Our Legacy, Our Place’ Surges Past Goal

Campaign Raises More than $125 Million Ahead of Schedule

UMass Lowell’s first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign, Our Legacy, Our Place, surpassed its initial $125 million goal more than 18 months ahead of schedule, thanks to a $5 million commitment from alumnus Brian Rist—the single largest gift in university history.

Rist, who received a degree in business administration and operations management from UMass Lowell, is the founder of Storm Smart, Florida’s largest hurricane protection company.

“I wanted to thank the university for putting me on the road to where I am today, and make those same opportunities available to even more people,” said Rist, whose gift will support student scholarships and other initiatives.

“Brian’s generosity will have a tremendous impact on our students,” said UMass Lowell Chancellor Jacquie Moloney. “That’s the power of ‘our place’—this determination to help new generations succeed, because we all share the same story.”

To build on that momentum, the university launched 125 and Rising to raise an additional $25 million by 2020, when the university will celebrate its 125th anniversary.

Our Legacy, Our Place was launched to support the dramatic growth UMass Lowell has experienced over the past decade by raising $125 million by 2020 for student scholarships, faculty recruitment and research, campus improvements and the new Division I athletics program.

In all, more than 32,000 donors—alumni, faculty, staff, students, family members, and corporate and community partners—made gifts to the campaign between 2013 and 2018, said Vice Chancellor for Advancement John Feudo.

“Our donors completely exceeded our expectations, with their enthusiasm as well as their financial support,” said Feudo. “They know that by supporting UMass Lowell, they’re investing not only in the success of our students, but also in research and economic development whose impact is felt well beyond our region.”

Gifts to the campaign more than doubled the campus’ endowment to $84.7 million and increased the number of endowed scholarships and faculty research funds to more than 520. They also helped fund the transformation of the UMass Lowell campus, including facilities like the University Crossing student center and the Pulichino Tong Business Center, and supported entrepreneurial initiatives like the Innovation Hub and Fabric Discovery Center. In addition, the fundraising efforts have ensured UMass Lowell’s successful transition to Division I athletics with scholarships and academic support programs for student-athletes.

Meeting the campaign goal is a “true cause for celebration,” Moloney said, adding that “we have a lot of important work still to do.” That includes the renovation of Coburn Hall, the oldest and most iconic building on the UMass Lowell campus, and putting a bigger dent in student loan debt. Almost one-third of UMass Lowell students receiving financial aid come from families with household incomes of $30,000 or less, and many are the first in their families to attend college.

“We’re going to work a little harder and give back a little more,” said Moloney.
Exhibit Celebrates History of St. Joseph’s Hospital

Students Create Tribute to Hospital’s Role in City

In a project that celebrates an iconic Lowell institution, two students created a tribute to St. Joseph’s Hospital that is on display on the site where the hospital once stood.

The single-panel installation, composed of text and vintage photographs on a canvas, stands in the lobby of the university police station at University Crossing. Alongside the panel is a small pew that once stood in the hospital’s chapel.

Kady Phelps ’17, who is pursuing a master’s degree in history, and senior graphic design major Kim Cosgrove also created a more extensive pamphlet to accompany the large panel celebrating the hospital’s singular value to its workers and the neighborhood around it.

“I think it’s fabulous, what they did,” says Acre neighborhood activist Dave Ouellette. “It shows the heritage of the people in the neighborhood. St. Joseph’s was, in a lot of ways, the glue that held the Little Canada area together.”

Mill owners opened the hospital in 1840 to maintain the health of their employees. It housed St. Joseph’s School of Nursing, which was founded in 1887 and trained hundreds of nurses over the years. The hospital was sold to the Archdiocese of Boston in the 1930s, and the Grey Nuns of the Cross of Ottawa took over. The hospital closed in 1992, and UML purchased the building in 2011, demolishing it the following year to make way for University Crossing.

Phelps and Cosgrove began putting together the exhibit in the summer of 2017, culling photographs from St. Joseph Nursing School yearbooks at the Center for Lowell History.

Women Engineering Students Host Repair Café for Community

Society of Women Engineers Fixes Lamps, Clothes, Jewelry and Bicycles

The UMass Lowell undergraduate chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) put a host of technical skills to work at a recent “Repair Café” for the community.

With help from volunteer staff members and friends, the women students repaired jewelry, toys, small appliances, clothing and furniture in the Lawrence Lin MakerSpace on North Campus for a small but steady stream of clients. In a parking lot outside, they also repaired bicycles and taught people how to change tires and check the air pressure, oil levels and wiper fluid for their cars.

All the repair services were free, although under the international Repair Café model, people who needed parts were asked to pay for them if they could, so that the enterprise becomes self-sustaining. The SWE chapter got a $2,500 startup grant from the university for tools, replacement parts and publicity.

Veronica Brown, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, headed up the Repair Café effort, which took months of planning. “Learning how to plan an event from the ground up and running the café really improved my organizational skills,” Brown says.

SWE will host another Repair Café in the spring, now that members know the drill. They’re working on their handywoman skills in more workshops with some of the volunteers—and hoping to draw in more community members by making the Repair Café a regular event.

Community Partnerships Help Spruce Up Campus

Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust, TD Bank Donate Trees to Campus

One of the premier green spaces on campus is a little greener, thanks to a unique new partnership between the university, the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust and TD Bank.

The university recently planted 15 mature trees and 10 shrubs in the area behind the Allen House on South Campus. The plantings were donated by the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust, courtesy of $10,000 in grant funding from TD Bank and its “TD Tree Days” program.

Recalling when the grass field used to be “one big, ugly parking lot,” Chancellor Jacquie Moloney praised the collaborative efforts that made the donations possible during a tree planting ceremony.

“Efforts like this make a big difference in our commitment to sustainability, and as we continue to transform our campus grounds,” Moloney told guests who included Lowell Mayor William Samaras, Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust Executive Director Jane Calvin and more than a dozen TD Bank employees who volunteered alongside UML students and staff to plant the trees.

Earlier this fall, the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust and the city of Lowell donated 12 trees that the university planted on North Campus.

In addition to beautifying the landscape, the trees help reduce the university’s carbon footprint. Combined, the trees can absorb around 700 pounds of carbon dioxide while potentially reducing energy consumption by providing shade for nearby buildings.

The tree planting ceremony included, from left, TD Bank Field Marketing Manager Jerry Copsinis, Chancellor Jacquie Moloney, Lowell Mayor William Samaras and Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust Executive Director Jane Calvin.
Researchers Seek to Extend Lifespan of New England’s Roads and Bridges

**Project Supported by $14 Million Federal Grant**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has awarded a five-year, $14 million grant to a partnership of faculty and student researchers from UMass Lowell, the University of Maine, the University of Connecticut, the University of Vermont, the University of Rhode Island and Western New England University to create a regional research and development center that will study ways to extend the lifespan of New England’s transportation network.

The researchers hope improvements in the nation’s civil infrastructure will result in lower maintenance costs for roads, bridges and cars, as well as enhanced safety, decreased traffic delays and accidents, reduced fuel consumption and reduced carbon emissions as a result of improved traffic flow.

The university’s share in the DOT funding is $535,000 for the first year, with UMaine as the project’s overall lead institution.

According to the 2017 Infrastructure Report Card of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), one out of every five miles of highway pavement in the country is in poor condition, and the roads have a significant and increasing backlog of rehabilitation needs.

UMass Lowell researchers are collaborating on a project to improve the durability, resiliency and longevity of New England’s transportation infrastructure.

**Students Compete to Design Backpacks of the Future**

**Winners Receive Cash Prizes Totaling $9,000**

Imagine a high-tech backpack fitted with features such as a GPS tracking device, a wireless charger, LED lights and a Bluetooth anti-theft locking system. Or one that is made of Kevlar and self-cleaning, flame-retardant materials.

These are just some of the ideas students came up with at the first Future Pack Design Challenge, held recently at UMass Lowell’s new Fabric Discovery Center. Teams of undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers competed in the two-day hackathon, which incorporated innovative technologies, designs, materials and functions into backpacks and luggage.

Mechanical engineering majors Brett Wadman, Sean Roche and Patrick Drummey and business administration major Sebastian Pascal took home first prize—$4,000 in cash—with their “Pyramid Pack,” which aims to help people avoid getting injured from carrying heavy backpacks.

John Pulichino ’67, who served as one of the judges, and his wife, Joy Tong, donated $10,000 for the contest; $9,000 went to the cash prizes, and the rest covered food, supplies and materials.

Pulichino is the CEO of Florida-based Group III International Ltd., a global travel goods company founded by Tong, an industrial designer who is the president and creative director. Group III distributes luggage products, including backpacks, carry-on bags, handbags, travel kits and tote bags.

“I was happy to see the students’ level of participation and their enthusiasm and the great ideas they came up with. It was a good learning experience for them,” Pulichino said.

From left, students Sebastian Pascal, Patrick Drummey, Brett Wadman and Sean Roche with the winning “Pyramid Pack” they designed.

**Are Robots Coming for Your Job?**

**Research Shows Higher-Value Jobs Are Less Likely to be Automated**

Automation continues to seep into our everyday lives, and with it has come an avalanche of research and reporting on how artificial intelligence, robots and the Internet of Things are disrupting industries and taking people’s jobs.

In surveying this shifting landscape, Manning School of Business faculty members Scott Latham and Beth Humberd noticed something important was being overlooked: how the value delivered by workers—either to customers or within their organizations—can help predict whether their professions will survive in the future.

To help people figure out if they’re safe from the robots or if they should be pivoting to a new line of work, Latham and Humberd evaluated 50 professions, from accountants to toll-takers, according to the value delivered and skills required, and they created a framework that can help workers assess the threat level posed by automation. Their research was recently published in the “MIT Sloan Management Review,” one of the world’s leading scholarly journals.

“The idea of value allowed us to show that there’s different ways that jobs are going to evolve,” says Humberd, an assistant professor of management, who notes that education level and wages are not necessarily strong predictors of job evolution. “It’s not just low-skilled workers who are going to be displaced and professional workers who are fine. A plumber might outlast a doctor.”
Alumni Celebrate Where They’ve Been and Where UML Is Going

Up and down Hawkeye Way, alumni of every generation used the same word to describe the feeling that being back on campus for River Hawk Homecoming 2018 evoked.

Pride.

“It’s awesome to see how far the university has come,” said business alum John Turner ‘08, ’15, who enjoyed the family-friendly festivities with his wife, MBA graduate Tara Turner ’11, and their young daughters, Margo and Claire. “It makes you proud.”

Homecoming weekend kicked off with a Celebration of Philanthropy, where a $5 million commitment from business alum Brian Rist ’77 helped push the university past its $125 million fundraising campaign goal—18 months ahead of schedule.

That news, coupled with Oprah Winfrey’s upcoming visit to campus for the Chancellor’s Speaker Series to raise money for student scholarships, added to the good vibes during the afternoon’s celebration outside the Tsongas Center.

Even the weather got into the spirit: Rain clouds parted for sunshine right on cue as guests enjoyed student musical performances, food (including a chili cook-off), carnival games, pony rides and, for the daring, a bungee trampoline.

“It’s a great time to be a River Hawk,” said Executive Director of Alumni and Donor Relations Heather Makrez ’06, ’08, who was thrilled to see “thousands of alumni, faculty, staff and families” taking part in reunions, athletic events and the annual Jennifer’s 5K Fun Run/Walk. “As we celebrate reaching our campaign goal two years early, Oprah coming to campus and the largest and most diverse incoming class we have ever seen, it’s only fitting to have the best Homecoming weekend at UMass Lowell.”

“It’s quite an accomplishment, what this administration has done,” industrial management alum Edward “Skip” Kittredge ‘67 said as he surveyed the scene from the alumni tent. “It’s been a wonderful transition here over the last 10 years. I’m very proud of the university.”

Kittredge has been no stranger to the university since earning a degree a half-century ago. In addition to volunteering with Alumni Relations, the U.S. Air Force veteran founded the General Pershing Fund for Student Veterans, which offers interest-free aid to student military members, veterans, ROTC cadets and dependents of injured service members. “It’s been very gratifying. We’ve been able to ensure that student veterans can remain in school and are not precluded by a financial emergency,” said Kittredge, who lives in Hampton, N.H., and retired from a career in health care administration two years ago.

As longtime hockey season-ticket holders living in Chelmsford, Tony Swierzbin and his wife, Ann, cheered on the River Hawks as they won their season opener against Rochester Institute of Technology, 2-1. “I’ve been involved with the hockey program going all the way back,” said Swierzbin, who earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering and a master’s in systems engineering. “I’m awestruck every year when I walk through this campus and see what’s going on.”

River Hawk Pride Shines Through at Homecoming

Generations of River Hawk families returned to campus for Homecoming festivities, which included musical performances, carnival games, food, hockey and other activities.