Jacquie Moloney, a graduate of UMass Lowell who has worked at the campus for three decades, made history on Oct. 22 when she was inaugurated as the first woman leader in the institution’s 121 years. Inaugural events raised $1.5 million for student scholarships.

“What is it that we do at this university? What is our mission? I believe it is to change lives,” said Moloney. “What makes this university so special? Put simply, it is all of you: our inspiring students, our brilliant faculty and committed staff, our devoted alumni, our dedicated civic and business leaders and our community of friends and family.”

More than 1,000 members of the UMass Lowell community gathered at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell to celebrate the inauguration of Moloney, the third person to hold the post of chancellor of the university. Among them was Moloney’s predecessor and fellow UMass Lowell graduate, UMass President Marty Meehan.

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Stating that he could not have left his post at UMass Lowell to serve as president had he not been confident that the campus was in good hands, Meehan told Moloney: “You will lead this institution to even greater heights.”
Learning with Purpose

Cricket Catches On (Again)

New Club Team is Beating the Big Boys—and Reviving the Sport on Campus

“We Americans never saw a game of cricket played, and knew nothing of it, until we formed a club and got some Englishmen to learn us.”

That’s how the secretary of Lowell’s very first cricket team described the sport’s British invasion—way back in 1857.

Now, more than 150 years later, another cricket club is establishing itself in the Mill City, this one on the university’s “Wicked Blue” turf at Cushing Field Complex.

The UMass Lowell cricket club team is back in action after a seven-year hiatus, thanks largely to the efforts of club president and team captain Sahil Patel, a sophomore computer science major who grew up in Kenya playing “street cricket.”

This fall, the club joined American College Cricket, the sport’s governing association, and began playing official games. Despite being one of the newest teams in the country, the River Hawks won four of their first five games this season, beating the well-established likes of Harvard, Boston University and Northeastern.

Cricket trails only soccer in global popularity, with more than 2 billion fans across India, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Asia and Australia.

The sport has grown over the past decade on U.S. college campuses, fueled largely by the international student population.

Innovation Gets a Boost at 110 Canal St.

Officials Praise University’s Cooperative Spirit

With two snips of ceremonial scissors, UMass Lowell significantly amplified its capacity to foster entrepreneurship and innovation. On Oct. 6, the university unveiled two floors made for folks who are inventing the future in the up-and-coming Hamilton Canal District in Lowell.

Officials snipped the first ribbon on the fourth floor of the 110 Canal building, home to expanded space of the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2), a joint venture between UMass Lowell and UMass Medical School. The new location adds to M2D2’s existing space in Wannalancit Business Center, which opened in 2011 and now houses 15 companies.

For the second ribbon cutting, well over 100 people headed down one floor to the UMass Lowell Innovation Hub (iHub), an incubator for tech industry start-ups that has been open since June and has a dozen companies and corporate sponsors on site.

Each space in the renovated mill building has 11,000 square feet of workspace and access to state-of-the-art equipment.

Steve Tello, associate vice chancellor for entrepreneurship and economic development, called it “two floors of collaboration, office, prototype and shared lab space specifically focused on encouraging and supporting the development of technology entrepreneurs and startups in the Merrimack Valley.”

Pair-Up Program Bridges Cultural Gaps

New Initiative Fosters Friendships between International, Domestic Students

Manning School of Business junior Josh Carter kept scanning students’ faces as they entered Moloney Ballroom, hoping to recognize the one he was looking for.

Carter had chatted with He Sun, an incoming graduate student from China, on Facebook over the summer, but today they were finally meeting in person through Pair-Up, a new initiative organized by the International Student and Scholars Office that partners domestic and international students to encourage cross-cultural understanding and friendship.

Moments later Sun approached Carter and asked, “Are you Josh?” Wide smiles swept over both students’ faces as they greeted each other with a warm handshake and quick hug. They grabbed two seats and jumped right into conversation, quickly discovering a shared love of playing music, riding bikes and programming computers.

The Pair-Up program took root during last spring’s DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge, where it won a second-place prize of $2,500 in the Significant Social Impact category. As the university’s international student population continues to grow, the program supports efforts to encourage global engagement and an inclusive campus culture.

Participants were surveyed on their interests and hobbies, as well as their majors, and then paired accordingly. They are asked to attend at least one university-sponsored event together each month, as well as at least one off-campus event.
Exhibit of Jack Kerouac’s Belongings Opens at UMass Lowell

Personal Effects Capture Domestic Side of Beat Generation Icon

Keepsakes and items that belonged to “On the Road” author Jack Kerouac from his last home—including his desk, handmade carriers for his cats and figurines the writer held dear—are on display in the exhibit “Kerouac Retrieved: Items from the John Sampas Collection.”

The exhibit offers a glimpse into the author’s domestic side, which is seemingly at odds with his public persona as a cultural rebel. Kerouac died in October 1969 at age 47.

The exhibit’s opening featured remarks from UMass Lowell professors Michael Millner and Todd Tietchen, who visited Kerouac’s former Florida home at the behest of Sampas, the executor of Kerouac’s literary estate, to bring the writer’s belongings to UMass Lowell. Millner is the director of the university’s Jack and Stella Kerouac Center for Public Humanities, while Tietchen has edited several volumes of Kerouac’s work. The pair reflected on how being in the author’s home and caring for his belongings has informed their work and transformed their view of him.

“Kerouac Retrieved” is open to the public during weekday business hours at Allen House on UMass Lowell’s South Campus. Members of the public who wish to arrange a curated visit should email Shaima_Ragab@uml.edu in advance. Admission to the exhibit and related programs is free. More information is available at www.jackkerouac.com.

John Feudo Named Vice Chancellor for Advancement

Longtime Fundraising Professional will Lead Upcoming Campaign

Chancellor Jacquie Moloney has announced the appointment of John Feudo as UMass Lowell’s vice chancellor for advancement. He oversees a 40-member staff, and will lead the public launch of the university’s upcoming comprehensive fundraising campaign, Our Legacy, Our Place.

Feudo is an internationally recognized fundraising and alumni engagement professional, with three decades of experience in higher education advancement and nonprofit management. Most recently, he served as senior vice president of development and chief development officer for the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, one of the top organizations within the global network of United Way affiliates.

Previously, Feudo spent eight years at his undergraduate alma mater, Boston College, first as the associate vice president for alumni relations, and later as senior development officer. From 1999 to 2006, he served as executive director of the University of Connecticut Alumni Association, where he also built and led the association’s capital campaign. Feudo also spent six years as the associate vice chancellor for university advancement at UMass Amherst and as executive director of the UMass Amherst Alumni Association.

As a former fundraising and alumni relations consultant, Feudo has worked with more than 75 colleges, universities and organizations around the world. He is also an award-winning speaker and author, having published five books in the field of advancement. In addition to a B.A. in political science, he holds a master’s degree in communications from Lesley University.

As vice chancellor for advancement, John Feudo will lead the public launch of Our Legacy, Our Place.

Opening Event Showcases Home to Hundreds of Students

Riverview Suites’ Unique Options Let Health Majors Study Where They Live

More than 100 people—including UMass Lowell students, faculty and staff along with members of the community—recently celebrated the opening of UMass Lowell’s newest residence hall, which allows students to live, study and conduct research under one roof.

Riverview Suites is also the first of its kind for a public institution in Massachusetts. Constructed by a private developer, Soho Development, on property adjacent to UMass Lowell’s South Campus, the residence hall is leased by the university.

Riverview Suites’ first phase was completed in August 2013 and houses 500 UMass Lowell students. With the completion of the second phase last month, the residence hall is now home to 800 students and totals 250,000 square feet.

In another first for UMass Lowell, the newly opened phase of Riverview Suites features 10 classrooms and lab space specifically designed to enable students in health-related majors to receive educational instruction and gain hands-on experience where they live. While UMass Lowell offers living-learning communities in residence halls across campus to enhance the educational experience of students with similar interests, the Health and Environment Academic Living Learning Community at Riverview Suites is the first to have its own academic and research facilities.

Riverview Suites also features amenities for all residents, including a satellite location of the university’s Campus Recreation Center.

Riverview Suites is home to 800 students and includes the university’s first residence hall-based academic and research facilities.
University, City Promote Downtown as a Destination

In something of a civic love affair, the City of Lowell and the university have taken several steps toward reinforcing the Mill City as a college town.

The university has offered incentives for faculty and staff to live in the city and is creating opportunities for students to become engaged in the civic, business and cultural organizations in Lowell. A joint university-city marketing campaign is spreading the word across the region that there is a lot to like about Lowell. Businesses are tendering student discounts to promote downtown shopping. The city and campus also collaborated to make the distance from campus to downtown shorter, adding a midtown bus stop from campus.

On a recent Thursday night, students arrived one elevator-full at a time, stepping onto the fourth floor of Mill No. 5 on Jackson Street, a renovated former cotton mill that houses small retail spaces, a café, yoga studio and independent movie theater. It was the culmination of Welcome Back Night, an evening designed to showcase the breadth of Lowell’s downtown offerings.

About 300 students, faculty and staff flooded the refurbished mill’s fourth floor and peeked into its Luna Theater.

Students snacked on food, snagged free swag, had their pictures snapped for keychains and flowed in and out of the mill’s shops.

Calling Lowell “a very special place,” Chancellor Jacquie Moloney urged students to participate in the city’s downtown offerings to “see what it means to become part of something bigger than you.”

“We love Lowell,” she told the crowd. “It’s right there in our name. It helps define us.”

Earlier, students and others took walking tours of Mill City cultural and historical sites, starting and ending at the downtown Inn & Conference Center. The Lowell National Historical Park and Cultural Organization of Lowell led the tours, which was capped off with a spirited, New Orleans-style march from the Inn & Conference Center to Mill No. 5, led by the Gumbo in Congress street band. The students also visited downtown businesses offering student discounts.

Billy Overstreet of Lowell, a senior English major, was thrilled with the event.

“I’m involved in student activities and have lived my entire life in Lowell. But I have never seen any place like this,” he said of Mill No. 5. “I’m really glad they did this tonight, if just to give students a chance to see what is available to them.”

As the crowd, which included Rowdy the River Hawk, looked on, City Manager Kevin Murphy mounted a stage.

“I’m absolutely overwhelmed tonight by this turnout,” he said, urging students, faculty and staff to spend time in the city. He touted the food, Lowell’s walkability and pronounced the city “very safe.”

“We are committed to making sure Lowell is known as a college town,” he said.

UMass Lowell Students enjoy a nosh at Mill No. 5, as they are introduced to the city’s cultural, retail and entertainment offerings.