

# UMass Lowell

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



IS LOWELL  
THE **NEXT**  
**BIG COLLEGE**  
**TOWN?**

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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 visionary partners at Raytheon (Page 46), to a group of generous alumni close to my own heart (Page 69)—the people in our community are making a difference in the lives of others.

Read on to find out how.

Martin T. Meehan Chancellor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

River Hawks vs. Merrimack Warriors: College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Night, Saturday, Jan. 31, Tsongas Center, 6 p.m., Reception; 7 p.m., Game.

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

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

Plastics Engineering 60th Anniversary at NPE2015, Tuesday, March 24, Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Fla., 5:30 p.m., Networking Reception; 6:30 p.m., Dinner.

University Alumni Awards, Thursday, April 16, 5:30 p.m. Reception, UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center. Visit http://alumni.uml.edu/alumniawards.

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

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

ON THE COVER

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



UMass Lowell MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Cover Story



IS LOWELL THE NEXT BIG COLLEGE TOWN?

32

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

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

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**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, Brauhut 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. Brauhut 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. Brauhut 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.



# Campus Life

## Inside...

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## AT THE CROSSROADS OF CAMPUS AND THE CITY



**A**s 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).



### Author Series Brings the Public to University Crossing

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

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

Warren spoke to the crowd of more than 200 people about "A Fighting Chance," her 10th book, which argues that it's time to make government work for everyone, not merely the rich and powerful.

Warren said there are 25 million Americans each carrying an average of \$30,000 of student loan debt, and that those are the people for whom she's fighting. She is pushing for a bill that would allow those with student loan debt to refinance at current, lower interest rates with a cap of 4 percent. Currently, she said, student loan interest rates stretch into the double-digits.

A handful of weeks after Warren's talk, Piper Kerman—author of the New York Times best-selling memoir and blockbuster Netflix adaptation "Orange Is the New Black"—took the stage in front of a standing-room crowd as the second speaker in the series. (Details, at right)

In December, Christo Brand—Nelson Mandela's prison guard—continued the series, speaking to a rapt audience about his unlikely friendship with the anti-apartheid leader, a relationship that endured through Mandela's political ascendancy to become South Africa's president and lasted until his death in 2013. Brand's book, "Mandela: My Prisoner, My Friend," captures his recollections of the 12 years the men spent together while Mandela was imprisoned on Robben Island.

### 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 petty thievery 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 bestselling memoir "Orange is the New Black" and blockbuster Netflix adaptation by the same name. She has also become an articulate and outspoken critic of the U.S. correctional system, using opportunities like the campus book signing to inform public opinion.

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

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

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

During her talk at University Crossing, Kerman shifted from detailing her own experience to addressing the critical faults in the country's corrections system, which she has spent the last few 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. —SE



### ALUMNA HGTV STAR COMES HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

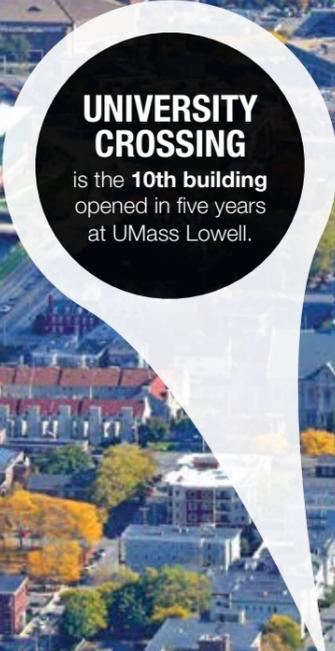
Interior designer and TV personality Taniya Nayak '97 rounded out a semester of special events at University Crossing, speaking in December to an audience of alumni, students and local residents about her time at UMass Lowell and her path to success.

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

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

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

# 10 BUILDINGS 5 YEARS



**UNIVERSITY CROSSING** is the 10th building opened in five years at UMass Lowell.

**UNIVERSITY CROSSING** is the 10th building opened in five years at UMass Lowell, which has aggressively grown its academic and research facilities and student residence halls to accommodate nearly a 50 percent increase in enrollment over the last seven years. In the fall, for the first time in the university's history, total enrollment topped 17,000 and the undergraduate population numbered more than 10,000. The 10 buildings are:

1. Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell
2. UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center
3. North Campus Parking Garage
4. Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center
5. Health and Social Sciences Building
6. South Campus Parking Garage
7. Riverview Suites
8. University Suites
9. Charles J. Hoff Alumni Scholarship Center
10. University Crossing
11. **Coming Soon:** Pulichino Tong Business Building

**WORNICK:  
'IT'S BEEN AN  
AMAZING CAREER'**

When local broadcaster Susan Wornick appeared on Oprah Winfrey's show for a makeover 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 retired in March after 34 years as one of the most popular broadcast journalists at WCVB-TV Channel 5.

Standing her ground, being comfortable in her own skin and not taking herself too seriously, all hallmarks of Wornick's broadcasting career, were on full display in her recent talk at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, part of the Lunchtime Lecture Series.

Before an enthusiastic crowd of nearly 170 alumni, faculty, students and community members, Wornick shared her experiences covering local and national news, talked about life after Channel 5 and answered questions from the audience, all with her characteristic self-deprecating humor and plain-spoken appeal.—JG



**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 was incredible to see so many students making great connections," says Greg Denon, assistant dean of career development. "Our employers really value the relationship with UMass Lowell. They know there are a lot of talented, motivated students and graduates here who can make an impact."

Dean Sheehan '10, a mold design engineer for Procter & Gamble, says UMass Lowell grads are highly valued in the job market because of their work ethic and academic success. "I'm really impressed with them," says Sheehan, who was attending his first Career Fair as a recruiter. "They're asking the right questions."

To help job-seekers navigate the bigger venue, Career Services created a mobile application for the first time through third-party provider Guidebook. A total of 1,163 attendees downloaded the app, which let them quickly search for opportunities that matched their desired fields, even pinning booth locations on an interactive map.

**RANKING:  
SECOND-FASTEST RISE IN NATION!**

Five years ago, UMass Lowell was named a TOP-TIER NATIONAL UNIVERSITY for the first time by U.S. News & World Report. In the 2015 National Universities rankings, UMass Lowell rose to no.156 and is one of only six institutions to advance in the standings every year since 2010. The university's 27-spot climb over the past four years is tied for the second-fastest rise in the nation.



**PERSHING RIFLES ALUMNI  
HELP STUDENT-VETERANS  
STAY IN SCHOOL**

UMASS LOWELL is home to the state's largest student-veteran population. A group of alumni from the '60s; 70's and '80s wants to keep it that way.

Members of the Squadron N-12 of the National Honor Society of Pershing Rifles—an elite drill team based at Lowell Technological Institute from 1962 to 1984—established a fund that provides emergency loans with zero interest to student veterans who experience financial emergencies and are at risk of dropping out.

"The members of Squadron N12 wanted to extend their brotherhood to the student veterans of today," says Director of 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 \$19,500 in loan repayments. The General Pershing Fund for Student Veterans currently stands at \$128,000 (though Wert hopes it will reach \$250,000)—over \$80,000 of which has been raised since the Pershing Rifles 50th Reunion six months ago.

Tom Schmidt, a junior majoring in international business and political science, says he wouldn't still be enrolled if it weren't for the Pershing Fund.

"When I transitioned out of my combat deployment in Afghanistan, I put a lot of time and effort into getting back into the school mindset," he says. "But I started to run out of money and the Pershing Rifles Fund basically made it possible for me to re-register for classes and continue my education."

A group of Pershing alumni—all of whom were Air Force ROTC members, and many of whom served during the Vietnam and Cold wars—met at University Crossing to dedicate the Veterans Lounge as part of Veterans Day weekend events in honor of all men and women who have served in the U.S. military.

The lounge is just part of a suite of offerings that are part of why UMass Lowell was named "Best for Vets" by Military Times and is ranked among the top military-friendly schools in the nation by Victory Media, which announced that the campus is among the top 20 percent for military students' experiences.



UMass Lowell hosted a Veterans Day ceremony at University Crossing on Nov. 7, honoring the more than 1,500 student-veterans who attend the university, as well as community members who served or are serving in the military. The event featured the unfurling of a garrison-sized flag from the third floor of the building's atrium.

**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.

### LIM WINS PUSHCART PRIZE

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



### 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 then 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](http://YouTube.com/umasslowell).

### PRADEEP KURUP NAMED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

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

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

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

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

### 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 2,000 students for the first time ever this year, this is a pivotal point in the Manning School's history.



Photo: Higgins & Ross

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

Leah Buechley is an artist, engineer, designer and educator—pursuits that speak to her love for creativity and structure. She has created a playable piano with a pen, paper and circuit board. She has developed electronic clothing.

Buechley brought her interdisciplinary skills and message to students as the 2014 Center for Arts and Ideas' Artist-in-Residence.

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

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

# 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.

**[A] CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES: THE DRIVING FORCE.** Is it possible for the campus to bring its contribution to greenhouse gases to zero by year 2050? Yes. UMass Lowell signed on to the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment in 2012, pledging to do just that. The plan is an 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 renowned 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.

**[B] LET THE SUN SHINE IN:** As part of a statewide clean energy initiative, UMass Lowell has installed photovoltaic systems on four campus buildings. The 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.

**[C] 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.

**[D] 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.

**[E] 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.

**[F] MOVIN' ON OUT:** This year, to cut down on the amount of waste generated during move-out while helping local residents in need, the university set up collection bins for the reusable items that students were discarding. Those goods, combined with food collected during an Earth Week donation drive on campus, were then sorted, packed up and distributed to three Lowell non-profit organizations. More than 2,200 pounds of goods were delivered to the Lowell Humane Society, the Wish Project and the House of Hope. An additional 1,000 pounds of large electronics were recycled through Northeast Material Handling of Lowell.

**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](http://www.uml.edu/sustainability).

- > Despite the fact that the campus is growing, it has reduced emissions by about 8,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per year, while saving the university well over \$1 million per year in energy costs.
- > The campus has established two new interdisciplinary minors—environment and society and climate change and sustainability—as well as seminars, courses and other events throughout the year.
- > In fiscal year 2014, over 13 tons of vegetable oil waste was donated to be converted to biofuels to heat homeless shelters.
- > The UMass Lowell Student Environmental Alliance (SEA) promotes sustainability on campus and in the greater Lowell area. The SEA is a student-run organization that works with various organizations to help promote sustainable practices and educate others on the importance of environmental issues.

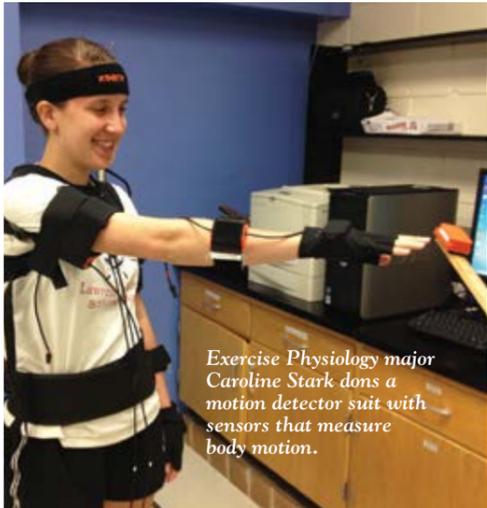


IN 2008, WE RECYCLED 246 TONS OF GOODS. IN 2014, WE RECYCLED 742 TONS—A **302 PERCENT INCREASE**. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SOLID WASTE WE GENERATED **DECREASED BY 54 PERCENT**.



# URBANITES

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



Exercise Physiology major Caroline Stark dons a motion detector suit with sensors that measure body motion.

## 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

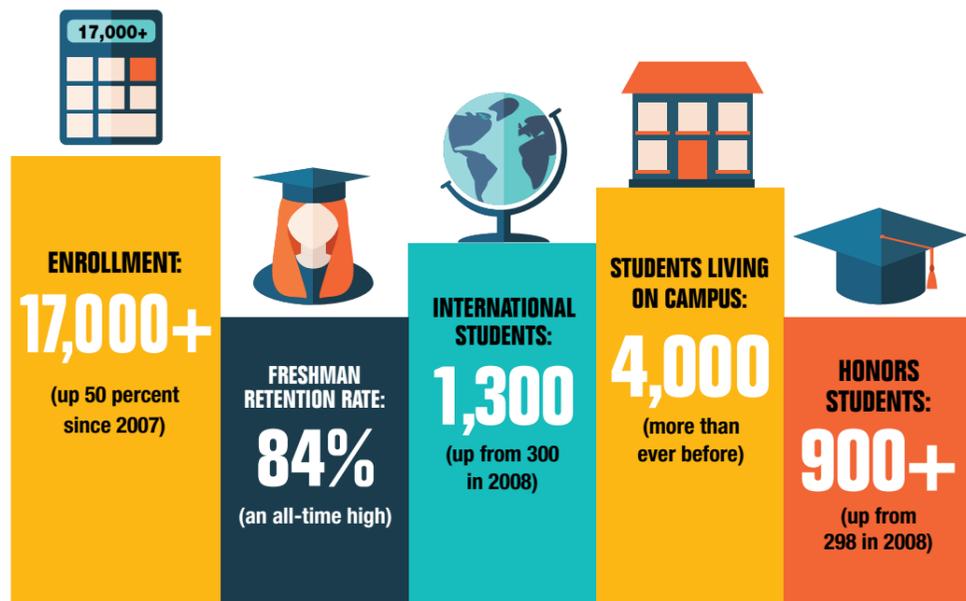


## DO IT FOR JOHNNY

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

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.



BY SHEILA EPPOLITO

# BUILDING A BETTER BOY

GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDENTS CREATE CAMPAIGNS TO HELP PREVENT BREAK-UP VIOLENCE



**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 Ciaraldi, 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), use 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.

Letting go of a relationship is never easy. Learn to spot the signs of an unhealthy relationship and get out safely.

**Help prevent breakup violence.**  
laurendunnastleyfoundation.org

Violence can sprout from clinging to an unhealthy relationship, even after it ends. Learn how to disconnect from your partner the right way.

**Help prevent breakup violence.**  
laurendunnastleyfoundation.org

Does your partner keep you from seeing your friends and family?

**KNOW THE SIGNS**  
Unhealthy relationships are more common than you think

Jealousy promotes anger, agitation and stress in a relationship even after it ends. Learn how to handle jealousy and safely break away.

**Help prevent breakup violence.**  
laurendunnastleyfoundation.org

**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.

**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."

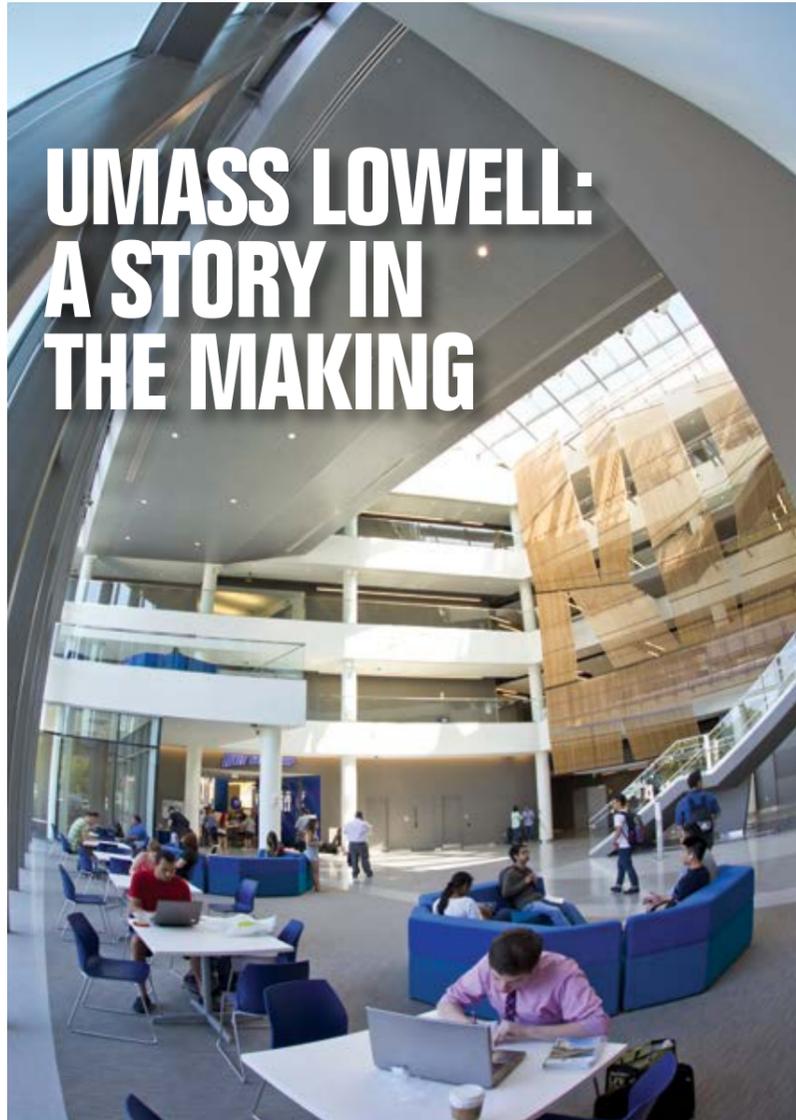
**Fostering Learning Through Service**

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.



**UMASS LOWELL: A STORY IN THE MAKING**

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

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

**BE A PART OF THE STORY**

Make a gift today to become a part of this story and help UMass Lowell in its upward momentum. To make the university one of your philanthropic priorities this year, simply complete and return the attached envelope with your check made payable to UMass Lowell. You can also visit [www.uml.edu/givenow](http://www.uml.edu/givenow).



**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.



## HOCKEY LURES SELL-OUT CROWDS!

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



### JUST 3 POINTS FROM TAKING THE TITLE

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

### NEW ACADEMIC CENTER A HIT WITH STUDENT-ATHLETES

The university's 430 student-athletes have been quick to take advantage of the workspaces, resources and convenience 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 desk-top computers as well as three soundproof study rooms and a multi-use team meeting room with a projection screen and AV hookup.

### Field Hockey Player Competes for Guyana National Team

UMass Lowell Field Hockey junior defender Marzana 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.



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.

## YOU CAN FIND ME IN THE CLUB

Jeremy Smith wanted to try something new. Katie Muise 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 II 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.

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

"I was surprised by how much work it takes to run a team. It involves a lot of communication between multiple groups of people," says Muise, an exercise physiology major who works with teammates and university staff to keep the action running smoothly. "But it's a great way to meet people from different majors and stay physically fit." —JKG



# R O O K I E R I S I N G

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.





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.

## 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 several stories tall.

"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 physics Asst. Prof. Timothy Cook, who is the project's co-investigator; graduate student Kuravi Hewawasam 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

## 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 Kriebel of the Department of Work Environment recently received a \$1.4 million grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to study 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 retinal detachment 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 Kriebel. "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. Xinwen 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 use the PEK when typing in sensitive information, then switch to a standard QWERTY keypad layout for typing normal text."—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 Asst. Prof. Nancy Goodyear of the Department of Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences and Department of Work Environment faculty members Assoc. Prof. Manuel Cifuentes and Research Profs. Pia Markkanen and Susan Sama.—KA

**RESEARCHERS TACKLE NO. 1 KILLER IN THE U.S.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**IT’S NOT EASY BEING A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

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

Graduate School of Education (GSE) faculty members Stacy Szczesiul and Phitsamay Uy received a \$512,000 grant from the federal Race to the Top education initiative to establish a leadership pipeline for principals in the area. Sixteen professionals from Methuen, Lowell and Billerica public schools were admitted into the Project Lead program that includes GSE’s rigorous M.Ed. in Administration coursework, a leadership academy and extensive school-based mentoring. Successful completion of the two-year program will result in participants receiving a M.Ed. in administration and state administrator licensure.

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

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



Electrical engineering and computer science double major Alexander Gribov demonstrates the prototype solar/electric-powered taxi that he and fellow undergraduate students have developed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Features*

*Inside...*

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**NEXT STOP: COLLEGE TOWN**

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

Photo: Tony Germann

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

# JACK KEROUAC SAT HERE.

BY SHEILA EPPOLITO

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



## JACK KEROUAC WAS RESTLESS.

Not surprising, since he's most famous for a story about a road trip.

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

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

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 talismen 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, in an interview in the Lowell home that has been in his family since 1936.

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

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

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

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

It seems Stella's role as 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. ■



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

> **CHECK OUT KEROUAC'S TSOTCHKES:** 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.



Wood Ganesha figure, India



Wood carved Quanyin figure, China



Resin cast Northwest coast figure



Red plastic anchor



Pottery horse figure, Japan



Pottery boy and Geisha, Japan



Pottery Hummel figure



Pair of miniature vases marked "made in occupied Japan"

# Knick-knack KEROUAC

His Collection of Miniature Keepsakes—Each Holding Memories and Inspiration



Pink elephant



Deer, squirrel and fox



Pair of pottery cats, Japan



Porcelain vase and ewer with gilt grape decoration



Three pottery miniature tourist urns, Greece



Celluloid ring box in shape of wedding cake



Pottery fisherman and ship's captain salt shakers



Pottery vase with double spout, Mexico



Two bronze incense burners, India



Sea shell



Triumph motorcycle model



Porcelain boy figurine



Porcelain bird and miniature dish



Pottery cat, Japan



Bronze Shiva Figure, India



Green and white vase



Pink bisque vase



Miniature Toby jug



Plastic Delta Tristar airplane

Photos: Emily Antonelli Photography

# IS LOWELL THE NEXT BIG COLLEGE TOWN?

BY DAVID PERRY

DETERMINED CITY AND CAMPUS LEADERS ARE MAKING IT THEIR MISSION

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*



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.



Facing page: Downtown Lowell (bottom) is bustling with activity, in restaurants like Life Alive (top left) and in retail spaces like Mill No. 5 (top right).

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, adds 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. Ithaca, N.Y., Ann Arbor, Mich., Boulder, Colo.—all of these cities have earned the badge of college town. They cradle the local colleges to their civic bosom and are known as places where the hip, smarts 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 demonstrably value innovation, intellectual curiosity, economic vitality, fair play, cultural vibrancy, sustainable approaches to daily life, social diversity and civic activism, among other traits.”

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

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

Bonds with higher education are one way cities and town 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 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 \$8.50 a week. Those who lived in Lowell spent \$47.50 a week.

Home is where the wallet is.

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

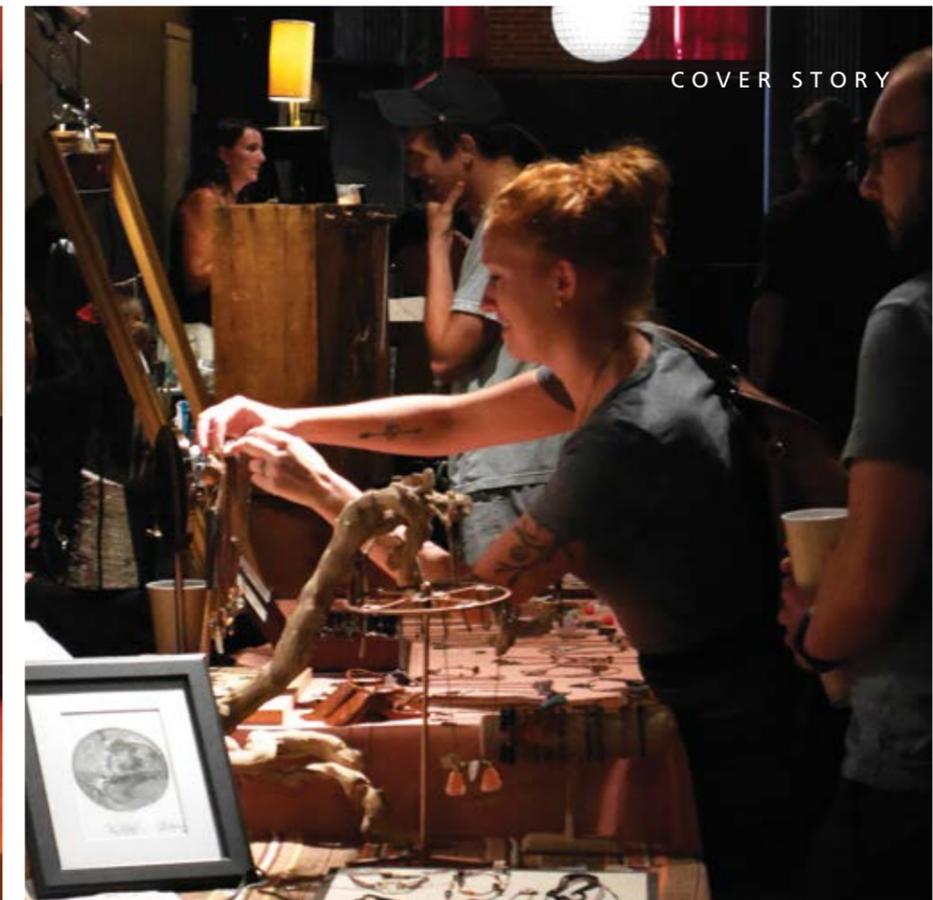
“The first transition to a college town and more complete college experience,” says Speck, “is making a strong push for as many students as possible living on campus. Next? Get rid of cars. Encourage a more robust bicycle network on campus and the city. And bike lanes. And walking. Add disincentives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

The city is ahead of the game, he adds, in that Lowell’s downtown is “one of the handsomest in America.”

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

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

Continued





**YOU HAVE ACCESS TO EVERYTHING FROM RECORD STORES TO A 7,000-SEAT ARENA. LOWELL OFFERS EVERYTHING FROM BOXING TO BALLET.**

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—is "Lowell's single largest interest group," says Marion.

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



Green Mountains to the east, Adirondacks to the west and Montreal beckons from 94 miles north. Burlington, Vt., on the eastern shoreline of Lake Champlain, is the land of Phish and Green Mountain Coffee. The largest city in Vermont has a population of just over 42,000. It was here, in a former gas station, that Ben & Jerry's ice

cream was born in 1978. Here, where Bruegger's, the bagel people and Burton Snowboards have their corporate headquarters.

Travel + Leisure magazine dubbed Burlington America's Best College Town of 2013.

In Burlington, the tours that aim to lure prospective students to the University of Vermont and Champlain College include stops at Church Street Marketplace, an outdoor pedestrian mall loaded with 60 retail and 25 food and beverage establishments. Over a four-block stretch, the outdoor mall carries "tremendous appeal to college students," according to Ron Redmond, the market's executive director.

The city's largest college, the University of Vermont, hosts over 10,000 undergraduate students, roughly the same as UMass Lowell, but a higher percentage of the town's population. The Market was born in 1981, says Redmond, "as a reaction to urban decay and suburban sprawl. It made a main street something unique and different."

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

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

Urban renewal in the '70s saw improvement and, in 1979, the Church Street Marketplace began to take shape, eventually kicking up the momentum, using anew some of the city's unique older buildings.



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

"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 Baacke, 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 1998, thanks to \$4 million funding apiece from the university and the city, plus \$20 million in state money. It was a city building, housing a minor league professional team for a time, but its constant tenant has been the River Hawks. In October 2009, the building was acquired by the university.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There will be issues to address. The under-21 crowd needs places to go, 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, Luna Theater, at Mill No. 5 on Jackson Street. (See sidebar, page 40.)

Meehan and others insist that the city must help campuses connect to make Lowell more of a walking and biking city. For example, says Meehan, the city needs to provide excellent public works, transportation and other city services.

*Continued*

**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.**

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



**TO PUT IT ONE WAY, YOU CAN STAY IN LOWELL AND EAT IN A DIFFERENT COUNTRY EVERY NIGHT OF THE WEEK.**

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

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

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

Marion is not alone in his vision.

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

## 7 ELEMENTS OF A COLLEGE TOWN

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### 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.

Above: Live music, a movie theater, coffee shops and retail—an influx of student-friendly businesses have made homes in downtown Lowell.

Continued on Page 40

All photos of downtown Lowell: Tory Germann

**“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 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 Meehan. “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’re going 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 Rowdy the River Hawk looking on. The univer-

sity 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.” ■

## TALKING ‘BOUT THE YOUNG STYLE: MILL NO. 5

*Former mill houses artisans, film and food appealing to college students*

Just a couple of blocks away from the central downtown hub—with its restaurants, clothing stores, gift shops, bars and live music venues—is Lowell’s newest gem, Mill No. 5.

The former textile mill at 250 Jackson St. now holds 30,000 square feet of retail and entertainment space on its fourth floor. Each month, the mill hosts an indoor bazaar around themes like craft beer, home and garden, and love. During the holidays, the mill hosted a weekly Farm Market on Sundays, with pop-up shops, live music and farm stands manned by local vendors.

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

- > **Botanie**, a boutique offering plants and handmade jewelry
- > **Coffee and Cotton café**, a coffee shop brewing Arlington-based Barismo beans
- > **Corn & Co.**, a gourmet popcorn maker that also sells its products at Fenway Park
- > **Luna Theater**, an 85-seat movie theater showing second-run and independent films, with a special \$8 ticket for students
- > **Modularman Designs**, a T-shirt boutique and design workshop
- > **Sutra Studio**, a haven for yoga disciples
- > **The Tone Loft**, a musical instrument store
- > **Vinyl Destination**, a vinyl LP store

*Learn more at: [5.lunalowell.com](http://5.lunalowell.com)*

Disclosure: the author of this story is the owner of Vinyl Destination.



## ‘MILL POWER’ FUELS LOWELL’S EVOLUTION: LOOKING BACK TO SEE AHEAD



Lowell’s reinvention is a love story—full of loyalty, commitment, pain and passion. Sharing Lowell’s tale takes a special person—someone whose heart, mind and purpose are intricately enmeshed 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 Mogan, 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 low of 90,000. People who could leave, did,” says Marion.

To stanch the exodus, heartfelt but questionable attempts at revitalization were made, including razing neighborhoods including Little Canada, where East Campus sits today. “The hope was that these cleared 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 Mogan, 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 on 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.

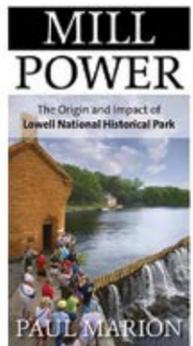
“Our big selling point was that there was no national park that told the story of the Industrial Revolution,” says Marion.

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

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

Says Marion: “I hope students grab on and own a piece of the city, and shape it as their own.” —SE



*Purchase “Mill Power” at the River Hawk Shop, Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center and Boott Mills Museum or online at [www.rowman.com](http://www.rowman.com). Proceeds benefit the National Park.*

# Love MAKES A Hall a Home

A DECADE OF STUDENT SUPPORT  
AT BACHAND HALL

— BY JILL GAMBON —

**W**hen 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."

*Continued*



Nuns at Bachand Hall (including Sister Cecile Cloutier, shown here) have provided a nurturing environment to at-risk young women enrolled at UMass Lowell since 2005.



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

**A PIECE OF LOWELL HISTORY**

Bachand Hall is a familiar sight to anyone traveling on Pawtucket Street between North and South Campuses. Constructed in 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 30 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 Cousineau '90, a DCF social worker who works with Bachand Hall residents. Together the agency and the sisters developed a plan for the young women to rent rooms while working, going to school and learning to live independently.

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

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

To prepare for the arrival of the young women, the sisters renovated the building's basement, adding a kitchen, laundry room, television room and an exercise room. In 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 came from families in crisis, living through violence, homelessness and other trauma. The sisters provide a nurturing environment, combining a soft touch with tough love. There are rules to follow—no drugs, alcohol or men in their rooms and rent must be paid on time—but the sisters are generous with support and guidance. They offer rides to the grocery store and help with homework. They tend to fevers, provide holiday gifts, reward good grades, offer encouragement and sometimes just listen.

"It's challenging but life-giving," says Sister Pauline.

**LIFE WITH THE NUNS**

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

*Sister Cecile Cloutier counsels residents at Bachand Hall.*



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

"The night I arrived, Sister Cecile handed me a key and said 'Welcome Home.' It was the first key I ever had in my life. I couldn't believe it," says Santillon, whose dream is to become an emergency medical technician. "They took me in with open hearts. That was the best feeling ever."

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

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

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

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

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

"It's come full circle," she says.

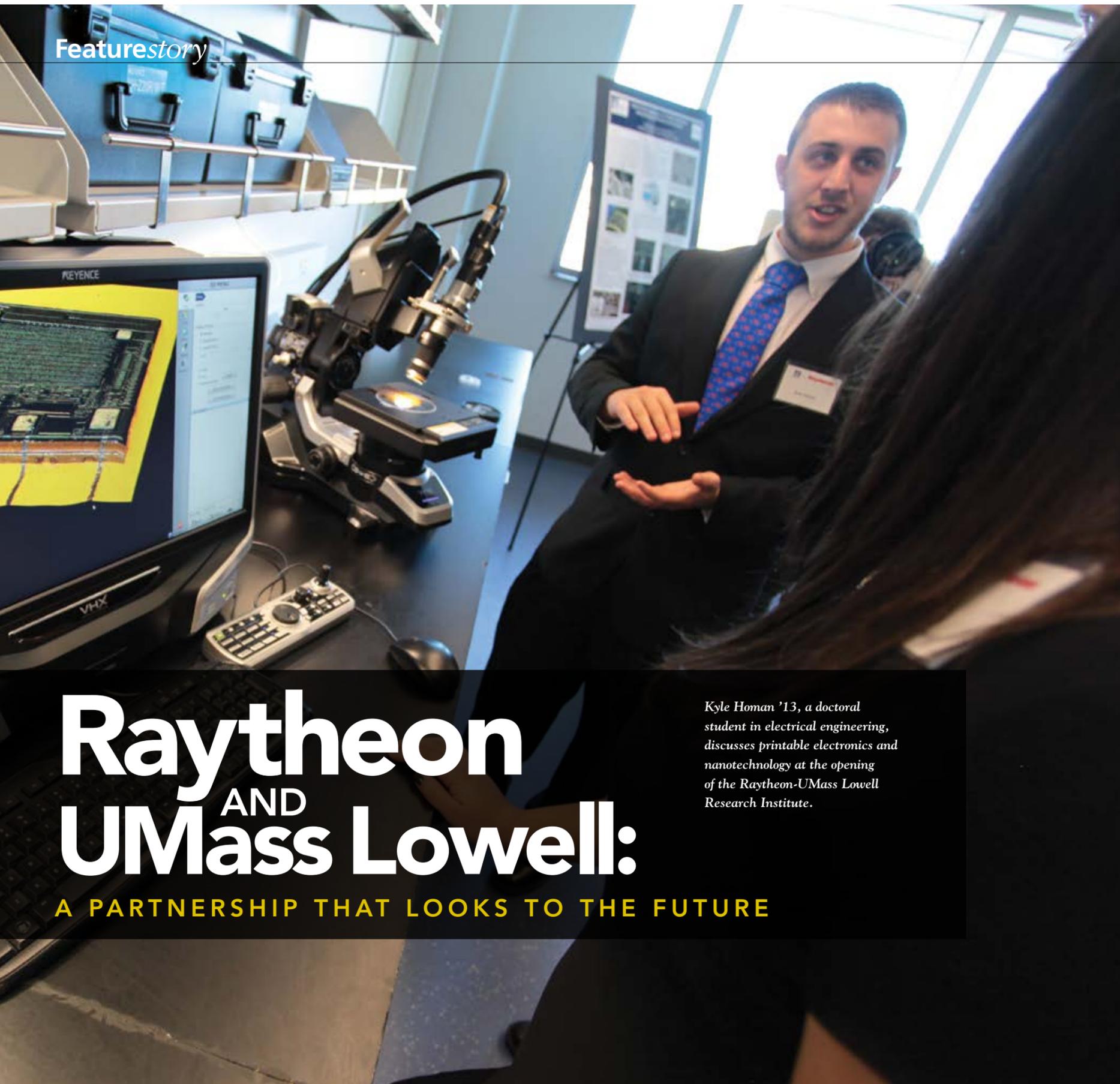
At 81, Sister Cecile has no plans to dial back her work with Bachand Hall's youngest residents. With the need for housing so great, she hopes other religious orders may follow the example.

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

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

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

*Photos: Tory Germann*



# Raytheon AND UMass Lowell:

A PARTNERSHIP THAT LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

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

**IF THERE IS ANY SINGLE DEVELOPMENT** that could be held up as tangible proof of the university's crossover between the old era and the new, it might be the partnership agreement announced last summer between UMass Lowell and Raytheon Co., the \$30 billion defense contractor based in Waltham.

**T**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 \$3 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 Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center, includes both labs and classrooms, and is to be co-directed by UMass Lowell engineering Prof. Craig 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 alumnus and Raytheon vice president of engineering, technology and mission assurance.

While the UMass Lowell of only a few years ago pursued a single main function—that of "educating the local population"—Raytheon's 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. (See below.)

At least two major educational funds have also grown out of the Raytheon-UMass Lowell partnership. The Raytheon Electrical Engineering Endowed Scholarship Fund, established seven years ago with an initial cash gift of \$30,000 (it has a value of more than \$116,000 today), awards scholarship assistance to students pursuing a degree in that field; the 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.

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

**>BREAKING NEWS:** As this magazine went to press, the university announced a unique academic-industry partnership with Raytheon in Kuwait. Starting in the spring 2015 semester, UMass Lowell will work with the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) to offer undergraduate and graduate programs in fields including engineering, business, education and science. UMass Lowell will become the first American university to offer its U.S.-accredited degrees in Kuwait through such a model, which will be funded by Raytheon with tuition and fees paid by Kuwaiti students.

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

# 4 Stories: When Giving is a Personal Thing.

**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*

Photos: Tory Germann





Adam Dunbar



Elaine Dalton



Bob Malloy



Larry Siegel

**“WE JUST REALIZED THAT IF YOU WANT TO GROW THE ENDOWMENT, YOU HAVE TO HAVE PARTICIPATION.”**

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

“I’d be in classes here [in 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 Hoff Scholarship, to serve as a student alumni ambassador, a residence assistant and, as a senior, assistant residence director in Fox Hall.

If there was anyone in his life, he says, who served as an example for this sort of tireless community immersion, it was probably his aunt, Jane Briguglio, a lifelong Townsend resident who ran the store with her brother for more than 30 years (they’d inherited it from their father, who opened it in the 1970s). Briguglio died unexpectedly two years ago at the age of 57. She was the sort of person, Dunbar says, “who was always involved with the town and its people, always 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 do that, though—the loans remain outstanding. Instead, he gave \$25,000 to the university, in his aunt’s memory, to establish the Dunbar and Briguglio Family Endowed Scholarship Fund. He thought about it for a while, he says, though in the end the decision more or less made itself.

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

Dunbar, who earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal jus-

tice in 2011, then stayed on to earn a 2014 master’s degree in education administration, is today assistant director of UMass Lowell’s Division of Student Affairs. As such, his gift to the university qualifies him for distinction on two counts: at 26, he is both the youngest alumnus, and the youngest employee, ever to create an endowment fund on his own.

For a young man, though, he seems to have traversed more than his share of life’s passages:

“When I was in high school I was really shy, I didn’t make many friends, I didn’t take advantage of what was there. So when I came to UMass Lowell, I promised myself that it’d be different, that I’d make the most of everything that came along. And I tried to. Even so, I couldn’t have made it here without the opportunities I’ve had—the leadership jobs, the Hoff Scholarship, all that the university has done for me.

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

For 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—at various nursing homes in the Merrimack Valley. Of the many people she spent time with, she especially remembers three.

The first two were a couple in their 80s, living at home, both under hospice care. She visited with them for several months on Thursday evenings, for three to four hours each time, until both died, one only weeks behind the other:

“We would just talk, and they would share their joys and fears, but mostly their memories of family,” Dalton says. “People share things with you more easily when their time is short. I remember those times as such an honor.”

The third was a woman living alone in the nursing home in the Belvidere section of Lowell, where Dalton visited her once or twice a week: “She was all by herself there, no family, no one to come see her. It would be summer and the heat would be awful, and she would just lie there in bed with nowhere else to go. The only thing that gave her comfort was

human touch and the background noise of a televised Mass. It used to break my heart. I wanted to put her on my back and take her home with me.”

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 “strong 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 it happened, 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 met 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 D’Youville Senior Center in Lowell, Dalton knew that she had found a way to fill the void. Since 2004, she has contributed to the Shalin Liu Internship in Nursing scholarship fund every week through payroll deductions. Her donations so far total nearly \$4,000, with a commitment, including the university’s 50 percent match, of \$3,750 more.

“It’s been 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 of that student as an appendage of myself.”

“My dream would be to cover the cost of an education for every student in need,” says Bob Malloy ’79, ’83, ’88, chair of the university’s Plastic Engineering Department, “but the reality is you can only do so much.”

What Malloy—and others in the department—have done in pursuit of that dream almost defies logic. Fifty-five separate endowment funds, totaling what he can only estimate as “several million dollars,” representing faculty, staff, employees and corporations, all targeted for use by the department for its students. “About a hundred”

students, he says, now receive financial aid from those funds, ranging from \$500 to \$3,500 a year each in scholarship assistance.

And with the department’s 60th anniversary year coming up, he adds: “Our target now is 60 funds.”

But to get to those numbers, says 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 these, 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 Mead, Stephen Driscoll 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.

“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. And like anything else, once you get several people on board it’s an easier sell for the rest.”

The same principle, he says, applies when it comes to 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 more than 500 alumni and friends attend our 50th anniversary dinner. But tight or not, it wouldn’t be as 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,

*Continued*

**“IF WE DON’T SET THE EXAMPLE, IF WE DON’T SHOW WE BELIEVE IN OUR OWN SYSTEM, WHY SHOULD ANYONE ELSE?”**

**“CREATE CLEAR OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST IN AND SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS’ CO-CURRICULAR AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT—AND TO DO IT IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY. THAT’S WHAT ALL THIS IS ABOUT.”**

then they can see that we believe in what we’re doing here. So then they believe in it as well, and they believe in us.

“And that’s what I think of as leading by example.”

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

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

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

Then it grew.

“Over the years, we’d been piling up these small gifts from past student-leaders who were now alums—\$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.” ■



# Thank You

## 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](http://uml.edu/donor).

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

# Alumni Life

## Inside...

- 54 Class Notes
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## BIG HAIR, DON'T CARE

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

**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 recognizes inspirational women who are leaders in their communities.

**1965**

**Congrats to the Class of 1965** on the upcoming 50th Reunion to be held during Commencement Weekend May 15-17. To volunteer on your class committee, email [alumni\\_office@uml.edu](mailto:alumni_office@uml.edu) or call 978-934-3140. For more info, visit [www.uml.edu/alumni](http://www.uml.edu/alumni).

**1967**

**Donna-Lane Nelson** has signed a contract for her tenth novel, "Murder in Ely." Her

ninth novel, "Murder on Insel Poel," was published in Spring 2014. Her website is <http://donnaananelson.com/> and her blog is <http://theexpat-writer.blogspot.ch/>. She lives in Geneva, Switzerland, and Argeles-sur-mer, France.

**1969**

**John Callahan III** retired in September 2014 after nine years as director of the Palm Beach County Library System. During his tenure, John oversaw the construction of eight new libraries and the renovation of nine branches. During his 42-year career in public library service he also oversaw libraries in Virginia Beach, Va., Hernando County, Fla., Delray Beach, Fla. and Newport Beach, Calif.

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



**1970**

**John Kennedy** joined the Matrix Systems Holdings Board of Directors. He has more than 35 years of experience in senior financial positions—including as chief financial officer, senior vice president of Operations and co-founder of such companies as Marshall Financial Group, National MicroSystems Corp., D'Ecalog and RSA Security

Inc. John, a member of the university's Circle of Distinction, is a longtime supporter of UMass Lowell.

**1971**

**Kenneth Reed**, who had been in the software engineering field for more than 40 years, recently retired and moved to Maine. Although he is in Black Bear territory he says he is still a River Hawk.

**1974**

**John Murphy**, a UMass Lowell Hall of Fame baseball player, had his photo taken with Baltimore Orioles legend Frank Robinson in Cooper-



stown, 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.

**1975**

**Congratulations to the Class of 1975** on the upcoming 40th Reunion to be held Homecoming Weekend Oct. 23-25. To volunteer on your class committee, email [alumni\\_office@uml.edu](mailto:alumni_office@uml.edu) or call 978-934-3140. For more info, visit [www.uml.edu/alumni](http://www.uml.edu/alumni).



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

**Peter Noel '75, '76, '79** is happily retired.

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

**1976**

**John Beaumont** has been elected to the Plastics Pioneers Association, an organization that preserves industry history and awards scholarships. Twenty-five years experience in the field is a requirement for membership.

**1977**

**Joseph Divirgilio** has two grandchildren: one boy and one girl.



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

**1979**

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

**1982**

**Charles Brunelas '82, '90** recently formed a manufacturer's representative company, EnergySave Sales LLC, specializing in the LED lighting industry.

*Continued on Page 57*

**1979**

**Glenn Tainter and Sandy (Landry) Tainter** recently celebrated the 35th anniversaries of their graduation, marriage and move to Virginia. They met the first day of freshman orientation, while waiting for photo IDs in Cumnock Hall. They dated throughout college, and are best captured on Page 84 of the yearbook dancing at the senior semi-formal. Sandy is also celebrating Glenn's retirement from Norfolk Naval Shipyard as a project superintendent. Sandy "retired" years earlier from her role as an accounting department manager to stay home with the couple's two sons and to serve as a full-time teacher and community volunteer. Glenn and Sandy continue to be active volunteers in their community. They extend their best wishes to all their classmates as they celebrate their 35th.



# Make Education Possible for Deserving Students

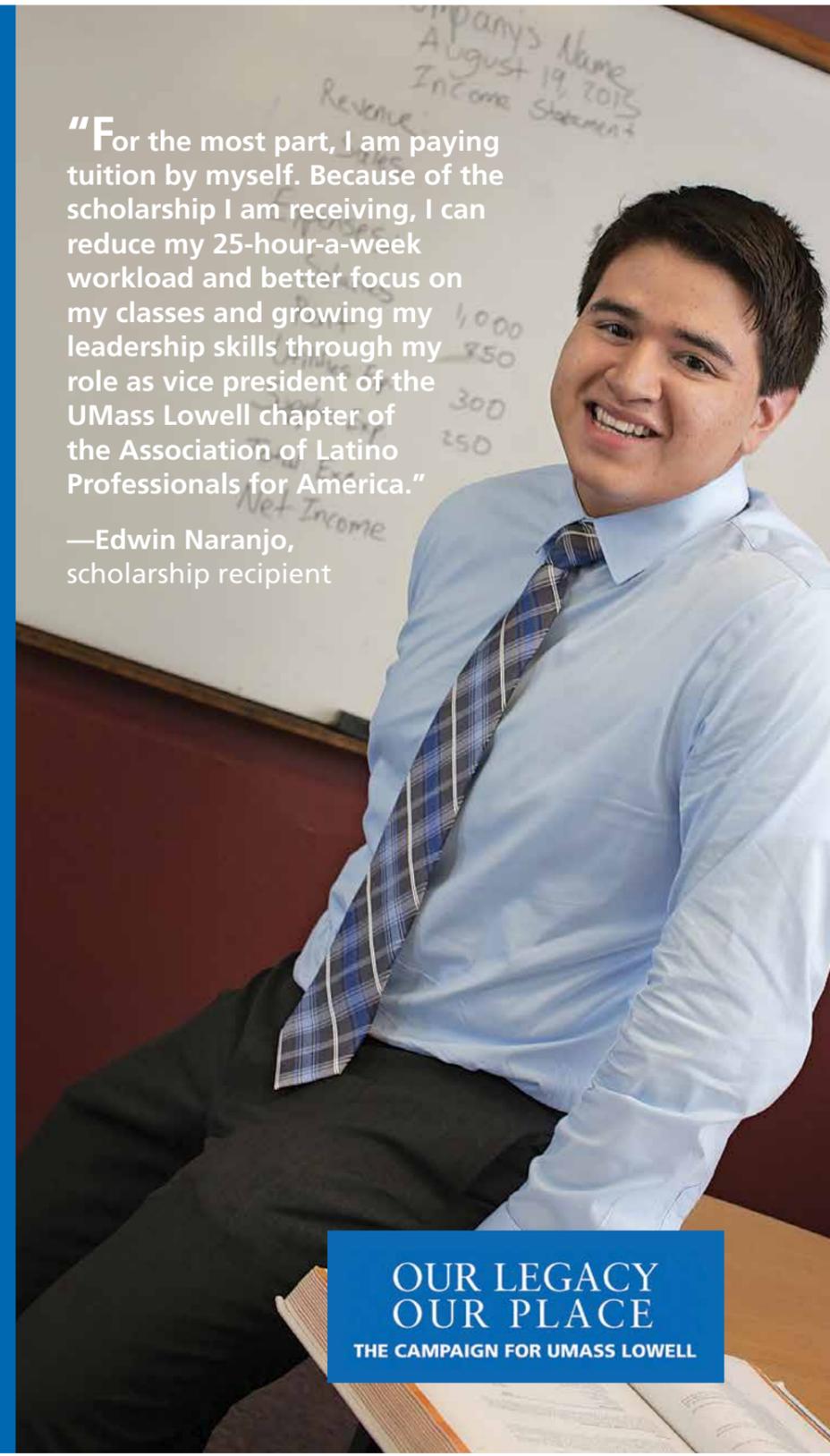
Higher education is prohibitive for many students. Some never make it to college, while others finance their education by working one or more jobs—missing important academic and social opportunities. But there are two ways you can help:

- 1. Make a gift.** Every gift matters in providing access to students: [www.uml.edu/impactuml](http://www.uml.edu/impactuml).
- 2. Establish a scholarship.** Scholarship endowments allow you to create a permanent legacy at UMass Lowell. Your gift is invested—never spent—and each year a distribution is made to benefit deserving students. To learn more, call 978-934-3689.

[www.uml.edu/ourlegacy-ourplace](http://www.uml.edu/ourlegacy-ourplace)

"For the most part, I am paying tuition by myself. Because of the scholarship I am receiving, I can reduce my 25-hour-a-week workload and better focus on my classes and growing my leadership skills through my role as vice president of the UMass Lowell chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals for America."

—Edwin Naranjo, scholarship recipient



**OUR LEGACY  
OUR PLACE**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UMASS LOWELL



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

# Family Ties



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

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

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

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

The middle years are thick with Morse's family. His parents, Andrew and Joanne (Curran) Morse flipped their tassels in 1954. Andrew, a U.S. Navy veteran, used the GI Bill to attend Lowell State. Joanne used her education degree to teach for a couple of years, but left to raise five children. Andrew Morse was president of his class and played basketball for the first team to battle under the banner of Lowell State.



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 Leonsis, the Washington D.C., sports franchise owner and former AOL executive.

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

"Listen," Morse recalls a voice on the phone saying. "We want to book an act there so big I can't even tell you who it is."

Others in the Morse clan who passed through the university: an aunt, Ann-Louise (Curran) LeColst '56; a sister, Susan (Morse) Doyle '79, and a cousin, Jeanne (LeColst) Guessetto '79.

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

**1983**

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

**1984**

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

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

**George Popp**, after 27 previous attempts, finally won the Lowell City Golf Tournament at the Vesper Country Club this past June. At the age of 52, George became the oldest player to win the annual event.

**1985**

**Tom O'Toole** has been appointed district director of the Music and Drama Department for students in K through 12 in Shrewsbury public schools. For the previous 15 years, Tom had served in a similar capacity at Nashoba Regional High School in Bolton.



**Elena Yee** recently resigned as the director of Multicultural Activities at Providence College to

return to graduate school. She will be earning her M.S. in clinical mental health counseling with a focus on college students and stereotype threat. She says she is excited to start this new chapter in her life.

**1985**

**Denise (Luzzo) Cousineau** of Franklin is a lending officer in the residential mortgage lending department at Bridgewater Savings in Raynham. With a degree in accounting, Denise has more than seven years of mortgage lending experience.

**1986**

**Janie Pinkston Sutton** has been appointed assistant director of field operations in the North Carolina state Bureau of Investigation. In that post she oversees agents who provide expert assistance involving criminal cases for local police, sheriffs, district attorneys and judges.



**1988**

**Bill Herenda** was recently named as the Sacramento Kings "Insider" by Comcast SportsNet California. In his new role, Bill will provide coverage of the Kings across the network's growing list of multiplatform outlets, including CSNCalifornia.com's

Continued on Page 59

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1982



# RECONSIDERING DEIRDRE

— BY SHEILA EPPOLITO —

**F**or Deirdre Girard '82, the theater bug bit early. Her second grade class at Waltham's MacArthur Elementary School took a field trip to see a production of "Anne Frank" at Brandeis University, and she was hooked.

"We didn't grow up with a lot of money, and my family didn't go to the theater," says Girard.

But she did.

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

"It was the one treat I gave myself—I'd skip on food, but I couldn't give up theater," she says.

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 their daughters, 17 and 14, have demonstrated promising vocal, acting and writing skills.

Until recently, Girard's theater involvement was exclusively as a bystander, experienced from the wings.

After graduation, Girard worked in a marketing

role at Epsilon, where she and her colleagues were "in early on database marketing" and helped the marketing and technology company succeed.

"Then, two colleagues and I asked ourselves why we were making all this money for a company, when we could make it for ourselves," she says.

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

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

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

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

She was accepted in Boston University's MFA program, and dove happily into learning the ins and outs of playwriting.

She met theater notables who are now friends, including playwrights Melinda Lopez and Kate Snodgrass, and earned a fellowship at the New Repertory Theater in Watertown.

"The fellowship is a great opportunity for the three participating playwrights," she says, noting that while

she had some plays in development, she decided to bring a new idea to create a play with an unlikely and controversial lead.

"I was reading Andre Dubus' 'Townie' and there were a couple of lines about a woman named Hannah Dustin, who was taken captive in Haverhill in 1697 along with her baby daughter and nurse by a group of Abenaki people, who then killed her infant daughter," she says.

The Hannah Dustin story takes a turn, wherein Dustin escapes the Abenakis, only to return to scalp two men, two women and six children. While the story's ghoulish details attracted accounts by Cotton Mather, Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne and John Greenleaf Whittier, Girard's interest in it was different.

"I was especially interested in how people tell the same story through their own perspectives," she says, noting that Dustin has been variously portrayed as a hero and an insane murderer, depending on who is telling the story.

Girard's play—called "Reconsidering Hanna(h)" features another writer, named Hanna, who has been devastated by the death of her husband, and is charged with writing a historical narrative about Dustin, discovering the vagaries of a writer's own perspective along the way. "Reconsidering Hanna(h)" enjoyed a successful run at Boston Playwrights' Theatre.

Girard loves all kind of theater, but has devoted herself to "creating meaty female roles and female-driven plays," she says, citing a frightening scarcity of female playwrights and roles.

While there are many projects in her queue, the one nearest completion is called "Widow's Walk," which features four middle-aged women.

"Women have been historically underrepresented in theater," she says, adding she wants to represent "complex, distinctive, flawed women" in her writing. ■

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"KingsTalk" and on-air for SportsNet Central, Yahoo SportsTalk Live, Kings Pregame Live, Kings Postgame Live and other NBA related programming. In addition to his Comcast SportsNet duties, Bill is the morning sports anchor for KFBK (93.1 FM, 1530 AM) in Sacramento. Prior to joining Comcast SportsNet, he was a college basketball television analyst for the ESPN family of networks, Comcast Hometown Network and Time Warner Cable. He was also the radio analyst for UC Davis men's basketball and sideline reporter for Aggies football.



**Becky Trepanier '88, '91** was recently hired as a pre-award specialist in the Office of Research Administration at UMass Lowell.

**1990**

**Congratulations to the Class of 1990** on the upcoming 25th Reunion to be held Homecoming Weekend Oct. 23-25. To volunteer on your class committee, email [alumni\\_office@uml.edu](mailto:alumni_office@uml.edu) or call 978-934-3140. For more info, visit [www.uml.edu/alumni](http://www.uml.edu/alumni).



**Michael Koenig** began a new career with Bank of America after spending five years with the University of Phoenix. He says all UMass Lowell alumni visiting the Phoenix

area must stop by Bae's Den in Tempe, a place he calls "our unofficial River Hawk hockey team and Boston sports game watching/party location."

**James Spinney** has been named the chief of police in Chelmsford. Jim had been deputy chief for 14 months and had served in the department for 20 years. Town Manager Paul Cohen cited Jim's experience and criminal justice degree as factors in his promotion.

**1991**

**Kevin Davis**, president and CEO of Performance Sports Group, Ltd., has taken the company public and it is now traded on the New York Stock Exchange. The move for the company, formerly called Bauer Performance Sports Ltd., was part of a public offering to raise \$110 million after its

acquisition of Easton-Bell Sports' baseball and softball business. Performance Sports manufactures ice hockey, roller hockey, lacrosse, baseball and softball equipment and apparel.

**1992**

**John Hardy** is a virtual assistant in the southeastern Massachusetts area and is subcontracting for two other business owners.

**1993**

**Richard Abbadessa** and Justine Eddy, a vice president at Eaton Vance Investment Managers in Boston, were married in November in Taunton. Richard, who graduated cum laude from UMass Lowell with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice, is a lieutenant with the Weymouth Police Department.

**1996**

**Eric Casimiro** was nominated for an Emmy award in sound design in 2014 for a CBS news segment called "Little Different." Eric, a Sound Recording Technology graduate, has won Emmy awards in the past.

**1997**

**Jim Borodawka**, who captained the 1996-97 UMass Lowell basketball team, is now in his second year as color commentator for River Hawk games, which are broadcast over ESPN New Hampshire radio, 900 AM. When not sitting courtside, Jim is vice president of Paradigm Partners, a tax-consulting firm in Nashua.

**1998**

**Christopher Landry** was recently named Teacher of the Year in north central Massachusetts.

**1999**

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

**George Koumantzelis** produced and released a record album on his recording label, Aeolian Music Works ([www.reverbnation.com/aeolianmusicworks](http://www.reverbnation.com/aeolianmusicworks)). The record is called Yogi & Yogini, by the band, Aeolian Kid. The double CD, available on [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com), contains all original songs written and recorded by George in his home studio in Lowell.



**QUOC TRUONG '93, '99** is a physical scientist at the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center (NSRDEC). He recently provided technical guidance and direction to NSRDEC's industry partner, Luna Innovations Inc., to successfully develop a durable, "omniphobic" coating used to produce self-cleaning fabrics. Omniphobic, he says, means it hates everything—including water, oil and toxic chemicals. The technology, which was developed for use in soldier clothing, has now made its way to the commercial market. Quoc has been working on leading-edge technologies and the development of advanced, innovative materials and textiles for decades.

**2000**

**Greg Capolino** was nominated for an Emmy award in 2014 for his work on a 48 Hours special, "As It Happened: John F. Kennedy 50 Years." Greg earned his degree in the Sound Recording Technology program.



**Neritan Mustafa** has a new job as an associate director of Global Supply Chain at Process & Tools.

**2001**

**Carolyn Rolfe** has joined the Office of University Advancement at UMass Lowell as the associate director for Leadership Giving. Prior to joining the Advancement team in August,

Carolyn was director of annual giving at Malden Catholic High School. She has also held annual giving positions at Clark University, Endicott College and Tufts University. She lives in Malden.



**2003**

**Jessica O'Neil** is pursuing her master's degree in health-care management at UMass Lowell.

**Gregory Sheehan** just welcomed his second child in the Lone Star State. After seven years of private immigration practice, Gregory is now directly immersed in the migration issue on the southern border as an Asylum Officer in Houston.

Continued

2004



**Diana Belair** and husband Jeff welcomed their second son, Silas Weston,

in February 2014. Big brother Tucker, age 2, is very proud and loves little brother Silas. Diana and Jeff love living in the Denver Area where he is a CPA and she is an attorney and managing editor. She is now in charge of the UMass Lowell Alumni Regional Chapter in Denver and looks forward to meeting fellow alumni in the area.

**Salinee Tavaranan** was included by the British Broadcasting Corporation among its 100 Women of 2014 for her development of sustainable alternative energy. Salinee, the founder and CEO of SunSawang Co. of Thailand, earned a master's degree in solar energy engineering at UMass Lowell.

**Andrew Thompson** has been married for one year and has a 3-month-old baby. He is also a senior police detective with the Dunwoody, Ga., Police Department.

2005

**Carly Hopkin** co-founded Tribe Alive, a lifestyle brand that uses a passion for fashion and responsible commerce as a platform to help alleviate poverty among women. Carly and her business partner are currently fundraising to help launch their second collection so that they can continue to have an impact on issues that women face in the developing world.

**Allison Sharpe** of Derry, 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 streetscape that places the city's North Church in the center; it will appear on all First Night buttons and merchandise. Allison, who says she's never before entered a contest, is a graphic design artist for Director Only Services in Windham, N.H.

2006

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

**Kenneth Tucceri** is part of the Joint Task Force in the Guantanamo Public Affairs Office where he writes, photographs,



performs layout design and creates illustrations for the JTF-GTMO's weekly publication, "The Wire," that informs and educates deployed troops. He is pictured here at Camp X-Ray in Guantanamo Bay.

**Daniel Van Schalkwyk** is the town engineer in Ayer. His responsibilities include infiltration analysis and transfer station and regulatory compliance.

2007

**Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello** was selected by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women as one of the Commonwealth's Unsung Heroines of 2014. The award acknowledges women who have been nominated by state legislators and selected for their contributions to the

*Continued on Page 62*

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1985

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



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

**H**e wasn't sure, in his student days, just what he wanted to do with his life. Whatever he did, he says today, he wanted it to be part of something larger, and something that tested his limits.

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

Twenty-nine years later and still a soldier—with a rank of command sergeant major, he is the senior enlisted member of any unit he serves in—there aren't many tests he hasn't passed: three years at Fort Benning, Ga., as a rifle platoon sergeant; six tours of combat duty over nine years (2002-2011)—including the earning of a Purple Heart—as a member of a light infantry division, from Baghdad and Abu Ghraib in Iraq to Afghanistan's Kandahar Province; nearly two years as senior enlisted officer at the Manoeuver Center of Excellence, the army's training center at Fort Benning. And now, since April of this year, a post at the Pentagon: as senior aide to the general in charge of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), the nerve center of the army's eight-year campaign against the mounting horror of IEDs.

"He's a proven combat leader and warrior with an unbelievable record," said the former Fort Benning commanding general of him two years ago. "You can instantly see and feel his passion. This guy's the real deal."

More than anything else, says Carabello, it was his battlefield experience, nearly all of in command positions, that has equipped him for all that has come after, not only his work against IEDs, but his dealings with rank-and-file soldiers: "You learn quickly: you can't lead from the sideline or the press box, you've got to be out there with your soldiers, in the same muck, eating a lot of MREs, not taking a lot of showers, sharing the same hardships and risks."

Another big part of the job, he will tell you, involved dealing with the people he was fighting to protect.

"In '06, in the Pech River Valley in Kunar Province [Afghanistan], we were in a combat

operation inside an enemy safe zone. But not only fighting—also building roads, fixing bridges, trying to create personal relations with some of the elders and tribal leaders. Just trying, where we could, to make the lives of the people a little better."

Their tour finished, his unit returned home. A year later they were redeployed to the same region: "And once in a while you'd overhear the locals—'Oh, the good guys are back, the good guys are back.' It felt good to hear that, it really did."

"That's how you want them to see you, as a good person. But first you've got to make yourself close to the people. And then maybe you can make a difference."

Like a lot of veteran soldiers, Carabello doesn't say much about the fighting itself. One of the few things he will volunteer is that the Taliban, the

main force aligned against the U.S. in Afghanistan, were not a fearsome enemy:

"They basically fled. They didn't want to take on our soldiers one-on-one. That was the case pretty much everywhere we went."

No doubt at least in part for this reason, the IED quickly became the Taliban's principal weapon of choice. And it was effective, causing more than 3,600 casualties in Afghanistan in 2010 alone.

It is a terrifying weapon. Assembled from wood, wire, fertilizer and scraps of steel or plastic, buried in the ground, concealed in a building or embedded in an animal's rotting carcass, it costs often less than \$200 to make and looks like nothing so much as a high schooler's workshop project. Yet it has brought about close to two-thirds of all U.S. casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan—more than 3,100 dead and 33,000 wounded, many of these with catastrophic brain injuries, according to a report in USA Today. In the space of less than 12 years it has singlehandedly transformed the nature of war.

With roughly 400 employees, another 1,900 contract workers and a 2013 budget of \$1.6 billion, JIEDDO was established eight years ago in response to the burgeoning IED threat. Operating under the authority of the Department of Defense, its focus, as Carabello explains it, is threefold: to "attack the network" by working to take out the weapons' makers and short-circuit their financing sources; "defeat the device itself" through the use of sensors, robots, ground-penetrating radar, etc.; and finally to "train the force" in its use.

Toward the end of his final deployment in Afghanistan, Carabello says, long before he began his work for JIEDDO, he began to witness the fruits of its work:

"Around 2006-07, we were starting to see a lot more IEDs. That was also when I first became aware of JIEDDO. And after that, things started to change. As a fighting force, we were able to be a lot more mobile [no longer as reliant on aircraft to avoid the use of roads], and you could see the casualties start to go down. Without JIEDDO, I'd say we'd have had five times the dead and wounded out there."

All of which, he says, has made the work he's doing in Washington these days—especially now as JIEDDO, in the wake of the wind-down in Iraq and Afghanistan, will be broadening its mission—the pinnacle of his military career.

"I can't tell you how proud I am to be part of this group. We're doing important work here. There are a whole lot of lives at stake out there." —GD

Continued from Page 60

community and the Commonwealth. The director of the Georgetown Council on Aging, Colleen also recently completed a certificate in Mental Health in Aging through Boston University's Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research.

**2008**

**Amanda Jarski** was married in September 2012. She rescued two dogs and started a new job as a credit analyst in August 2013.

**Kristina Michalak** was married in August 2013.

**Steven Stanley** was married in 2010. (See 2010 note.)

**2010**

**Ashley (Dumais) Nickerson**, a structural engineer with the firm L.A. Fuess Partners Inc., has had a significant role in the structural re-engineering of the McGauvran building project on campus. She says her UMass Lowell education has directly contributed to her career success.



**Heather Stanley '10, '14** married **Steven Stanley '08** in 2010, had a son named Austin in 2012 and a daughter, Charlotte, in 2013. She passed the board certified behavior analyst exam in August 2014

**D. Jeffery Cronin** married Lauren Lee on June 28. He holds a master's degree in atmospheric sciences and is employed by Woodard & Curran, an environmental engineering firm in Andover.

**2011**

**Raymond Grinnel** has earned his juris doctor (J.D.) degree from the Roger Williams University School of Law.



**Tinuviel Lathrop**, who works for American International Group (AIG) in New York City, and Gregory Jette, who works in New York City's Office of Management and Budget, have announced their engagement. They plan a June wedding in Newry, Maine.

**Michael Mizzoni** has been named to the Littleton School Committee to serve out the term of a member who had been elected a selectman. Mike is also deputy general counsel at the state Department of Higher Education. He earned a J.D. degree at the New England School of Law after graduating from UMass Lowell.



**Emily Wisheart** 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 was on the Ambassadors Committee for the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce and sat on the board of the Young Professionals of Greater Lowell. She recently moved on to a new adventure and is now living in Virginia Beach where she is the marketing communications specialist for Dominion Dealer Solutions of Norfolk. She says she loves her new job.

Continued

► **CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1990**



The Cyber-privacy Warrior:  
**'I Want to Stop the Bad Guys'**

Counterintelligence. The word hasn't yet officially entered the lexicon. But there's a little company in Nashua, N.H., that that would tell you that the word not only exists, but that the practice it defines is the core reason for the company's existence.

"What is counterintelligence?" reads the title of a link on the website of SnoopWall, the firm founded two years ago by a UMass Lowell graduate and self-defined computer geek named Gary Miliefsky '90. "If you could make yourself invisible, if you could hide your PII [personally identifiable information] from prying eyes, you would be practicing counterintelligence. That's right—you would be countering surveillance."

Miliefsky, who was an adviser to the White House during the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, has founded and run a string of cyber-security companies in the Merrimack Valley over the past 20 years. He believes almost passionately in the sanctity of web privacy—and that it is under mounting assault. It is an assault, he claims, that accounts for at least \$250 billion a year in bank fraud alone, and "is growing more costly and more sophisticated with every week that passes."

The scenario he paints is scary: the flashlight app on your smartphone—and as many as 500 million other smartphones—are being used to steal your personal information. Your mobile banking app is an open book on your financial transactions. Your smartphone camera is being hijacked by hackers to spy on you. And your computer keystrokes are tracked remotely to steal your credit-card information.

"Digital privacy is dead," Miliefsky says. He describes what he says is "a whole new generation of eavesdropping spyware"—

also known as snoopware—a kind of malware that can go undetected by normal anti-virus and firewall software, and can then "run in the background in a stealth mode" to monitor your private information by way of your phone calls, text messages, voicemail, e-mail or smartphone apps. This can happen through almost any digitally run device: your laptop, your cellphone, your car GPS—even your toaster, he says.

The path 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 13, with my own money. At ULowell, [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 calls itself "the world's first counter-intelligence security 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 choice—you can be a black hat or a white hat. I wanted to be a white hat. I wanted to stop the bad guys."

The surest 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.—GD

► **CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1996**

**I AM IRON MAN:**

**FATHER-DAUGHTER ALUMS COMPLETE 140-MILE TRIATHLON**

BY JILL GAMBON

Crossing the finish line at the 140.6-mile Maryland Ironman triathlon in September marked the achievement of a life goal for Richard Lemoine '96. What made the event even more memorable was that Lemoine's daughter and training partner, Kiersten Gagnon '08, '10, finished about 20 minutes behind him. The pair had trained for months for the endurance contest, which included a 2.4-mile swim in the Choptank River, 112 miles of cycling and a full marathon.

"It's so fulfilling to be able to share the achievement," says Lemoine, the university's director of environmental and emergency management.

"Getting through this journey with my dad was an amazing experience," says Gagnon, an engineer with Raytheon.

With a shared passion for fitness and a similar competitive spirit, father and daughter started doing triathlons together in 2008, when Gagnon was a senior in the Francis College of Engineering. A competitive swimmer since childhood, Gagnon had started running five-kilometer road races and decided to add cycling to the mix. Lemoine, an avid cyclist and runner, watched her compete in a couple of sprint triathlons and decided to join her. The two have trained together and completed about 15 triathlons of varying lengths. September's 140.6-mile contest was the most challenging.

Throughout the summer, the pair trained together when they could, including Sunday bike rides of five, six or seven hours, often followed by an eight- to 10-mile run. They stuck to a disciplined regimen (on Fridays, for instance, Lemoine rose at 4:30 a.m. to run 20 miles before heading to work) and kept 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?

"Doing triathlons provides me with focus. It's a stress reliever," says Lemoine.

"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 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.



**2012**

**Scott Conway** was director of operations for Massachusetts Gov.-elect Charlie Baker's election campaign.



**Karen Lamphier** moved into her current position as a product specialist less than a year ago at Informatica and loves it. She is using her degree work and experience for what she calls an interesting challenge.

**Rob Noe** is co-owner of Custom Universe and Sail Loft. Rob and his business partner have a retail store on Nantucket and recently opened a second location in Boston.

**Sara Afshar**, a third year law student at New England Law in Boston, is a legal intern at the Children's Law Center of Massachusetts.

**2013**



**Erin Keaney** is on the cover of the current issue of UMass Lowell's "Engineering Solutions." Her company Nonspec, a prosthetics startup, is featured on page four.

**Allen Newsome** was selected as Georgia Power PowerED teacher in 2014, as part of the company's efforts to interest children in STEM fields.

**Connor B. Burnham** was named a patrol officer with the Yarmouth Police Department. He was previously an officer with the Chatham Police Department. Connor holds a B.S. in criminal justice and homeland security.

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ALUMNA JANET JOHNSON'S LONG STRUGGLE IN LIBERIA:

# 'EVEN EBOLA CAN'T UNITE US'

— BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS —



**A**s a student Janet Johnson lived quietly, mostly unnoticed, in an apartment complex in Dracut, sometimes working double shifts at her job to afford her tuition. When she finished her UMass Lowell studies in 2013, with a master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies, she returned to her native Liberia, where she continues to live quietly today, in the suburbs of Monrovia, "about 20 minutes' drive from work," she says.

Since Johnson's return there last year, she has served as acting communications director and policy analyst for Liberia's Governance Commission.

It has been a horrific year in Liberia, with Ebola having claimed, as of press time, more than 2,700 lives in that country alone. In Johnson's home, where she lives with her 10-year-old daughter and other family members, there is "no shaking hands, no touching or hugging," she says. "We communicate, we joke, we laugh, but we do not touch or eat off the same plate or share utensils."

Perhaps partly as a result of such caution, she says—which the nation as a whole has been advised to exercise—"we have seen a reduction in the transmission of the disease compared to [earlier]. In short, the environment is peaceful."

She has not always lived so quietly; her life in the past was anything but peaceful. There was a time, years before her government work or her time at UMass Lowell, when she was known by many names: suffragist, activist, muckraker, peacemaker, freedom fighter. As a journalist in her home country, they knew her as "the Iron Lady."

It was the turn of the last century. Johnson-Bryant—today she is simply Janet Johnson—was a reporter for a radio station in Monrovia, assigned to cover the home and activities of the country's warlord-turned-president, Charles Taylor, who before he was through would bring the nation to its knees

through the vastness of his corruption, brutality and indifference to life. But rather than acquiesce to Taylor's tacit dominion over the national media—reporters were sometimes bribed openly at his press conferences—she risked her career, and sometimes her life, to expose the government's corruption.

Resistance to Taylor gained ground. By the early 2000s the country was in full-blown civil war. That was when Johnson, joining forces with activist Lehmah Gowee (who would go on to win the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize and become UMass Lowell's 2011 Greeley Peace Scholar) and others, helped organize a massive, non-violent outpouring of women. The Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace—thousands strong, many of them followers of Johnson's radio reporting—gathered daily for weeks, singing and praying, wearing white and carrying signs for peace, in a fish market in the capitol city of Monrovia. They stayed until Taylor agreed to peace talks—then traveled to Ghana, where the talks were held, and linked arms outside the meeting hall, blocking exit by the leaders until a pact was signed.

Little of this was reported at the time by the international media, for which Johnson has a ready explanation: "What women do is swept under the carpet. People are more concerned with what men are doing," she told a Boston reporter in 2008, a year after coming to the U.S. to pursue her master's degree in Lowell. "They want to see how power changes hands, they want to know who's killing who."

(The woman's quiet heroism wouldn't remain unsung for long. In the spring of 2009, Johnson, Gbowee and Viaba Flomo, as representatives of the "Women of Liberia," were honored with the JFK Profile in Courage Award at the Kennedy Library in Boston. A documentary film depicting their courage, "Pray the Devil Back to Hell," had been released in New York six months earlier, earning more than a dozen awards; it would be featured in 2009 on PBS' "Bill Moyers' Journal.")

By the summer of 2003, with the arrival of a West African peacekeeping force, peace had been restored to Liberia. Taylor resigned soon after. He was convicted in 2012 by the Special Court of Sierra Leone on 11 counts of what the presiding judge termed "some of the most heinous 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 in the UMass Lowell Office of University Relations, who worked with Johnson during her time at the university. "Janet's story is a perfect example of what it means to work hard toward making a difference. She did it then. She continues to do it today." ■

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2004

# SEEING THINGS

THE VISION OF WARBY PARKER

BY SHEILA EPPOLITO

Forget the theories about right and left brained people. Stephanie Wu '04 is proof that it's not always about either/or.

As a child in Chelmsford, Wu's parents taught her all the regular things parents do: reading, manners—and computer coding.

"They knew it was important," says Wu, a graphic design alum who also studied mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

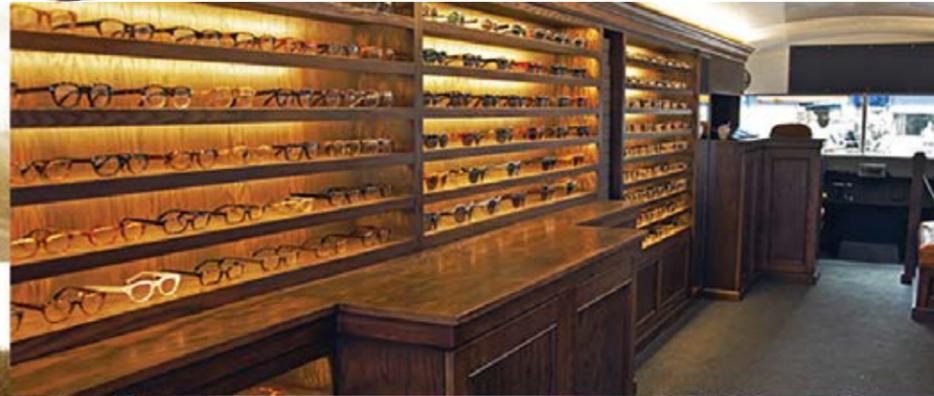
Her professional career has been nearly as varied.

"After college, I drove around the country 'city shopping' and decided on San Francisco, where I knew exactly one person," she says.

Wu quickly joined an experiential marketing agency designing environments, way-finding signage and large corporate experiences, where she "loved the small-shop camaraderie" and left when growth killed that vibe.

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

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 crib sheets.

Wu moved again—to New York, to join a startup company with values that complemented her growing social conscience.

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

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

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

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

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

"I 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." ■



2014

Mark Georgian, who has been a research assistant in Harvard University's Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, has joined Pare Corp. as a geotechnical engineer. Mark earned bachelor's degrees in both civil engineering and economics at UMass Lowell.

Erica Tremblay got a surprise when she walked off a red-eye flight at Logan Airport just before Thanksgiving. Her boyfriend Dan Murphy '12 proposed to her right in the terminal, with the help of about 100 of the couple's



friends—many UMass Lowell alumni—who sang "Seasons of Love" from "Rent," the campus production of which was responsible for the pair meeting. Erica said yes. ■

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2006



## A Security Industry Rising Star

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

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

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

Victorine's accomplishments have earned him recognition from his peers in industry. "Security Director News," a trade publication based in Yarmouth, Maine, named him to its annual "20 Under 40" list, an honor that recognizes rising stars in the security profession.

Since arriving at UMass Lowell as a freshman 16 years ago, Victorine, 33, has worked in different capacities for several departments. In his current position, he has to interact with a wide cross-section of people on campus as he applies technology to solve problems. "I realized early on I didn't want to sit in a cube and code all day. I like working with people," he says.



## DOWN PAT

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

## Church Yard Boys Give Back

SACRED HEART NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDS  
CREATE SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

**S**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 Patricia McCafferty are the founding trustees of the fund—held 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](http://alumni.uml.edu/sacredheartfundraiser).



The Sacred Heart Neighborhood Reunion Fundraiser raised \$45,000 for scholarships for UMass Lowell students. Shown here are Chancellor Marty Meehan, third from left, with the first scholarship recipient, Ricardo Torres, center, and fund founders, from left, James Neary, Raymond Crowe, Kenneth O'Neill, Patti McCafferty, Matt McCafferty, John O'Donnell and Brian Sheehan.



Chancellor Marty Meehan, left, expresses his appreciation to Presenting Sponsor Brendan Fleming, former Lowell mayor and city councilor and math professor for 40 years, for his family's \$10,000 commitment to the Sacred Heart Neighborhood Reunion Fundraiser for student scholarships.

## 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](mailto:ogp@uml.edu)





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[1] 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.

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

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

[4] 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 Sintros and Alexander Lambroukos.

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

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

[7] A group of plastics alumni join together for their annual Reach the Beach relay race. From left: Cristina King '03, Melissa Egan '03, Professor Dave Kazmer, Professor Meg Sobkowicz-Kline, Professor/Chair Robert Malloy '79, '83, '88, Bill Siopes '03, Stephanie Dubay '05, Dennis Roy, Kara Hudson, Rayleen Hudson, Gabriel Mendible '13, '16, and Jessica Matar '16.

[8] 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 Meehan '78; Dean of Student Affairs & Special Events Brenda Evans '94, '95; Dean of Education Anita Greenwood '84, '92; and Professor/Chair of Finance Yash Puri.

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

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



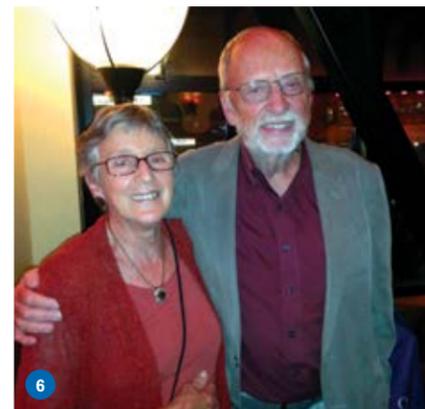
**Celebration of Philanthropy**

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 front left: Eunsang and Soonhae Yoon; David '81, '88 and Lauren Laurello; Russell '81 and Mary '81 Bedell; Professor/Chair of Finance Yash Puri; Chancellor Marty Meehan '78; Back row left: Mark '71 and Susan '69 Cocozza; John Hurley, brother of recipient the late Brian Hurley '75; Patricia Dyer McPhail '54; Donald LaTorre '59, '07 (H); Professor of School of Nursing Jacqueline Dowling; Kathleen McBride, sister of recipient the late Brian Hurley '75; Jerry '78 and Joyce '77 Colella; Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92; Pam Derry, sister of recipient the late Brian Hurley '75. Not pictured: Abha '88 and Anil Singhal; Gloria LaTorre; Aldo Crugnola; and Penny Hocking, Jill Farwell 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.

[3] Susan '69 and Mark '71 Cocozza, left and Professor/Chair of Finance Yash Puri cheer on the UMass Lowell Marching Band.



**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.

- [1] Arizona alumni gather for their second annual evening at James Grant's '84 home. Grant is a member of the Arizona Regional Alumni Chapter.
- [2] At the Colorado Alumni Reception, Greg '83 and Lynn '83 McAuliffe met fellow alumni who live near Denver as Matt Drouin '95, one of the Colorado Alumni Chapter coordinators (not shown), graciously cooked and hosted dinner for all.
- [3] From left, Chancellor Marty Meehan '78, Ioannis Venizelos '78 '82, Ellen Murphy Meehan and Yorgos Ioannidis '78 reconnect at the Alumni Reception and Dinner in Athens, Greece.
- [4] Kate '99 and Mohamed '00 Awad attended their first alumni event in California; it was a "suite" fit that has them hooked!
- [5] California alumni reconnect on a sunset cruise in Marina Del Rey. From Left: Jay Kalil, Michael '94, '98 and Jamie Lesnever, Salvatore Persico, Joanne Germano and Rohit Sharma '03.
- [6] David '57 and Hilary Hannon at the Bay Area Alumni Reception at Bistro Boudin in San Francisco.

**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.

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



# 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.

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



[1] The Party Band kept things lively at Hawkey Way, UMass Lowell's homecoming carnival.

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

[3] Past and future alumni enjoy the outdoor carnival at Hawkey Way.

[4] Steve Rotondi '14, Heather Wyatt, Matt Austin, 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.

[6] Homecoming Host committee alumnus John Cogan '86, Hockey Coach Norm Bazin '94, '99 and Kevin Sullivan '94 gather before the University of Michigan vs. UMass Lowell hockey game in the Talon Club for an appreciation reception.

[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, Karie Judge '14 (3rd place female), Samantha Otten '15 (4th place female), David Brown '14 (3rd place overall), Drew Butler '14 (2nd place overall), and Christopher Favuli '14 (overall race winner).

[8] From left: Jake Burke '89, '90, '92, Tom Winston '92, and Rich Conley '92, '97 gather at the Residence Life Reunion of the '80's and '90's during homecoming weekend.

[9] Faculty and staff tear it up at Jennifer's 5k Run/Walk. From left: Frank Talty '77, assistant dean of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Plastics Chair Prof. Bob Malloy '79, '83, '88; Rich Lemoine '96, 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.

[10] Homecoming guests enjoy bungee jumping at Hawkey Way.



*The Reunion Tour*

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

- [1] Dean of Francis College of Engineering Joseph Hartman pins Ed Bonacci '54 at the Golden Alumni Reunion Luncheon.
- [2] 50th Reunion alumni from the Lowell Tech Class of 1964 celebrate at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center.
- [3] Jane Walker '54, Doreen Stowe Moore '54, and Christine Marocco '54 reminisce at the Golden Alumni Luncheon.
- [4] 50th Reunion alumni from Massachusetts State College at Lowell Class of 1964 celebrate their reunion at the Inn & Conference Center.
- [5] Alumni enjoy their 40th and 50th Reunion Dinner. From left: Margaret McDonald Laycock '64 and Lisa Barone Bernard '64.
- [6] Alumni from Massachusetts State College at Lowell, class of 1964, enjoying time with one other at their 50th Reunion. From left: George Perrone '64, Claire Belanger Bessette '64, Diane Wicker Stetson '64, Connie Poirier Striano '64 and Richard Striano '64.

- [7] 40th Reunion classmates from Lowell State 1974 celebrate their reunion.
- [8] 40th Reunion alumni from the Lowell Tech Class of 1974 celebrate their reunion at the Inn & Conference Center.
- [9] Parlee Farms owners Mark '80 and Ellen Parlee celebrate Family Fun Day with Executive Vice Chancellor Jaqueline Moloney '75, '92, right, and Director of the Office of Alumni Relations Heather Makrez '06, '08.
- [10] Massachusetts State College at Lowell alumni gather before their tour of South Campus. From left: Dorothy McCarthy Moore '64, Mary Ann Cote '64, '69, Marie Sweeney '64, Patricia Karl '64, '95 and Marilyn Pinschmidt '64.
- [11] Lowell Tech 40th and 50th Reunion tour

YEAR	NAME	YEAR	NAME	YEAR	NAME
1928	A.Eleanor Wain	1969	Henry J. Pluta	1983	Mark Z. Wescott
1935	Eleanor R. (Archibald) Somerville	1970	Linda M. (Lavery) Dano	1983	Paul R. Lacroix
1936	Mary M. (Mylott) Crossley	1970	David W. Maroni	1983	Joseph R. Kane
1936	Florence H. (Hart) McCarthy	1970	John R. Turbyne	1984	Mary M. Mullen
1938	George D. Sood	1970	Kenneth P. Glidden	1985	Thomas M. Drake
1940	Eleanor M. Priestley	1970	Leon L. Turner	1986	Alan N. Cote
1941	Alice B. Jezak	1971	Phillip T. Karatzas	1986	Margery E. Burgess
1941	Norman A. Inkpen	1972	Jules A. Bilodeau	1986	Brenda A. Sweeny
1944	Sophie (Gagalis) Savas	1973	Robert W. Bates	1987	John F. Conlon
1950	Patricia A. (Chandler) Dion	1973	Dominic W. Caristo	1988	Andrew R. Fogelgren
1950	Albert Sandperil	1973	Robert F. Loranger	1988	Paul J. Jasionowski
1951	Frances M. McDonald	1973	John D. Mangan	1988	Sally A. Flores
1952	Gloria J. (LaFerriere) LaFlamme	1974	Virgil M. Fenton	1989	James E. Fitzgibbons
1952	William P. Lynch	1974	Daniel F. Franco	1989	Raymond D. Hurley
1952	John H. Allison	1974	Lois E. Ireland	1990	Cheryl A. Sidelinker
1952	Wilfred E. Belanger	1975	Kevin J. Richards	1993	David J. Coen
1958	Robert A. Gardiner	1975	William A. Boudreau	1993	Keith B. Fagan
1959	Constance V. (Lingenfelter) Davis	1975	Romie Jones	1993	Paula Stein
1959	George P. Trearchis	1976	Salvatore J. Bonasoro	1994	Thomas J. Swords
1961	William P. Moylan	1976	Richard F. Bates	1996	Joel F. Vitchkoski
1962	Barbara L. Palermo	1976	Robert E. Jordan	1996	Theodore A. Skrivanos
1963	Lois L. Nichols	1976	Peter A. Malley	1998	David N. Wood
1963	Marc E. Lefebvre	1977	Mary D. (Hampel) Meisner	1998	Anna Maria Krowczynska
1963	Robert D. Merrifield	1977	Rita M. Wells	2004	Larry A. Carpenter
1964	Barbara H. (Haimbach) Landell	1977	John J. O'Neill	2006	Marco Cinquini
1964	James J. Anastasi	1977	Brian G. Carrigg	2013	Patrick Johnson Lu
1964	Mitchell D. Keamy	1980	Elizabeth M. (Boland) Roche	2014	Christopher M. O'Neil
1964	Aurelie C. Houle	1980	Steven F. Hunter		Robert J. Lechner
1965	Maura A. (Martin) Roberts	1980	Clovis A. Regis		Donald G. Rizzo
1965	Mary C. (Kelleher) Law	1981	William J. Deveau		Arthur Leonard
	Jerome I. Barancik	1983	Linda A. (Duda) Crouch		Gerard Drouin
					Christopher Russo
					Anthony Romano

# Then...

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

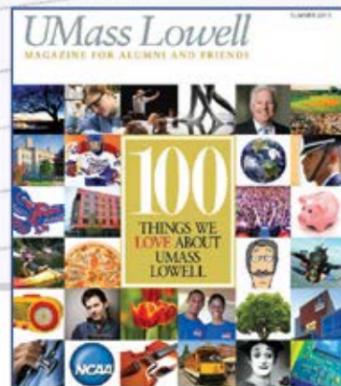


## Got notes?

Is there something interesting going on in your life?

- New job?
- Married?
- Did you travel somewhere interesting?

Class notes are featured in our alumni magazine!



Learning with Purpose

Let us know, and we'll do the rest.  
[www.uml.edu/updateyourinfo](http://www.uml.edu/updateyourinfo)

# Now...



*UMass Lowell's new flagship bookstore in University Crossing, the River Hawk Shop offers two floors of textbooks, general interest books and bestsellers, team apparel, school supplies and gifts.*



**RIVER  
HAWK  
CLUB**

## Join the Club!

Join the River Hawk Club and help UMass Lowell maintain its winning tradition by:

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

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

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