Golden Rams," says sophomore Alexander Gribov, who led the project. "It's a cleaner, more sustainable way to commute."

"This vehicle has the potential to replace both commercial taxis and personal cars," says sophomores Alexandr Grabov, who led the project. "It's a cleaner, more sustainable way to commute."

The students' taxi uses a 150-watt solar panel to charge a 20 ampere-hour battery, which in turn runs the taxi's DC motor. "It can travel more than 20 miles on a full-charge, making it ideal for commuting around campus and in crowded cities as well as transporting people in hotels, resorts, golf courses and between hospital wings," says Grabov.

Gribov says even today's electric cars are not completely free of pollution. The electricity used to recharge their batteries has to come from somewhere, and most people charge them using the commercial power grid, which burns fossil fuels to generate electricity," he explains.

The government of Kazakhstan has expressed interest in applying the technology in its own country, according to electrical and computer engineering Prof. Samson Milstein, director of the university's Advanced Electronic Technology Center and the students' faculty adviser. In May, Milstein was invited to talk about the university's solar cell research at a world economic forum held in Ka- zakhstan's capital city of Astana. During the meeting, Nurala Sultanovich Bektur- ganov, chairman of the board of the JSC Kazakhstan Academy of Natural Sciences, asked the professor if the students could develop a similar solar-electric taxi for exhibition at the Astana Future Energy Expo in 2017. The government provided a seed grant of $27,000 to develop the prototype. —EA

IT'S NOT EASY BEING A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Twenty percent of new principals leave their positions within one or two years, disrupting the learning environment for both teach- ers and students. According to research studies, 87 percent of school-level administrators have never had specific training in leadership practices in each district, while also broadening the leadership skills of aspiring principals. Through the program, students also develop state administrator licensure as part of their rigorous M.Ed. in Administration program, which includes GSE's faculty adviser.

"The new leadership academy and extensive school-based mentoring will establish a leadership pipeline for principals in the area. Sixteen professionals from Methuen, Lowell and Billerica public schools were admitted into the Project Lead program that includes GSE's rigorous M.Ed. in Administration coursework, a leadership academy and extensive school-based mentoring. Successful completion of the two-year program will result in participants receiving a M.Ed. in administration and state administrator licensure."

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

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

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Sampas Family Donates Famous Writer’s Personal Items to UMass Lowell

JACK KEROUAC SAT HERE.

By Sheila Eppolito

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

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

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

English professors Todd Tietchen and Michael Millner—Kerouac scholars both—flew with Sampas to the Florida home where Kerouac spent his last days with Stella, his third wife and childhood friend from Lowell.

Says Millner, “There was an inspirational quality to seeing Kerouac’s things as they were when he lived there—they are sort of talismens of his imagination.”

Included in the items are Kerouac’s writing desk—a gift from his sister Caroline—a number of religious artifacts tied to the writer’s fervent Catholicism and Buddhist fascination, and other, more surprising pieces.

“Jack built three cat carriers,” says Sampas, adding that “they weren’t very good.”

While the craftsmanship may be questionable, they are inscribed with Kerouac’s favorite felines’ names—Dobie, Timmy and Pitou—and signed on the bottom with his famous signature.

For Tietchen, the objects “help us reconstruct Kerouac’s passions, and demonstrate a recurring theme in the writer’s work that pits the quest versus returning home: Kerouac was fascinated with the wider world, with travel and religion and politics, but did have very strong roots in Lowell.”

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

“Jack was in this house many, many times,” recalls Sampas, “and it’s nice to know that this house and the institution it’s part of will continue to be a beacon of this great writer’s life.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kevin Murphy and Marty Meehan know how Lowell works.

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

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

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

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

Continued
The crowd of more than 100 obliged. How about a Chipotle, or a similar “good burrito” place, suggested one student? Maybe some partnerships with Lowell’s hospital, add another. A grocer, Food trucks, bike-friendly streets. More opportunity for political and social activism. Some of it already exists. Some they will work on. Both men know it will take time. 

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

According to Paul Marion ’76, ’05, UMass Lowell’s executive director of community relations, a college town is “a place where the aspirations of the community and the campus are in harmony, meaning, in Lowell’s case, that both the city and the university demonstrate value innovation, intellectual curiosity, economic vitality, fair play, cultural vibrancy, sustainable approaches to daily life, social diversity and civic activism, among other traits.” Marion—author of “Mill Power,” which traces Lowell’s history in an industrial powerhouse and urban National Historical Park (see accompanying story)—is someone who has long chronicled the city’s various reinventions, and believes it’s next primed to become a college town.

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

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

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

A survey is being updated and reissued from a version published in November 2010 that asked students, faculty and staff about their relationships with the downtown. How often do you go? How much do you spend? What would you like to see?

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

Eighty-two percent of students surveyed said they went to downtown, and 74 percent said they dined at local restaurants. While 63 percent said they attended concerts at the Tsongas Center, 59 percent said the downtown needs a movie theater. Thirty-seven percent said downtown needed more clothing stores. The survey also followed the spending habits of a dozen students. Those who lived outside the city spent $85.50 a week. Those who lived in Lowell spent $47.50 a week.

How is the future defined? Does a college town mean anything? “I’m a lot more to offer than people within it even realize,” says Meehan, chatting in his University Crossing office. Out his window, rain splashes down on Pawtucket Street four stories below. North Campus is viewable across the Home Bridge that takes you there, and in the other direction, just down the road, is South Campus.

“I think it’s perfectly natural marriage to have a university engaged with the downtown, and the fact that a city manager was on that stage engaging with students was a good thing,” he says. “It brought the city into the commerce and hum of the city.”

The future does not belong to large superstar cities alone. The city has a lot more to offer than people within it even realize,” says Meehan, chatting in his University Crossing office. Out his window, rain splashes down on Pawtucket Street four stories below. North Campus is viewable across the Home Bridge that takes you there, and in the other direction, just down the road, is South Campus.

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

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

There are more changes on the horizon.

The next phase of the university’s physical transformation will maximize the Tsongas Center and the space surrounding it. Plans call for a second sheet of ice, a basketball suite with locker rooms, offices and a practice court for the men’s and women’s Division I River Hawks teams. Imagine youth tournaments on the new ice and the main arena freed for more events and concerts. The estimated cost is $35 million, though funding has to be secured from the state. A hotel on the land may be feasible as well.

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

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

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

The Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell was born as the Tsongas Arena in 1999, thanks to $4 million funding apiece from the university and city, plus $20 million in state money. It was a city building, housing a minor league professional team for a time, but its constant tenant has been the River Hawks. In October 2009, the building was acquired by the university.

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

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

There will be issues to address. The under-21 crowd needs places to go, say officials. Transportation must be improved. Murphy believes the university buses should make frequent stops downtown, and Marion suggests the university consider the possibility of adding buses for specific evening events, such as the new independent film house, Lulo Theater, at Mill No. 5 on Jackson Street. (See sidebar, page 46.)

Mechan and others insist that the city must help campuses connect to make Lowell more of a walking and biking city. For example, says Mechan, the city needs to provide excellent public works, transportation and other city services.
Retail establishments, meanwhile, will also have to step up their marketing.

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

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

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

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

For one, she cites proximity to Boston, “which is not all that affordable to college students. They can go there, but can’t afford to live there.”

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

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

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

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

“Leverage what you have to offer, that no one else has,” he says. “And the creative economy means you have access to everything from record stores to a 7,000-seat arena. Lowell offers everything from boxing to ballet.”

Marion is not alone in his vision.

“From the canals in Lowell and Holyoke to New Bedford’s port to Malden’s classic downtown and Chelsea’s industrial architecture, Massachusetts’ smaller cities are full of the types of urban amenities that have catalyzed development in other cities,” wrote Commonwealth Magazine associate editor Paul McMorrow in The Boston Globe recently. “Most just haven’t put all the pieces together in a systematic way yet.”

Continued on Page 40

STUDENTS WHO LIVE IN THE CITY.
With 82 percent of incoming freshmen living on campus, UMass Lowell is no longer a mostly commuter school.

BIKES AND BIKE LANES.
In August, traffic lanes were reduced to make room for bike lanes on 17 city streets. On campus, the Free Wheelers bike share program provides free bicycles for students, faculty and staff.

WALKABLE THOROUGHFARES.
This could happen soon. If approved, a Lowell City Council proposal would close the cobblestone stretch of Palmer and Middle streets in the spring and summer.

REPURPOSED EMPTY BUILDINGS.
Today, 90 percent of Lowell’s mill buildings have been renovated and repurposed as part of a 141-acre district where museums and exhibitions alternate with condominium and commercial buildings.

STUDENT-FOCUSED RETAIL.
A handful of downtown businesses cater to students, but the city hopes to attract more.

ART, MUSIC, CULTURE.
Art galleries, live music venues, a movie theater, museums. All in downtown Lowell right now.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.
We’re well on our way. UMass Lowell recently received the prestigious Carnegie Foundation designation as a community-engaged university and was named to the President Obama’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the fifth straight year.

Coverstory
It’s continuous dialogue between the campus, community and leaders and everyday participants. It’s not going to happen on its own. And it will take time. But the right starting steps are being taken.

Erin Findlen, an economic development assistant for the city’s Division of Planning and Development, was on hand for the chancellor’s forum. She is the point person for Murphy on the city side of the effort to make Lowell a college town.

“The thing I noticed was a lot of miscommunication about what is actually in the city and going on there,” she says. “There were suggestions the students made that were already there. I think a lot of the businesses don’t know what’s going on out on the campus, either. So we need to talk about everything and meet more regularly with the university and the downtown.”

“Communication is an issue,” says Mehan, “Lowell’s City of Lights Parade happens every year the Saturday night after Thanksgiving. It starts at 4 p.m. UMass Lowell was playing hockey against Harvard at the Tsongas. The game started at 4. You’ve got to have 5,000 people down there for an event and it didn’t make sense. So we asked Harvard if they would be okay with changing the time and the game was moved to 7 p.m. That’s one example, but it really is important for the city, and for us, to coordinate.”

That same day, the university’s role in City of Lights ran deeper than it ever has. At noon, student-athletes read holiday books to kids at University Crossing with mascot Rondy the River Hawk looking on. The university handed out vouchers for children’s book discounts and free tickets to that evening’s hockey contest against Harvard. The university also promoted the evening’s parade and participated in the daylong cocoa contest at downtown eateries.

Back in the chancellor’s office, the rain continues to slap against the window.

“You know, all you have to do is look at the arts, the restaurants, the culture we have here,” he says. “And, you know, I say it all the time. If every prospective UMass Lowell student and parent were to take the National Park tour, they would instantly understand what this place is and what it could be to their child. It’s an amazing, historically significant story.”

“Hey,” says Marion, “we have 7,000 people going to hockey games now and on game nights, every restaurant is filled. We’ll get there. We have to see that the glass is already half full. And then, keep going.

“It’s fundamental, but what we do now is talk about it. In a structured work process, we meet regularly to foster the kinds of things we hope to achieve. It’s continuous dialogue between the campus, community and leaders and everyday participants. It’s not going to happen on its own. And it will take time. But the right starting steps are being taken.”

Lowell’s renaissance is a love story—full of loyalty, commitment, pain and passion. Sharing Lowell’s take takes a special person—one whose heart, mind and purpose are intricately emmeshed in the city.

That person is Paul Marion, ’76, ’05. In “Mill Power,” Marion uses 276 pages, hundreds of photographs and numerous personal accounts to describe how the City of Lowell, once the celebrated birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, turned the tide on decline and created a vibrant new future with a national park at its center.

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

After World War II, the mills closed and Lowell began a precipitous decline. “The population of Lowell fell from 112,000 to a few of 90,000. People who could leave, did,” says Marion. To stanch the exodus, heartbitter but questionable attempts at revitalization were made, including razing neighborhoods including Little Canada, where East Campus sits today. “It was that those closed tracts would invite business—electronics or manufacturing—to build here, and bring jobs,” he says.

They didn’t. The city’s struggles continued, its once great stature seemingly lost.

“Patrick Morgan, an astute, compassionate man, used to say he wanted to ‘make Lowell a good address again,’” says Marion, adding that for years, when asked where they lived, Lowell residents would say “north of Boston.”

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

“In the early 1970s, things begin to shift in the city,” says Marion. “Gov. Francis Sargent enacted legislation forming Lowell Heritage State Park. Lowell State and Lowell Technological Institute merged into the University of Lowell. And things started to feel better. And the nascent idea for pursuing national park status took hold after the National Parks Service made a push for more urban parks.

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

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

“Our big selling point was that there was no national park that told the story of the Industrial Revolution,” says Marion. “In 1979, 11 years after the idea for the park was created, President Jimmy Carter signed legislation making Lowell the first urban national park, and what follows is nothing short of magnificent.”

Lowell has enjoyed a revitalization that is the envy of cities worldwide, thanks to the confluence of many factors, including the national park, the significant growth of the university, repurposed mills, a buzzing arts scene, resurgence of the trolley cars, canal tours, museums, economic preservation of buildings and attraction of business.

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

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

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

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

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

A PIECE OF LOWELL HISTORY
Bachand Hall is a familiar sight to anyone traveling on Pawtucket Street between North and South Campuses. Constructed in 1825 with stones from the Merrimack River bed, the building was originally designed as a hotel and later purchased by James Cook Ayer, one of the wealthiest businessmen of his day, for use as a residence. After Ayer’s death, his son converted the building into an orphanage known as the Ayer Home for Children. Decades later, the property was acquired by St. Joseph’s Hospital. The Sisters of Charity, long affiliated with the hospital, took up residence in the 1960s.

At one time, Bachand Hall housed 32 nuns. But by 2005 their ranks had dwindled to nine and they were told by their order to find a use for the excess space consistent with their mission of helping the needy.

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

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

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

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

For the nuns, many of them retired teachers and nurses, the presence of the young women has brought new energy and activity and a renewed sense of purpose. Many of the young women come from families in crisis, living through violence, homelessness and other trauma. The sisters provide a nurturing environment, combining a soft touch with tough love. There are rules to follow—no drugs, alcohol or men in their rooms and rent must be paid on time—but the sisters are generous with support and guidance. They offer rides to the grocery store and assist with rent and living expenses. Most of them work while going to school. The residents come and go as they please and they buy and prepare their own food. Contienou and a colleague, Jennifer Ly ’96, hold regular office hours on site to check in with the residents.

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

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

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

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

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

“Sometimes, the girls just need a break, someone to tell them that they can do it,” she says. Like most labors of love, the sisters feel like they get more from the relationships with their young tenants than they give. They knew from the outset that there were risks and challenges in opening up their home—and their hearts—but they haven’t looked back.

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

Photos: Tory Germann

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he agreement, to create a joint research facility, will serve as a conduit for collaboration between the university’s students and Raytheon engineers, provides students prospective employment connections and offers the company a pool of young talent. Raytheon has committed $1 million to the project, with options for $2 million more.

The new facility, the Raytheon-UMass Lowell Research Institute (RURI), which opened officially this fall on the fourth floor of the Mink and Brian State Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center, includes both labs and classrooms, and is to be co-directed by UMass Lowell engineering Prof. Craig Armiento and Raytheon’s Christopher McCarroll ’05. Among its target projects will be the development of next-generation “printable electronics,” which will make possible the creation of flexible, super-thin devices. Such technology could aid the university in its quest for research dollars, at the same time helping the company win military contracts that rely on nanotechnology.

But the new technology won’t be limited to military use. Numerous consumer applications—such as wearable personal health monitors—may also be enabled through the same research. “The RURI will serve as an extension of our current research capabilities and represents a resource across the Raytheon enterprise for the study of advanced materials and flexible circuit technologies,” says Mark E. Russell ’83, UMass Lowell alumus and Raytheon vice president of engineering, technology and mission assurance.

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

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

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

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

Educational initiatives are yet another avenue of cooperation. Two years ago Raytheon and UMass Lowell signed an agreement with Kuwait’s Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) whereby Kuwaiti students will have the opportunity to earn UMass Lowell and GUST degrees through study programs overseen and taught by UMass Lowell administrators and faculty. One goal would be to enable the Gulf nation to take steps to diversify its oil-centered economy. “The Raytheon-UMass Lowell partnership is one example of how this campus is leading the way in working with industry,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan. “We hope this research institute becomes a model for industry-academic collaboration that will power innovation, job creation and workforce development in Massachusetts and be replicated elsewhere.”

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

Raytheon and UMass Lowell: A Partnership That Looks to the Future

The University of Massachusetts Lowell is a comprehensive university serving approximately 18,000 students. Its mission is to educate a diverse student body for personal and career success in a global society by providing an enriched learning environment that promotes critical thinking, civic engagement, and lifelong learning. The university delivers baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degrees through the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering, and the College of Business and Management.

Raytheon, a leading global defense technology company, provides advanced technology to governments worldwide. Raytheon employs approximately 56,000 people worldwide and is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. Raytheon’s cutting-edge technology and superior customer support help feed a strong demand for the company’s diverse products and services. Raytheon is a member of the S&P 500. For more information, visit www.raytheon.com.
LESS THAN TWO YEARS AGO, the university launched an endowment match program for faculty and staff, creating an opportunity for current and retired employees to contribute to the university’s endowment—either by establishing a new fund or augmenting an existing one—with the assurance that half of every contribution would be matched. The response has been extraordinary, and extraordinarily diverse—and in some cases, highly personal, with a story behind every giver. What follows are four of those stories.

Continued...
Adam Dunbar had just turned 16 when he began working at his aunt and uncle’s hardware store, Apple Meadok True Value, in Townsend, 25 miles northwest of Lowell. He worked there through high school. Then, in 2007, when he enrolled at UMass Lowell as a freshman—he first in his family to attend college—he arranged his schedule so he could continue working there.

“I’d be in class here [at Lowell] Monday through Thursday, then I’d go home and start at the store Friday and work through Sunday,” he says. “Then I’d come back for Monday classes. I did that until three years ago.”

Along the way, he also somehow managed to earn a Hof School Scholarship, to serve as a student ambassador, a residence assistant, and, as a senior, assistant residence director in Fox Hall.

If there was anyone in his life, he says, who served as an example for this sort of tireless community immersion, it was probably his aunt, Jane Briguglio, a lifelong Townsend resident who ran the store with her brother for more than 30 years (they’d inherited it from their father, who opened it in the 1970s). Briguglio died unexpectedly two years ago at the age of 57. She was the sort of person, Dunbar says, “who was always involved with the town and its people, always knitting something for someone or helping someone out. She was a huge inspiration to me.”

In her will, Briguglio left her nephew some money. It wasn’t a lot, he says, though it would have been enough to pay off the $30,000 he owed in student loans. He didn’t use that money to pay off his loans, though it would have been enough to pay off the $30,000 he owed in student loans. He didn’t do that, though—the loans remain outstanding. Instead, he gave $25,000 to the university, in his aunt’s memory, to establish the Briguglio Scholarship.

“There was no arm-twisting involved, it wasn’t like that at all,” Malloy says. “We just realized that if you want to grow the endowment, you have to have participation.”

“I just feel so lucky. Without all that, I wouldn’t be the person I am.”

F or a little more than a decade, starting in the mid-1990s, Elaine Dalton worked as a hospice volunteer, paying regular evening visits to the dying. Sometimes she would visit them at home; other times—the sadder times, she says—it was nursing homes. At UMass Lowell as a freshman—the first time I came to UMass Lowell, I promised myself that it’d be a widely known philanthropist with a developing commitment to hospice care. The two had become close—and when Liu endorsed a fund for UMass Lowell nursing students that required its recipients to pay regular visits to hospice patients at the VNA, their friendship had touched her deeply, says Dalton, who knew that she had found a way to fill the void. Since 2004, she has contributed to the Shalu Liu Internship in Nursing scholarship fund every year through payroll deductions. Her donations so far total nearly $4,000, with a commitment, including the university’s 50 percent match, of $1,250 more.

“It was a wonderful thing for me to be able to do,” Dalton says. “It gives me such comfort to know there is someone there in my place. Honestly, I think that student is an appendage of myself.”

“At some point, she says, she realized that if she wanted to grow the endowment, she had to get to those numbers, so Malloy, someone had to take the lead. And the most logical place to look for leadership, today or in the past, is within the department itself: “If we don’t set the example, he asks, “if we don’t show we believe in our own system, why should anyone else?”

It was with this question in mind, he says, that the department’s faculty, in 2005, launched the Plastics Engineering Faculty Endowed Fund, to which every then-tenured professor contributed. The “typical commitment,” he estimates, was $1,000 per year, though some gave far more. The fund has grown since then, Malloy says, as commitment amounts have increased. In the meantime, other funds have been born. One of those, created by Malloy himself, as well as plastics Prof. Steven Grossman and John Davis of the Office of Advancement, all of them New Hampshire residents, is for the benefit of other residents of that state. At least six other funds, created by current department faculty members—Aldo Crugnola, Carol Barry, Fang Lai, Joey Liu, Stephen Drascell and Stephen McCarthy—have varying terms and targets. Still others have been created by faculty now retired. Nearly all have come about in the past four years.

“Tight or not, it wouldn’t be as powerful a message if only a few faculty were a part of this. But when more than 500 alumni and friends attend our 50th anniversary dinner, it would be so powerful a message if only a few faculty were a part of this. But when they see that all of us are giving, that all of us are taking part, it lends an added reality to the whole thing. There’s a lot of loyalty; it’s always been that way—we had alumni giving, albeit on a far larger scale.”

“Plastics engineering alumni are a tight-knit group. There’s a lot of loyalty; it’s always been that way—we had alumni giving, albeit on a far larger scale.”

Malloy and others in the department have done their part; in 2004, the fund was less than $500. The fund today, Malloy says, has grown to $250,000. The same principle, he says, applies when it comes to faculty giving, to students giving, to alumni giving. The university qualifies him for distinction on two counts: He is the first alumnus, and the first faculty member, ever to create an endowment fund on his own.

Those 10 years of visits touched her deeply, says Dalton, today the university’s executive assistant to the vice chancellor for Advancement. There was a “strange sense of being part of something far larger than myself,” she says. And in 2004, when responsibilities at work, together with the need to help elderly relatives, made it impossible for her to continue the visits, “it left a real void in my life.”

As a fellow hospice volunteer named Shalin Liu, a Taiwanese-born woman she knew from the support groups both attended at the Lowell VNA, where volunteers meet monthly to share the challenges they faced, was also a widely known philanthropist with a developing commitment to hospice care. The two had become close—and when Liu endowed a fund for UMass Lowell nursing students that required its recipients to pay regular visits to hospice patients at the VNA’s Senior Center in Lowell, Dalton knew that she had found a way to fill the void. Since 2004, she has contributed to the Shalu Liu Internship in Nursing scholarship fund every year through payroll deductions. Her donations so far total nearly $4,000, with a commitment, including the university’s 50 percent match, of $1,250 more.

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Continue...
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Then it grew. “Over the years, we’ve been piling up these small gifts from past student-leaders who were now alumni—$50, sometimes $100, usually not much more than that—and over time it started to build up. So we decided to add that money to the fund.”

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

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

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

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

To view the Donor Honor Roll, please visit uml.edu/donor.
Betty Keller ’37 moved to Bermuda for five years after the Blizzard of ’78. She has lived in Hawaii for the last 29 years where she learned how to play the ukulele. Betty and her two daughters enjoy all the beauty and fun that the island has to offer. She was widowed in 1975.

1960 Bruce Burman and his wife, Barb, have been married for 49 years. They have three children and five grandchildren.

1964 Alicia Connaughton has traveled to Italy, Ireland, Israel, and Portugal over the years. She retired from teaching in East Greenwich, R.I., and spent 20 years in Civil Service at the City of Cranston Finance Department. She is also the director of Purchasing and Supply for the city.

Marie Sweeney was honored at the Lowell Sun’s “A Salute to Women of Our Region” celebration in September 2014. The award recognized women who are leaders in their communities.

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

Mary Murphy was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco from 2010 to 2012. John, a member of the university’s Circle of Distinction, is a long-time supporter of UMass Lowell.

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1974 John Murphy, a UMass Lowell Hall of Fame baseball player, had his photo taken with Baltimore Orioles legend Frank Robinson in Cooperstown, N.Y., last June where John attended baseball’s Hall of Fame induction ceremony. John is director of purchasing for Virbac Animal Health & Pharmaceutical in St. Louis.

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Peter Neil ’75, ’76, ’79 is happily retired.

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

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The Morse family’s UMass Lowell roots run four generations and nearly a century deep.

MARK MORSE ’77 is in the middle of the pack. Even with his B.S. in history, Morse can only know so much of his family’s alliance with the university. “But I think it’s fair to say every generation wants to see the one that follows do better than them, and the university was a place to make that happen,” he says.

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

The middle years are thick with Morse’s pursuit of a mechanical engineering education. Mark was likewise the president of his class and played basketball for the last team to wear jerseys for Lowell State. His teammates included comedian Kevin Knox and Ted Lasnitsis, the Washington D.C., sports franchise owner and former AOL executive.

When rock promoter Don Law’s company handled dates on Bob Dylan’s 1975 R.F. Thunders Review tour, it was Mark Morse—president of the student association wants to see the one that follows do better than us, and the university was a place to make that happen,” he says.

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Girard and husband Steve Faria, who is also an alumnus, share a passion for all things creative. Faria is a trumpet player, actor, director and stand-up comic, and meets the demanding standards of a smart writer. "It was the one treat I gave myself—I'd skimp on waitressing full time—she always made it to shows."

No matter how tight money was for her—she paid for an English degree from the University of Lowell by working 30 hours and travel schedules.

With the proceeds of the sale of her company, life changed for Girard. For the first time in many years, "we didn’t grow up with a lot of money, and my family didn’t go to the theater," says Girard. But she did.

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

Twelve years ago, says Carabello, it was his battlefield experience, nearly all of it in Afghanistan, that has equipped him for the kind of career he now has as JIEDDO, in the wake of the wind-down of the war. After all, he was a member of the Army Rangers, among the most elite fighting forces in the world. It was an experience, he says, that “definitely tests you, just the training alone. Running all day, carrying heavy packs, jumping out of planes.”

Another big part of the job, he will tell you, involved dealing with the people he was fighting. “They basically fled. They didn’t want to take the elders and tribal leaders. Just trying, where we could, to make the people have an impact on issues that women face in the developing world.”

Allison Sharpe, N.H., created a logo that was selected from a pool of 75 to serve as the identifying image for the 2014 Pro Portsmouth’s First Night event. The logo features a smiling blue quarter-moon with a streetlight in place of the eyes. The logo has been credited to Thompson, who has been in charge of the UMass Lowell student newspaper since its birth in 1996.

Andrew Thompson has been named for one year and has a 3-month-old baby. He is also a senior police detective with the Dunsmore, Gt., Police Department.

Carly Hopkin co-founded Tribe Alive, a lifestyle brand co-founded in 2005 and managing editor. She is a CPA and she is an attorney and loves little brother Silas. Tucker, age 2, is very proud in February 2014. Big brother Weston, combiable their contributions to the Commonwealth’s Unsung Status of Women as one of the winners of the 2014 Pro Portsmouth First Night event.

AND SAVING LIVES

PENTAGON: LEADING TROOPS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO THE PENTAGON

FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO THE PENTAGON: LEADING TROOPS AND SAVING LIVES

The Wire, that informs the public of the Army’s role in the war against terrorism, and helps to shape public opinion. The show, which has been in production since 2002, explores the lives of soldiers on and off the battlefield, focusing on the challenges they face and the impact of war on their families and communities.

Within a year of graduation, Carabello says, long before he was a member of the Army Rangers, among the most elite fighting forces in the world. It was an experience, he says, that “definitely tests you, just the training alone. Running all day, carrying heavy packs, jumping out of planes.”

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

Who is the Cyber-privacy Warrior? Miliefsky is. The之类 of a book on your financial transactions. Your smartphone camera is being hijacked by a flashlight app on your smartphone—and as that passes.”

Heather Stanley ‘10, ’14 married Steven Stanley ’08 in 2013. He also attended Harvard Business School, he decided, he says, that what he really wanted was to start a company. So he did. His first, NetWave, was sold to McAfee; that was followed by a second, PredatorWatch, which called itself “the world’s first counter-espionage software company.”

Through the years he has taken, from college student to cyber cop, has followed a natural progression: “I’m a geek,” he says simply. “Even as a kid I was always trying to fix things, to invent things. From the time I was 12, I was into computers; I bought my first one at 15, with my own money. At UMass Lowell, as a computer science major, you could always find me in one of the labs, messing around with something.”

After working briefly at Wang Labs, and another brief period during which he attended Harvard Business School, he decided, he says, that what he really wanted was to start a company. So he did. His first, NetWave, was sold to McAfee; that was followed by a second, PredatorWatch, then NetClarity, and finally SnoopWall—which called itself “the world’s first counter-espionage software company.”

Early in his career, Miliefsky says, he experienced an epiphany. “I realized that once you understand computers well enough to hack into them, then you have a phonix—you can be a bad hat or a white hat. I wanted to be a white hat. I wanted to stop the bad guys.”

The easiest way to stop them, he reasoned, is to hide what they want to steal. “If you can’t see it, you can’t steal it,” he says. “Digital privacy is dead,” Miliefsky says. “Cyber privacy has not been invented yet. You can have a retail store on nanoardi and keep in touch via daily email updates. They hired a trainer to help with conditioning and nutrition. Family members provided encouragement and support. What motivates the pair to undertake such a physically and mentally demanding sport?”

“I’m a geek,” he says simply. “Even as a kid I was always trying to fix things, to invent things. From the time I was 12, I was into computers; I bought my first one at 15, with my own money. At UMass Lowell, as a computer science major, you could always find me in one of the labs, messing around with something.”

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“It’s a life sport that can keep you going,” says Gagnon. “And the triathlon community is so supportive.” Both are already looking ahead to future contests. Lemoine is planning to work with a swim coach and train over the winter to improve his time in the pool and Gagnon is considering which 140-mile race to sign up for next. “I’m hooked,” she says.

I AM IRONMAN:
FATHER-Daughter ALUMNI COMPLETE 140-MILE TRIATHLON

BY JILL GAMBON

140.6-mile contest was the most challenging. Completed about 15 triathlons of varying lengths. September’s triathlon in September marked the achievement of a life goal for both mother and daughter. It was a memorable day. Lemoine’s daughter and training partner, watching her compete in a couple of sprint triathlons and decided to start her own. Mike is also deputy general counsel to the state Department of Higher Education. He earned a J.D. degree from the New England School of Law after graduating from UMass Lowell.

Emily Washich graduated with a B.S./B.A. in marketing and stayed in the Lowell community for four years, working in marketing for the Lowell Memorial Auditorium and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell. She is now vice president of sales for the Children’s Law Center in Nashua, N.H., that had been selected to a selection. Mike is also deputy general counsel to the state Department of Higher Education. He earned a J.D. degree from the New England School of Law after graduating from UMass Lowell.

Continued on Page 40

Continued on Page 140
ALUMNA JANET JOHNSON’S LONG STRUGGLE IN LIBERIA:

‘EVEN EBOLA CAN’T UNITE US’

— BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

BY THE SUMMER OF 2013, WITH THE ARRIVAL OF A WEST AFRICAN peacekeeping force, peace had been restored to Liberia. Taylor was not so fortunate. He was convicted in 2012 by the Special Court of Sierra Leone, on 11 counts of what the presiding judge termed “some of the most hideous and brutal crimes recorded in human history,” and is currently serving a 50-year sentence in a maximum-security prison in the north of England.

But his legacy lives on. “There is a high level of distrust and disrespect for the national government,” Johnson says. “There is a high level of distrust among Liberians as a whole. The reconciliation process is yet to be fully implemented.”

As an example, she cites the state of the country’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, an advisory organization established by Parliament to fix accountability for the government’s past abuses and make recommendations for reform. The Commission has been largely ignored, she says, mostly because a part of its report was unfavorable to the current government.

“Liberians have been divided for so long, along so many lines, that even Ebola cannot unite us. The masses are hungry, frustrated, angry, jobless and ignorant. They need education and information to help them move in the right direction,” she says. “It is to this cause that Johnson, through her work with Liberia’s Governance Commission, is today dedicating her life.

“At the university we often talk about our students being ‘difference makers,’” says Patty Coffey, a Greeley Peace Scholar who worked with Johnson during her time at the UMass Lowell Institute for Emerging Leaders. “Janet’s story is a perfect example of what it means to work hard toward making a difference. She did it then. She continues to do it today.”

ALUMNI LIFE
Stephanie Wu ‘04 is proof that it’s not always about either/or. Freelan cling followed (“I learned fast about billing, the costs and demands of business development, and how hard it is to chase people down for money”) and then a job with a firm that forced her design and technical skills through efforts like a mobile “What Not to Wear” fitting studio for Levi years buyman. A stint with Red Envelope filled in a lot of web design experience, and increased Wu’s involvement in catalogue, photography and PR materials development. Next stop: Serena and Lily, where she spent six years mastering her web design skills. She eventually decided she “could spend more time bettering the world”—and less helping sell $350 o b sheets. Wu moved again—to New York, to join a startup company with values that complemented her growing social conscience. Warby Parker (named by one of the co-founders for two characters, Warby Peppar and Zagg Parker, from Jack Kar- ouac’s unpublished journals) burst on the retail eyewear scene with a strong point of view—leading the way, Wu says, on “how a for-profit business should behave.” The company pledged commitment to customers (reasonable prices, free shipping, free returns), employees (the mantra: take your work seriously, but not yourself) and, perhaps most importantly, the world. For every pair of glasses sold, one is distributed to someone in need. “It’s refreshing to see a company sign up for the right stuff—doing good is in their DNA,” says Wu, who as the first in-house “creative” was employee number 12 (the company now boasts 350 full-time employees). As design director, she wasted no time making her mark and getting things done, using equal parts creative wisdom and logic. “I methodically looked at all that needed to be done—if the website was a two out of 10, we set the goal to improve it to a six,” she says. “Packaging a three? Take it up to a six. Brand essence at a four? Bring it up to a six.” It just chopped away at everything that had a design component, and made things better. Once the brand felt steady where all areas were OK, then it was time to kill it with new product, launches and redesigns. Working at a startup requires a balance of perfect vs. good design.” It worked. As Wu continued to prove herself in design and, more frequently, in marketing and business strategy, she was included more. “I love the fact that at a smaller company, you can have a seat at the table, and make bigger, sometimes riskier decisions than at a large firm,” she says. Wu has been involved in all of Warby Parker’s “customer facing visuals,” including print, packaging, photography, in-store displays and everything digital. She’s also overseen PR efforts, including creation of a pop-up retail “store” (a gutted, tricked-out school bus) and presence at the legendary South by Southwest (SXSW) Festival. Her UMass Lowell education, she says, laid a strong foundation for all of it. “The university gave me access to knowledge and a network of people to figure out how to move ahead. Without the foundation of design, I never could have grown and achieved the way I have,” she says. “During my years at UMass Lowell, there was a small group of us in Prof. [Karen] Roehr’s class who were eager, hungry and hard working. We banded together, pushed and critiqued each other. This group was crucial to my development and expectations as a designer. That camaraderie and working style is how I approach my teams, and my work. It should be fun and productive.”
Classnotes

Church Yard Boys Give Back

SACRED HEART NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDS CREATE SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

ix boys who grew up in the 1960s in the modest Sacred Heart neighborhood of Lowell (they called themselves the Church Yard Boys for their most frequent hang-out locale) forged a decades-long bond of friendship.

They all went on to college at UMass Lowell and today are grateful for the memories and friendships as well as for the higher education that provided the foundation for their success in life. In honor of those friendships, their hometown turf and their alma mater, they have created the Sacred Heart Neighborhood Endowed Scholarship at UMass Lowell to provide scholarships to kids from Lowell.

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

The friends—Ray Crowe ’80, Matt McCafferty, Jim Neary ’77, ’90, John O’Donnell ’81, Ken O’Neill ’85 and Brian Sheehan ’79, who along with UMass Lowell Vice Chancellor of University Relations Patrick McCafferty are the founding trustees of the fund—hold a fundraiser in early November. The group surpassed all goals by raising $45,000 for scholarships for UMass Lowell students, bringing commitments to the endowment fund to $100,000.

“This was a unique initiative, led by a group of alumni who share my passion for this great institution, which honors a community and provides scholarships for deserving Lowell students,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan, who also grew up in the Sacred Heart neighborhood and earned a bachelor’s degree at UMass Lowell.

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

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

MAKE YOUR LEGACY ABOUT EDUCATION, OPPORTUNITY AND GROWTH

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

Consider including UMass Lowell in your will or trust.

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

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

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

Women Student Leaders celebrate their graduation at the Emerging Technologies Innovation Center on North Campus.

Joy Tong ’14 (H), John Pulichino ’67, ’14 (H) and son Michael, shown in center, kicked off an exciting commencement weekend by attending the groundbreaking of the Pulichino Tong Business Building, the new home of the Robert J. Manning School of Business. They are pictured along with Chancellor Marty Mardon ’78, ’86, and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney ’75, ’92.

50th Reunion alumni from the class of 1964 march as Golden Alumni in the 2014 Commencement Ceremony. From left: Wallace Chaplin, David Conley, Mary Ann Cote, Patricia Karl, Patricia Mahoney, Spiros Sintro and Alexander Lambros.

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

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

A group of plastics alumni join together for their annual Reach the Beach relay race. From left: Cristina King ’03, Melissa Egan ’03, Professor Dave Kazmer, Professor Meg Sobkowicz-Kline, Professor/Chair Robert Malloy ’79, ’83, ’88, Bill Sopko ’83, Stephanie Daltry ’79, Denise Kow, Karen Fadler, Gabriel Mandell ’13, ’16, and Jessica Mass ’16.

Over 125 faculty and staff members collectively contributed more than $2.4 million toward UMass Lowell’s faculty/staff endowment match program. From left: Trustee Norm Peters; UMass President Robert Caret; Chancellor Marty Mardon ’78, Dean of Student Affairs & Special Events Brenda Evans ’94, ’95; Dean of Education Anne Cremin ’74, ’92, and Professor/Chair of Finance Yash Puri.

UMass Lowell field hockey alumni can look up for a reunion game in late September.

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

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

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


[2] Scholarship recipient Andrew Verras ’15, center, thanks his generous benefactors Russell ’67, ’74 and Jennie LeClaire at the Fourth annual Scholarship Luncheon.

[3] Chancellor Marty Meehan ‘78, along with other scholarship recipients, enjoys the luncheon festivities.

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

[1] Honorees from left: Eunsang and Soonhae Yoon; David ’81, ’88 and Lauren Laurello; Russell ’67 and Mary ’67 Bedell; Professor/Chair of Finance York Part; Chancellor Marty Meehan ’78; Mark ’75 and Susan ’76 Cocozza; John Hurley, brother of recipient the late Brian Hurley ’75; Patricia Dyer McPhail ’54, Donald LaTore ’59, ’77 (H); Professor of School of Nursing Jacqueline Dowling; Kathleen McBreair, sister of recipient the late Brian Hurley ’75; Jerry ’78 and Joyce ’77 Coletta; Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney ’73, ’92; Dan Cherry, son of recipient the late Brian Hurley ’75; Jose m. novoa, Abha ’88 and Ashay Singhal, Gloria LaTore, Aldo Crugnola, and Penny Hocking, Jill Farewell and Jennifer Wiley (representing the Hocking Estate).

[2] Rowdy conducts the UMass Lowell Marching Band as part of the finale at the Chancellor’s Leadership Society Dinner.

Alumni events

Homecoming 2014

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


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


[4] Steve Rotondi ’14, Heather Wyatt, Matt Ausiello, Kaitlyn Donovan ’13, Adam Dunbar ’11, ‘14 and Lori Daniels have a great time at the debut of Hawkey Way.

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


[7] Past and present track & field and cross country River Hawks join together for the 16th edition of the Jennifer’s 5k Run/Walk. From Left: Erin Donovan ’17, Karen Judge ’14 (2nd place female), Samantha Olson ’13 (4th place female), David Brown ’14 (1st place overall), Drew Butler ’14 (2nd place overall), and Christopher Fankl ’14 (overall race winner).


[9] Faculty and staff turn it up at Jennifer’s 5K Run/Walk. From left: Frank Talley ‘77, associate dean of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Plastics Chair Prof. Bob Malloy ’79, ’83, ’88; Bob Lowrance ’86, director of environmental and emergency management; Johanna Bohan-Riley of Online and Continuing Education; retired Plastics Engineering lab technician Bill Blood; and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations Joanne Yestramski.


Family Fun Day at Parlee Farms in Tyngsboro featured hayrides and pumpkin-picking.
The Reunion Tour

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


[5] Alumni enjoy their Xth and Xth Reunion Dinner. From left: Margaret McDonald Laycock ’64 and Lisa Barone Bernard ’64.

[6] Alumni from the Massachusetts State College at Lowell, class of 1964, enjoy time with one another at their Xth Reunion. From left: George Permaine ’64, Claire Belanger Boscutte ’64, Diane Wicker Sennet ’64, Connie Porter Simmons ’64, and Richard Simmons ’64.


[10] Massachusetts State College at Lowell alumni gather before their tour of South Campus. From left: Dorothy McCarthy Moore ’64, Mary Ann Cline ’64, ’69, Marie Stower ’64, Patricia Karl ’64, ’65 and Marilyn Prochnicki ’64.

In memoriam

Then...

In the 1970s, the University of Lowell bookstore was little more than a dreary basement stockroom for textbooks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>A. Eleanor Wain</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Eleanor R. (Archibald) Somerville</td>
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<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Mary M. (McKenney) Crossley</td>
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<tr>
<td>1938</td>
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- Married?  
- Did you travel somewhere interesting?

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