The Legacy of 
JACQUIE MOLONEY
Sincerely,
Jacquie Moloney ’75, ’92

UML Magazine has been honored with multiple awards, including nods from APEX Awards for Publication Excellence, Bell Ringer Awards, CASE Excellence Awards, Collegiate Advertising Awards, Hermes Creative Awards, Higher Ed Marketing Awards, PR Daily Awards and PR Daily Nonprofit PR Awards.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Please send comments to Editor Sarah McAdams Corbett at Sarah_Corbett@uml.edu. Submit class notes at uml.edu/updateyourinfo

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A MESSAGE from the CHANCELLOR

This issue went to print as I was packing up my office in University Crossing, and this is the last letter I’ll write for this magazine. Though I won’t be going far, and am excited to return to the faculty, there are many things I’ll miss after I step down as chancellor.

One of them is presiding over this magazine, which allows us to celebrate the wonderful work being done on our campus—and in the lives of our alumni across the world.

I deeply appreciate the tribute to my own legacy in the following pages—but my accomplishments have been the product of many hands. I am grateful to have worked side by side with absolutely extraordinary faculty, staff and students. And there is no better alumni base than our River Hawk family.

The university is in great hands with our new chancellor Julie Chen, and I’m eager to watch as she takes it to the next level of excellence. I’ll be watching from the sidelines, cheering you all on.

Sincerely,
Jacquie Moloney ’75, ’92

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FIRST LOOK

TICKLED PINK

The Class of 2022 (and, in some cases, their pets—like the pink-eared Ember and her matching human, nutritional sciences grad Sadie Reppucci) celebrated the return to normalcy at UMass Lowell’s Commencement in May. For the proud 4,690 graduates, UML’s largest class ever, the university’s first fully in-person Commencement in three years marked a return to tradition—and a hopeful look to the future.

The three ceremonies over two days featured speakers who are confronting some of the most pressing challenges facing society: Dr. Ashish Jha, coordinator of President Biden’s COVID-19 response; astronaut Sian Proctor, a champion for diversity and inclusivity in the space industry; and Distinguished University Professor Christopher Negnevich, an expert in renewable energy.
POP OF COLOR

Students took a break before finals to socialize on the balloon-flower-decorated lawn of Olney Hall at the Kennedy College of Sciences’ annual Spring Fest. It was a nice break from intense coursework, says freshman biology major Sophia Cruz. “I think Spring Fest is really cool,” she says. “It’s a good way to de-stress.”

OUR NEW CHANCELLOR IS A BRAINIAK AND AN ATHLETE

She’s got three degrees from MIT and was an Academic All-American three times in softball and field hockey—but for the last 25 years, Julie Chen has been at UML. She joined the mechanical engineering faculty in 1997, and since 2016 has been vice chancellor for research and innovation. Chen is UML’s first Asian-American chancellor and the first LGBTQ+ chancellor. Stay tuned for a full intro to our new leader in our next issue.

WORKING HER MAGIC

Long after classes have ended for the day, there is often a light shining in the window of Chemistry Assoc. Teaching Prof. Khalilah Reddie’s office. “Dr. Reddie spends more time on the UMass Lowell campus than any other professor,” says David Long, who graduated in 2021 with a degree in biological sciences. In recognition of that dedication, she was recently awarded the Manning Prize for Excellence in Teaching. The annual prize was established by Robert ‘84, ‘11 (H) and Donna ‘85, ‘91, ‘11 (H) Manning to honor outstanding faculty members from each of the five UMass campuses. “As a minority professor on campus, I thought about what I could do to motivate students who felt insecure about their aspirations of joining the health profession,” says Reddie, who created the Medical Profession Admission Gap Initiative and Collaboration (MAGIC) program to help prepare students from underrepresented groups for medical school.

ELEANOR THE EVISCERATOR

We don’t recommend sharing your favorite stuffed toy with her (thus the nickname) but our students tell us she’s the best snuggler and a great distraction during stressful times like finals week. The pet-in-residence at University Suites may be a rescue (her human is Rae Mansfield, associate director of Honors scholarship and curriculum, and faculty-in-residence for the Commonwealth Honors Living-Learning Community)—but these days, Eleanor is doing all of the rescuing. Give her a follow on Instagram @eleanortheeviscerator.

SHE’S A SURVIVOR

“I am scared to death. It is definitely going to be the hardest challenge of my entire life,” says Noelle Lambert ’19 in the trailer for season 43 of “Survivor,” slated to air in September on CBS. Lambert lost her left leg above the knee following a moped accident in 2016, after earning America East All-Rookie team honors playing lacrosse in her freshman year at UML. The Londonderry, New Hampshire, native has since started The Born to Run Foundation, which provides amputees with prosthetics that will allow them to run again. And in a switch from lacrosse to track and field, she joined the U.S. Paralympic National Team and competed on Team USA in the 2021 Paralympics in Tokyo, finishing sixth in the women’s 100m T63 event and lowering her own national record from 16.31 to 15.97 seconds. We’re guessing she’ll do just fine in Tribal Council.

CHECK OUT MORE TRENDING

UMass Lowell news at uml.edu/news.
UMass Lowell has invested more than $1 billion in capital projects since 2010, growing the campus to nearly 5 million square feet, up from about 3 million only 12 years ago.

**Facilities by the Numbers**

- 14 Acres maintained by grounds staff
- 1,230 Exterior lights
- 147 Acres of open space
- 25 Miles of underground utility lines
- 4,700 Students living in residence halls
- 272 Instructional and research labs
- 1,535 Appliances maintained in residence halls
- 6,813 Parking spaces

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**A System Upgrade**

UMass Lowell will form a school of computer science and name it in honor of Rich Miner ’86, ’89, ’97, co-founder of Android, which was acquired by Google in 2005.

The computer science triple alum made a $5 million donation toward forming the Richard A. Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences. His gift was matched by another $2 million from the state endowment matching program.

“This further elevates a program well known for transformative education and pioneering research,” says Chancellor Jacquie Moloney. “We are profoundly indebted to Rich.”

—CHANCELLOR JACQUIE MOLONEY

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**No. 1 Ranking Recognizes UML’s Healthy Work-Life Balance**

What do well-being and work have to do with sustainability? Quite a bit, according to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The nonprofit organization includes “well-being and work” among 17 categories it uses to evaluate nearly 700 colleges and universities around the world in its annual Sustainable Campus Index.

And for two years running, UMass Lowell has ranked No. 1 in the category of well-being and work, which recognizes student and employee wellness programs, as well as employee compensation, satisfaction, health and safety.

Members of the UML community enjoy a free yoga class outside the Campus Recreation Center.

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**We’re with the band**

In May, five peregrine chicks were added to the roster of the more than 50 that have fledged the nesting box perched atop Fox Hall. One chick was the biological offspring of the mating pair who call Fox Hall home. An additional four were rescued from a Boston construction site by Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife technicians and re-homed. The bands are used for tracking purposes throughout the lifetime of the falcons.

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**They’ve been stringing us along for decades**

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, the UMass Lowell String Project has improved the lives of hundreds of Lowell-area schoolchildren. Students in the Department of Music learn how to become effective music educators, providing instruction to K-12 students—who learn to play string instruments while discovering how music can build positive relationships within the community.
CAMPUS LIFE

FIRST-GEN STUDENTS GET A LIFT FROM FEES

The federal government gave $500,000 to expand the River Hawk Scholars Academy, a program that supports first-generation students. U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan and U.S. Sen. Edward Markey announced the Community Project Funding alongside UMass President Marty Meehan and UML Chancellor Jacquie Moloney. All four were first-generation college students themselves, as are 41% of UML students today.

"With this funding, we will be able to take this program to even more students," Moloney says. "This is the greatest way for us to achieve social justice and social mobility—through education."

English Assoc. Teaching Prof. Matthew Hurwitz, who directs the River Hawk Scholars Academy, said the money will enable the scale-up of pilot programs, including the First to Launch! experience for incoming first-year students, which includes a scholarship to take one summer class for free, expansion of the RHSA to include sophomores, and career and graduate school readiness programming for juniors and seniors.

The RHSA also hopes to create a Center for First-Generation Student Success in a central location on campus and to hire a "success coach" to work one-on-one with students to help them meet their academic, personal, social and career goals, Hurwitz says.

OFFICE HOURS

A peek into some of the most interesting faculty and staff offices on campus

WHOFACADEMY

The new dean of the Honors College, Jenifer Whitten-Woodring, is an associate professor of political science who researches the intersection of media freedom and human rights. She is also co-director of the Center for Women and Work’s Emerging Scholars Program, which offers research fellowships with faculty to undergraduates in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

WHERE: A windowless office in the Honors College suite in O’Leary Library.

WHILE YOU WAIT: The door of her office is covered with cartoons, many featuring cats. (Whitten-Woodring’s household includes four cats and three dogs.)

AWARDS: The first award one sees upon entering is “Most Likely to be Friends with Edward Snowden,” given to Whitten-Woodring in 2014 by the UML Political Science Club. More discreetly displayed in the back corner: awards she won during her first career as a newspaper and radio reporter.

MEDIA INFLUENCER: On her desk, Whitten-Woodring keeps a nearly 100-year-old copy of “The Newspaper and the Historian” by Lucy Maynard Salmon—a book she says was deeply influential in her decision to pursue her academic career. “Lucy Salmon was really concerned about fellow historians using newspapers to write about history, because newspapers are so often run by authorities,” she says.

ART HISTORY: Two works by her mother, artist Jo Wright Whitten, a printmaker and photographer, hang on the wall. One features a photo of Whitten-Woodring’s father overlaid by newspapers from China, double-exposure style. The other, “Freedom,” is a layered collage featuring the Statue of Liberty.

UNITED NATIONS OF DOLLS: The large bookcase opposite her desk is topped with dolls and figurines from around the world, including a Ruth Bader Ginsburg action figure next to a globe and tiny dolls representing the recognized tribal groups in Myanmar, where Whitten-Woodring did research several years ago. “My parents used to give me dolls, then my friends, and now students. Sometimes, international students want to see their countries represented.”

SPOTTED!

Spot, a robot “dog” created by Boston Dynamics, took itself for a walk outside Cumnock Hall during “Spring into Science” events hosted by the Kennedy College of Sciences. Best of all, nothing to scoop.
The Nancy L. Donahue Celebration of the Arts—the first arts celebration on campus in three years—featured student posts, actors and musicians and a special gift from the Lowell philanthropist: $2 million to renovate Durgin Concert Hall.

Donahue, who cofounded the city’s Merrimack Repertory Theatre and has supported programs in the arts, humanities and ethics at the university, and in the community for decades, said she made the gift because she loves the arts.

“The arts have always been an important part of my life,” Donahue said. “It’s my hope more UMass Lowell students can now similarly devote themselves to their creative passions.”

Her gift will pay for a renovation of the 1,200-seat concert hall on the first floor of Durgin Hall, which opened in 1976. The updates will include new seating, new sound and lighting equipment, and aesthetic and acoustical improvements. It will also pay for renovation of the building lobby, including creating greater “acoustical separation” so that sounds from the lobby don’t disturb audiences during performances.

The Nancy L. Donahue Celebration of the Arts, previously called the Nancy L. Donahue Celebration of the Arts in April, featured student artists at the Nancy L. Donahue Celebration of the Arts in April.

5 QUESTIONS

With Ed Moloney, husband of outgoing Chancellor Jacquie Moloney

Ed Moloney met Jacquie Fidler through mutual friends in the early 1970s, when he was a student at UMass Amherst and she was a student at UMass Lowell. They celebrated their 45th anniversary in June. We asked ED, an attorney, what it’s been like to have a front-row seat to her chancellorship.

WHAT DOES JACQUIE WORRY ABOUT BEHIND THE SCENES?

I wouldn’t say she worries about things, but she has spent a lot of time thinking about what’s very important to her. She’s always wanted to make sure student enrollment is vigorous and healthy, and that the university is attracting people from all walks of life and all backgrounds. She thinks a lot about fundraising and how to continually increase private philanthropy. She’s also been very interested in funding new buildings and renovating old ones—especially buildings close to her heart like Coburn Hall.

WHAT DO YOU THINK HER LEGACY WILL BE?

Her legacy will be about all the innovative programs and experiential opportunities that are available for students, the Differentiator program. I also think the increased enrollment, up to 18,000 now, is part of her legacy. Growing the alumni network, and growing friends of the university throughout the community—that’s part of her legacy. And growing the endowment to $165 million, and launching the university’s first endowed Institutes, the Rist Institute for Sustainability and the Donahue Institute for Ethics—that’s all part of her legacy.

WHAT IS SOMETHING ABOUT HER THAT WOULD SURPRISE PEOPLE?

What might surprise some people is that she’s an excellent dancer; what might not surprise people is that she likes to lead. She can do a mean Cha-cha-cha, and we’re working on learning how to do the Jitterbug—the kinds of dancing that we grew up with. We haven’t taken classes yet, but that might come after she retires.

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INCREASING FREE TIME?

In the last three or four years, we want to spend more time in Florida during the winter, and we want to spend more time with family and friends. And we might find a hobby or two that we’ve grown up with. We haven’t taken classes yet, but that might come after she retires.

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HOW ELSE WILL YOU BE SPENDING YOUR INCREASING FREE TIME?

I’m proud of how Jacquie set out 38 years ago, when she started at the university, to create a vibrant culture for faculty, students and staff, to be more engaged, to be more innovative—and to make a difference on campus. I think that she’s accomplished that, and the campus has embraced that.

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HOW ELSE WILL YOU BE SPENDING YOUR INCREASING FREE TIME?
The NCAA named UMass Lowell the host school for the 2024 Division I men’s and women’s Indoor Track and Field Championships. The River Hawks, in partnership with New Balance and Boston College, successfully put its stock-picking knowledge to the test and finished in the top 8% of the Bloomberg Trading Challenge, a global investment competition that drew nearly 500 teams from schools around the world.

It was the first time Manning School students competed in the seven-week simulated investment contest, in which college teams invest an imaginary $1 million using the Bloomberg Terminal market data and analytics system. The River Hawks finished 39th in the final standings.

Seminars.

Internships

Center for

Learning in the Nation’s Capital

Honors College student and political science major Angela DiLeo was planning to go to directly to law school after getting her bachelor’s degree. Then she participated in an immersive learning experience in Washington, D.C., through UMass Lowell’s partnership with The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.

Her professional skills and made connections. Wael Kamal, assistant justice major Angela DiLeo, right spent a semester research- ing and studying through The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.

During her junior year, DiLeo met political science major Anthony Souza and political science majors Randy Hecht ’77 flew in from California for the civil engineering anniversary. "The quality of the education versus what you paid in the 1970s—I don’t think you could have found that anywhere else," he says.

Angela DiLeo, (left) an honors college student, internship coordinator for The Washington Center program, says she learned about the world of the Washington Center, she says.

Students are able to secure future jobs because of their experience professional connections are among the main benefits for participants.

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On the Right Track for 2024

The event will bring 400 of the best track and field student-athletes from around the country to Boston for the NCAA’s indoor track and field championships, which have been held in the North since the NCAA’s inception in 1965. This year’s event will be held at Boston Landing in Brighton, Massachusetts.

"We are thrilled to be able to bring the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships to Massachusetts and host for the first time as a university," says Director of Athletics Peter Casey.

This event will bring 400 of the best track and field student-athletes from around the country to Boston for the two-day competition next March, marking the first time these championships have been held in the North since the NCAA’s inception in 1965. This year’s event will be held at Boston Landing in Brighton, Massachusetts.

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Ukrainian American artist Hanna Melnyczuk has made a drawing about the Russia-Ukraine war nearly every day.

“I want to release my own feelings and anxiety,” says Melnyczuk, a senior adjunct who has taught drawing at the university for 25 years. “I wake up and I want to do this.”

Melnyczuk, whose parents were World War II refugees from Ukraine, is doing more. Her students (and those of fellow Art & Design adjunct faculty member Wen-Hao Tien) donated small drawings and paintings for a benefit art show, “Sunflowers for Ukraine,” hosted by the Arts League of Lowell in April. All proceeds went to UNHCR, the U.N. refugee agency.

Melnyczuk is also putting together an art show for Ukrainian and American artists on the theme “Peace and War.” The show will be held in the fall at the New Art Center in Newton, Massachusetts.

“My works were influenced by being a child of refugees,” she says. “There’s always a connection to something my parents told me about Ukraine.”

Melnyczuk’s parents met in Poland and married in 1949 at a camp for displaced people in Germany before immigrating to the U.S. in 1950. She and her brother grew up in New Jersey speaking Ukrainian at home and going to a Saturday Ukrainian language and culture school, where her mother was the principal. There, she learned traditional Ukrainian arts, including embroidery and egg decoration. Her parents collected Ukrainian art and crafts, too. Her artwork is partly a product of that heritage, she says: “My works were influenced by being a child of refugees. There’s always a connection to something my parents told me about Ukraine.”

Melnyczuk studied art and psychology at Beloit College and earned a master’s in counseling at Columbia University, while continuing to draw and create art installations. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, she traveled to Ukraine for the first time. She stayed in Kyiv for four months, where she taught English as a volunteer and witnessed a euphoric, post-Soviet flowering of art and culture that inspired her to pursue an M.F.A. and teach art.

Four years ago, she went to Ukraine again, this time with her husband and daughter. They visited her mother’s hometown, staying with a cousin. For now, her cousin and his family are safe in western Ukraine, and they talk by Zoom as often as they can, she says.

In the meantime, she keeps drawing and joining anti-war protests, trying to bring attention to the invasion of her ancestral homeland. And she keeps talking to artists in Ukraine to find out how she can help.

“My biggest fear they have is that soon, the world will forget them, but the war will still be going on,” she says.
“Jacquie is one of the finest leaders I have encountered and has the ability to connect with everyone from students to faculty to trustees. One story remains my favorite: I was new to UMass Lowell when I saw Jacquie at her inauguration gala. We had met once before, so I approached and offered a handshake. She smiled as she stepped forward and said, ‘Aren’t we? Here, we hug,’ as she offered me a warm, welcoming embrace.”

—ASSOC. PROF. NICKY CHAMPAGNE, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

“Jacquie is level-headed. Jacquie seeks the advice of others and is willing to make a course correction. Jacquie is supportive and kind to all employees.”

—RANDY BRASHARES, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Chief of UML Police

“Jacquie’s trust in my judgment will always stand out to me. A few years ago, she asked me to co-chair a university task force, and the other co-chairs had already been selected. However, I felt we needed one more face to represent a voice. When I made my pitch, she wholeheartedly agreed. Her unwavering confidence in me and her can-do spirit over the years continues to inspire.”

—STEVE TELLO, Assoc. Prov. UC Alumni, UMAlumni Women’s Leadership Slate, Faculty Fellow

“Chancellor Moloney demonstrated that these are united, anything is possible. One quote that stuck with me is, ‘We all have an opportunity to make a difference and have a positive impact on people’s lives.’ Her incredible strength and leadership will never be forgotten.”

—JILLI LIEB, Director, Rist DifferenceMaker Institute

“Chancellor Moloney is an empathetic and passionate leader whose every action is exemplified with grace and dignity. She has challenged and supported countless students and her colleagues to discover their true potential—a quality we should all strive to emulate.”

—KERRI JOHNSTON, Dean of Enrollment Management

“Achieve your vision, but don’t let it be your only goal. Whatever you choose to do, be sure it is consistent with your values and aligns with your personal and professional growth. No matter where you are in your career, take time to reflect on your experiences and learn from them. Your success is not defined by what you achieve, but by how you impact the lives of those around you.”

—JAMES KOHL, Former Rist Institute for Sustainability and Energy Director

“Jacquie’s great gift is her compassion. She cares deeply about UMass Lowell and everyone who works and studies here. She takes particular pride in our students, and it is always available to offer her guidance, regardless of how busy she is. She has shown me that the best leaders do more than run an organization; they inspire others to forge their own pathways to success.”

—PATTY MCCAFFERTY, Senior Vice Chancellor for University Relations

“Jacquie is one of the favorite people I have ever met. She is a warm, welcoming person, I immediately followed her with, ‘No, you have to step forward and call me.’ Jacquie, you are the one I treasure the most.”

—RUHRI O’MAHONY, Executive Director of the Rist Institute for Sustainability and Energy

“During the pandemic, I was fortunate to have several conversations with the chancellor—some related to personnel issues across the campus, and many related to my role as chapter president of the SEIU 488 and chair of the bargaining team. Jacquie struck me as her unwavering humanity, focus and regard regardless of the situation, being human is our most important trait. Focus on taking care of people as best you can, and the business side of things will work itself out.”

—JIM MITCHELL, Assoc. Prof. of English

“Chancellor Moloney said one year at Convocation. She always came over to the band to personally recognize the artistry and effort students and directors put forth. The value of worth, kindness in communication and empathy of circumstance define Jacquie.”

—-error—

“Take care of yourself, my friend, and know that we all stand at the ready to support you.”

—KERRI JOHNSTON, Dean of Enrollment Management

“Jacquie is one of the finest leaders I have encountered and has the ability to connect with everyone from students to faculty to trustees. One story remains my favorite: I was new to UMass Lowell when I saw Jacquie at her inauguration gala. We had met once before, so I approached and offered a handshake. She smiled as she stepped forward and said, ‘Aren’t we? Here, we hug,’ as she offered me a warm, welcoming embrace.”

—ASSOC. PROF. NICKY CHAMPAGNE, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

“Every call or meeting I’ve had with Jacquie over the years ended the same way: ‘How are the kids, wife, family?’ followed by ‘Make sure they are your No. 1 priority. The work will always get done.’ She meant that.”

—RUHRI O’MAHONY, Executive Director of the Rist Institute for Sustainability and Energy

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“Jacquie is level-headed. Jacquie seeks the advice of others and is willing to make a course correction. Jacquie is supportive and kind to all employees.”

—RANDY BRASHARES, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Chief of UML Police

“Jacquie’s trust in my judgment will always stand out to me. A few years ago, she asked me to co-chair a university task force, and the other co-chairs had already been selected. However, I felt we needed one more face to represent a voice. When I made my pitch, she wholeheartedly agreed. Her unwavering confidence in me and her can-do spirit over the years continues to inspire.”

—STEVE TELLO, Assoc. Prov. UC Alumni, UMAlumni Women’s Leadership Slate, Faculty Fellow

“Chancellor Moloney demonstrated that these are united, anything is possible. One quote that stuck with me is, ‘We all have an opportunity to make a difference and have a positive impact on people’s lives.’ Her incredible strength and leadership will never be forgotten.”

—JILLI LIEB, Director, Rist DifferenceMaker Institute

“Chancellor Moloney is an empathetic and passionate leader whose every action is exemplified with grace and dignity. She has challenged and supported countless students and her colleagues to discover their true potential—a quality we should all strive to emulate.”

—KERRI JOHNSTON, Dean of Enrollment Management

“Achieve your vision, but don’t let it be your only goal. Whatever you choose to do, be sure it is consistent with your values and aligns with your personal and professional growth. No matter where you are in your career, take time to reflect on your experiences and learn from them. Your success is not defined by what you achieve, but by how you impact the lives of those around you.”

—JAMES KOHL, Former Rist Institute for Sustainability and Energy Director

“During the pandemic, I was fortunate to have several conversations with the chancellor—some related to personnel issues across the campus, and many related to my role as chapter president of the SEIU 488 and chair of the bargaining team. Jacquie struck me as her unwavering humanity, focus and regard regardless of the situation, being human is our most important trait. Focus on taking care of people as best you can, and the business side of things will work itself out.”

—JIM MITCHELL, Assoc. Prof. of English

“Chancellor Moloney said one year at Convocation. She always came over to the band to personally recognize the artistry and effort students and directors put forth. The value of worth, kindness in communication and empathy of circumstance define Jacquie.”

—error—

“Take care of yourself, my friend, and know that we all stand at the ready to support you.”

—KERRI JOHNSTON, Dean of Enrollment Management

“Keep the students at the center of every decision. They are our greatest strength at UMass Lowell.

Continue your strategy to build UMass Lowell into a Tier 1 Research Institution. We are well poised to solve some of the world’s greatest challenges, including climate change (spoiling of Montreal’s university’s top ranking in the Commonwealth as the No. 1 green campus).

So many organizations are seeking ideas for how to shape the future of work. We have become widely recognized for our innovative and inclusive leadership. Leverage that reputation and scholarship and find ways to extend it to others.

Our continued success will depend on our entrepreneurial approach to running the university, and fundraising is a big part of that. I’m excited to watch you build upon the relationships we have built hard to foster and to encourage corporations to expand their support.

Change is the only constant. That’s why it will be critical to continue to invest in the development of our faculty, staff and administration and equip them with the latest technology.

Nothing is more important than human connection; the pandemic made this clear. It will be important to continue the work being done to rebuild the strength of our community.

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At UMass Lowell, “The leadership really does listen to students,” said former Student Government Association president David Morton ’20 at a reunion luncheon with Chancellor Jacquie Moloney, three other former SGA presidents and the current SGA president and VP.

The April lunch at Allen House celebrated a UML tradition begun by the previous chancellor, UMass President Marty Meehan, and continued by Moloney: Every month, the chancellor and her executive cabinet host a lunch in the chancellor’s suite for the SGA’s executive board and the student trustee, where they discuss student concerns and SGA initiatives and answer questions about administration decisions.

Under questioning by Moloney, who put on her educator’s hat to lead the conversation, each current and former SGA student spoke about their favorite memories and takeaways from those lunches.
Researchers Developing Solution to Waste Plastic Films

It’s super easy to pop open a bag of potato chips. Unfortunately, it’s super hard to recycle that empty bag into anything useful. Scientists call the stuff “waste plastic film”—and UML researchers just landed a three-year grant worth $1.6 million to figure out a solution.

“Our goal is to develop an integrated process to upcycle single-use, multilayer plastic packaging films from cellophane wraps and prepackaged food bags into high-value chemicals and carbon materials,” says Chemical Engineering Assoc. Prof. Hsi-Wu Wong.

According to Wong, the process combines chemolytic delamination (separating the plastic layers using environmentally safe solvents) and plasma carbonization (turning the plastic waste into pure carbon using jets of electrically charged gas).

The resulting products include monomers for plastic production, hydrogen gas as an energy source, and carbon black, which is a fine carbon powder used mainly as reinforcing filler in tires and other rubber products as well as a color pigment for plastic products, paints, coatings and inks.

Other members of the research team include Plastics Engineering Asst. Prof. Wei-Ting (Grace) Chen and Mechanical Engineering Assoc. Prof. Juan Pablo Trelles. External collaborators include the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Dow.

Project trains graduate students to better serve children with autism

Psychology Assoc. Prof. Rocío Rosales is leading a five-year, $914,000 U.S. Department of Education grant that will teach UML master’s students in autism studies how to collaborate with school special education teams by cross-training them with master’s students in Lasell University’s special education program.

The idea is to better integrate the work of UML’s graduate students, who use applied behavior analysis to help children on the autism spectrum gain important life skills, with the work of educators who create and implement individualized education plans so that autistic children will thrive in school, Rosales says.

She hopes that the program will lead future professionals in both groups to feel more comfortable collaborating with each other and with parents, as well as more satisfied with their jobs.

Virtual Gaming Improves Stroke Rehab

A new at-home rehabilitation gaming system that simulates a kayaking adventure, combined with therapist counseling on everyday tasks, can help stroke patients regain strength and mobility, according to a study led by Assoc. Prof. Lynn Gauthier of the Department of Physical Therapy and Kinesiology.

This new approach improves motor skills by about 20%, as much as traditional therapy can, but also improves arm use during daily activities by 50%, according to the research, recently published in Clinical Medicine.

Improvements in traditional therapy rarely translate to better function outside the clinic, but this new at-home treatment approach fixes that, according to Gauthier.

“Instead of therapists spending time on exercises that can be done independently, we found that arm use improves most when therapists use their limited time with the patient to coach them through everyday living tasks, such as dressing, moving the lawn and using a keyboard or mouse,” she says. “This new model creates lasting change in how well patients use the weaker side of their body during their daily activities. We are also seeing these changes years after their stroke, showing that affective therapies can be a game-changer and that it is never too late to keep improving.”

Scientist pioneers new class of semiconductors

A new class of faster, more powerful semiconductors for enhanced wireless communication and digital imaging is on the drawing board, thanks to research led by a UMass Lowell scientist.

Prof. Victor Podolsky of the Department of Physics is leading a research team that seeks to improve semiconductors used in infrared optoelectronic devices to boost their performance. The project is a launching pad for new products with enhanced capabilities in intraballistic imaging, right vision and quantum and 5G communication that could also better serve the Internet of Things, the network of billions of devices—from sensors and smartphones to wearables—that are connected to the Internet and exchange data.

A $1.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation’s Designing Materials to Revolutionize and Engineer Our Future program is funding the four-year project.

Scientist earns $680K from NSF for study of hormones in environmental pollution

Earth and Atmospheric Sciences studies the water and chemical exchanges between groundwater and surface water along the transition zone between land and sea. He will use the award to study three sites: the Merrimack River estuary, the Delaware Bay estuary and the Chesapeake Bay estuary.

The goal is to better protect river and marine ecosystems and habitats.

Researchers win federal grant for project to improve firefighter safety

The Federal Emergency Management Agency awarded a $900,000 grant to Research Prof. Ana Bello of the Department of Public Health for a project that aims to improve protection for firefighters from harmful chemicals used to extinguish flammable fires.

Known as “femor chemical” because they never fully break down, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are added to a broad array of consumer and industrial products, including firefighting foam and the coating of firefighters’ gear.

While most people have some levels of PFAS in their bodies, studies show that firefighters are at an increased risk of developing multiple cancers, liver damage, immune suppression and endocrine disruption effects because of PFAS exposure while on the job.

“PFAS are one of the most challenging environmental and public health issues of the 21st century, because they are everywhere—in drinking water, in soil and even our bodies,” says Bello. “For firefighters who already have a high-risk job, the addition of chemical and biological substances that cause diseases in the course of their daily job is preventable.”

The project is led by the Fire Prevention Research Foundation, the North American Fire Training Directors and Rutgers University. Bello will lead a nationwide survey of fire training facilities to find out what type of training facilities are used and how often, as well as the amount used in diagnostic methods. The results will be used to identify incentives and barriers to adopt PFAS-free alternatives.

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Single-use, multilayer plastic films used in food packaging are challenging to recycle and reuse.

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PREDICTING CHEMO DRUG’S IMPACT ON PATIENTS’ HEARTS

Doxorubicin, a chemotherapy drug that’s been widely used for more than 50 years, is effective in treating certain cancers in about 60% of adult patients. But for the remaining 40% of adults who receive it, the drug can cause heart failure. The results are even more concerning for children, with 57% of those treated with doxorubicin experiencing cardiac dysfunction. The remaining 20% of adults who receive it, the drug can cause heart failure.

By developing a biomarker on how a patient’s heart will respond to doxorubicin, the research results can provide oncologists with new data that will indicate timely interventions such as lowering the dosage, switching to another treatment or adding medications that protect the heart.

TOTALLY BUGGED OUT

Thousands of preserved bug specimens from around the world have made their way to UMass Lowell to help enhance the study of insects. Biological Sciences Asst. Prof. Christina Kwapich is the new curator of roughly 15,000 insects previously kept at Florida State University. Some of the insects—which range from large moths to tiny ants—date back to the 1800s and are pinned inside more than 30 wooden boxes located in Kwapich’s office at O’Keefe Hall.

“These collections are really priceless because they can tell us about biodiversity from hundreds of years ago,” she says.

Kwapich sought out the collection after designing a new entomology course when she arrived at UMass Lowell. She taught her first course last fall with her own personal collection of about 2,000 insects, in addition to loaner insects from UMass Amherst and UMass Boston, but felt it important to expand the collection so that interested students could learn more about insect diversity.

“This is going to make the class on par with our peer institutions that have similar collections,” says Kwapich.

The Truth About Cats and Dogs

Life, an assistant professor of marketing in the Marketing Science and Marketing Management Department, is co-principal investigator on the $1.13 million grant awarded to the university by the National Science Foundation.

“Many messaging approaches target only one group of consumers,” he says, “while others target one or more of the other groups. Yet, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to marketing to consumers. The new research will help understand the unique consumer behaviors and motivations that are driving the popularity of cat ownership and the need to develop targeted marketing approaches.”

Criminology Faculty Get Grants to Study Domestic Terrorism, Extremism

Three professors in this School of Criminal Justice and Criminology have won three grants, together and separately, for research related to domestic terrorism and extremism.

All three faculty members are collaborating on a two-year, $276,405 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to research the “insider threat” posed by law enforcement officers who join militant far-right, white supremacist or anti-government groups.

That grant is led by Assoc. Prof. Christopher Harris, an expert in policing. He is joined by Prof. Neil Shortland, a forensic psychologist who directs the university’s Center for Terrorism and Security Studies.

Perliger has obtained another grant from the National Institute of Justice, Shortland will be researching whether there is a way to predict from someone’s extremist or hateful posts online whether they will go on to commit violence. Shortland is co-principal investigator on the $1.13 million grant and is working with Michael Sofis, senior scientist at Advocates for Human Potential Inc., and James Pannabecker, chairman of the Psychology Department at the University of Texas at Austin.

EXILED PEACE FIGHTER IN VIRTUAL RESIDENCE AT UML

Journalist Soe Myint, who continues to publish the independent Mizzima News in defiance of the Myanmar government that drove him into exile when the military seized power in the country last year, is UMass Lowell’s 2022 Greeley Scholar for Peace Studies. Appearing remotely, Myint was in virtual residence at the university during the month of April.

Myint, who grew up in Myanmar, is now in New York City, where he has been living as a journalist to provide independent and uncensored news. In 1998, he co-founded Mizzima to promote democracy and freedom of expression in Myanmar. In February 2021, Myint and fellow journalists were forced to flee again after another military coup. Today, Myint and his colleagues are working from different locations in and outside of Myanmar to operate the Mizzima group of media platforms, even though the journalists face the possibility of life in prison for pursuing their work.

“As a Greeley Scholar—selected for their humanitarian work and their efforts to promote peace and conflict resolution at the local, regional, national or international level—Myint joins such distinguished past recipients as Nobel Peace Prize winners Tawakul Karman and Leyla Gibration. Students from Mill City Consulting share their ideas to attract more students to Cobblestoners with owner Scott Platt, left, during a meeting at the restaurant.

STUDENT-RUN CONSULTING FIRM ADVISES LOCAL RESTAURANTS

Mill City Consulting, a student startup launched last fall to assist local small businesses, worked with local restaurants like Cobblestoners to help drum up business in the aftermath of the pandemic. The venture was the product of UML’s Entrepreneurship course, with an assistant from former state Rep. Tom Golden ‘94.

Golden, now Lowell’s city manager, approached Dean of Manning School of Business Richard Richtermeier and Steven T注意力on, vice president for graduates, online and professional studies, to discuss ways to help local businesses impacted by the pandemic. Golden secured $75,000 in new state funding for the River Hawk New Venture Fund, which seeds UML-affiliated startups, for the consulting project. Student who completes the course receive a $1,000 scholarship from the fund, and participating businesses also receive money to put toward improvements.

Cobblestoners owner Scott Platt says he “jumped at the chance” to work with the students as the restaurant continues to bounce back from the pandemic-related drop in business. “They are thoughtful, confident, focused and have presented numerous ideas that we look forward to executing,” he says.

CAMPUS LIFE

SUMMER 2022
Ethics 101
What is higher education’s role in creating a more socially responsible world?
Read the story on page 36.

Moloney Student Fellowships
Chancellor Jacqui Moloney and her husband, Ed, created the Moloney Student Fellowship Fund to provide students with innovative experiential learning opportunities at local nonprofits, government agencies, small businesses and startups.

Celebrate her legacy and the indelible mark her leadership has made on UMass Lowell by giving in her honor. Make a gift to this important fund at www.alumni.uml.edu/chancellorslegacy

For more information, please contact Derek Berger in University Advancement at 978-934-4753 or Derek_Berger@uml.edu.

alumni.uml.edu/chancellorslegacy
The Legacy of 
JACQUIE MOLONEY

BY SARAH CORBETT

Jacquie Moloney '75, '92 has been every kind of River Hawk. Jacquie Moloney was a first-generation undergrad, and later a grad student. She was on the faculty, and on the staff. She’s an active alumna, and a top donor. She was a dean, a vice chancellor and, for the last seven years, led UMass Lowell from the very top of its org chart. She launched or oversaw so many programs and initiatives over her nearly four decades at the university that it’s impossible to list them all here (although we try on page 30).

When she stepped down as chancellor at the end of June, she left a university standing strong after weathering a pandemic, with record gains in student enrollment, academic preparedness, diversity and graduation and retention rates. Faculty hiring, research expenditures, fundraising and economic development activities have all reached new heights.

But Jacquie Moloney’s hidden legacy is less about data points—and all about the students’ lives she touched.

“Students always come first for her,” says Senior Vice Chancellor for University Relations Patricia McCafferty. “They’ll email her, or approach her at an event, or ride up in the elevator with her—and she always engages them, and gets them to tell her their story. Maybe they’re short a few credits needed to graduate, or they can’t register for classes because of an overdue balance, or they are considering dropping out because they’re working two jobs and going to class is too much. Next thing you know, Jacquie is meeting with them in her office, inviting others who can help, providing them with an inspirational book to read—and then following up to make sure all is resolved. That’s just Jacquie; she truly cares.”

That’s as true now as it was when she took over the fledgling College Prep program in her earliest days at UML. Under her leadership, the program morphed into what is now known as the Centers for Learning and Academic Support Services, which serves thousands of students every year and is a major contributor to UMass Lowell’s freshman retention and record gains in graduation rates.

“The idea was to create opportunity,” says Moloney. It was an idea, and an ideal, she held on to for 38 years.

“It was to give students the chance to succeed,” she says. “And I think we did that. I think we changed some lives.”

From her days as a student to the years she led UMass Lowell from the chancellor’s office, Jacquie Moloney has changed many lives. On the following pages are some snapshots of her legacy.
Philanthropy
In Moloney’s first year as chancellor, UML launched its first comprehensive fundraising campaign and met its $125 million goal two years ahead of schedule, raising $165 million in total. Under her leadership, the number of donors who gave $1 million and above tripled and total gifts increased by 55% with more than $1 million in her own lifetime giving. Moloney and her husband, Ed, have led by example, especially through the creation of a fellowship program that is engaging students in innovative experiential learning opportunities.

**FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN RAISED**

$165M

Strategic Plan
Moloney led the development, consensus building and implementation of the 2020 Strategic Plan which mapped out the strategies that transformed UMass Lowell into a nationally competitive public research university with unprecedented gains in enrollment, academic preparedness, diversity, student success, fundraising, and research expenditures.

Campus Infrastructure
In the past decade, 19 new buildings have been added or substantially renovated on campus. The investments brought new life to the university with the addition of River Hawk Village and Aiken Field on East Campus, the renewal of the iconic Cabourn Hall on South Campus, and Perry, Danvers, and Olsen Halls on North Campus.

Leadership
Active in engaging industry to advance initiatives ranging from public-private research partnerships to co-op and internship opportunities for students, Moloney was in 2017 recognized as one of seven grand piano “Women Who Mean Business” by the Boston Business Journal, and she also received the Ray Stata Award from the Massachusetts High Technology Council in 2019. Its highest award, recognizing her leadership in building partnerships between universities and business and industry based on the university’s recommendations to strengthen equity and inclusion, has led to partnerships with over 1,000 companies. Meanwhile, UML has been ranked in the top 20 among the Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts by the Boston Globe Magazine and the Commonwealth Institute since 2017. The first woman chancellor at UMass Lowell, Moloney is an advocate and supporter of leadership opportunities for women, establishing the Women’s Leadership Conference and advancing opportunities for women in STEM.

Student Life
Moloney restructured Student Affairs, which enriched the student experience and engaged student diversity and engagement, both on and off campus.

Sustainability
During her first year as chancellor, Moloney targeted sustainability as one of the university’s key strategic goals and launched its first Office of Sustainability. The center was elevated to an institute through a transformative gift by an alumnus. The university’s $23.1 million Accelerated Energy Program, formally completed in 2020, was an expensive program to implement energy saving and sustainability measures across campus.

**SUSTAINABILITY GAINS INCLUDE**

- $1.2M in energy savings per year
- 1.7M fewer gallons of water used per year
- 9M fewer pounds of carbon dioxide emitted per year
- $10M saved in deferred maintenance

Academic Advances
Moloney is a pioneer in web-based learning and revitalized what is now the Division of Graduate, Online and Professional Studies to include award-winning online programs that today number more than 31,000 course enrollments from students around the world each year. But across the board, UMass Lowell has achieved record gains during her tenure as chancellor.

**SINCE 2010 STUDENT DIVERSITY HAS INCREASED MORE THAN 97%**

**AND DIVERSITY AMONG EMPLOYEES IS UP 100%**

Community Engagement
Moloney has grown community engagement and forged bonds with elected and appointed leaders in the city, forged partnerships with businesses and industry, which has included support for the university and its programs in opportunities for engagement for faculty, students and staff; and public-private partnerships such as the Lowell Green Community Partnership, the master agreement with the city, growth of the iHub incubator program and East Campus expansion.

**THE MOLONEY LEGACY**
For Mary and John Alden, It’s Their Turn to Give Back
A Commitment to Education Helps Prepare Next Generation of Teachers

T his day, Mary Curtin Alden ’60 doesn’t know who paid her tuition for her last two years at Lowell State Teachers College. But without that support, Alden, whose father was seriously ill throughout her college years, would not have been able to continue her education. “I never knew who it was,” says Alden, who finished her degree and achieved her goal of becoming an elementary school teacher. “But I always had wonderful people backing me at school.”

As the years went by, Alden, who retired from teaching when she was raising her three children, never forgot the financial support—and the encouragement she got at Lowell State. In 2004, she and her husband, John, established the Mary Curtin Alden Endowment Fund to provide scholarships to undergraduates education majors. The way they see it, it is simply their turn to help. “We want to give back,” says Mary. “Somebody stepped up for me.”

“This is the example we want to set,” says John, a retired UPS executive.

Mary grew up an only child in a close-knit family in Haverhill, Massachusetts. She had attended Catholic schools, and when it came time for college, living away from home was not an option. So, she enrolled at Lowell State and carpooled to campus with other students. When she arrived on campus, her father’s illness was never far from her mind. But she always felt like there was someone watching out for her. She fondly recalls the warmth and encouragement she received from Mary McGauvnan, who was then dean of women and director of admissions at the college, and later vice president of student affairs for the university. “The faculty were so approachable,” she says. “They really seemed to care. They knew my father was sick.”

She got involved in various campus activities, participating in the Women’s Recreational Organization and the Newman Club, and one year was named queen at the campus formal. “The faculty were so approachable,” she says. “They really seemed to care. They knew my father was sick.”

After graduating, she landed her first teaching job in the Haverhill Public Schools. Her classes at Lowell State and her student teaching experience had prepared her to lead a classroom. “I felt like I got a great education,” she says. John, a native of Stoneham, Massachusetts, and a graduate of Boston University, spent his career at UPS, rising to vice chairman and director before retiring in 2000.

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Mary grew up an only child in a close-knit family in Haverhill, Massachusetts. She had attended Catholic schools, and when it came time for college, living away from home was not an option. So, she enrolled at Lowell State and carpooled to campus with other students. When she arrived on campus, her father’s illness was never far from her mind. But she always felt like there was someone watching out for her. She fondly recalls the warmth and encouragement she received from Mary McGauvnan, who was then dean of women and director of admissions at the college, and later vice president of student affairs for the university. “The faculty were so approachable,” she says. “They really seemed to care. They knew my father was sick.”

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After graduating, she landed her first teaching job in the Haverhill Public Schools. Her classes at Lowell State and her student teaching experience had prepared her to lead a classroom. “I felt like I got a great education,” she says. John, a native of Stoneham, Massachusetts, and a graduate of Boston University, spent his career at UPS, rising to vice chairman and director before retiring in 2000.

The couple met at Salisbury Beach, a popular beach town in the northeast corner of the state, in 1967 and married a year later. John’s job took them to Connecticut and then Atlanta, where they raised their family. Although she left the teaching profession, Mary’s love of education has endured. To date, 19 students have received scholarships from the Aldens’ endowment. The couple specified their goal is to support students who are from their hometowns of Haverhill and Stoneham and the surrounding communities.

They have enjoyed getting notes from some of the scholarship recipients, and during a visit to campus a few years ago, former School of Education Dean Anita Greenwood arranged for them to meet some of the students. “It’s a wonderful feeling,” says Mary, when she sees how the scholarships are helping students on their path to becoming teachers.

In their most recent gift to the university, the couple supported the creation of a model classroom at the recently renovated Coburn Hall, the building where Mary attended classes, and which is once again home to the School of Education. Coburn, which is the oldest academic building on campus, underwent a $47 million restoration and expansion project that was completed in 2020. Included in the building upgrades is the Mary Curtin Alden Model Classroom, where aspiring teachers can learn their craft.

The Aldens now spend their winters in Vero Beach, Florida, and return to the Atlanta area to be near their children and seven grandchildren the rest of the year. Their last visit to campus was during the university’s 125th anniversary celebration.

Supporting those who want to become teachers is an easy choice for the Aldens. In fact, John considers it a responsibility. “You have an obligation to give back as much as you can when you received an education that has allowed you to progress in the world,” he says.

He firmly believes in the power of education to make a difference—not just in the life of an individual, but for all of society. “It’s part of what makes a country strong,” he says. He emphasizes that supporting education is not solely the domain of philanthropists and encourages others to do what they can. “It’s not just a matter of giving money. You can be a mentor or get involved with the school’s activities,” he says. “Everyone can give back something to their school.”
Are you an ethical person?

If you're like most people, you answered in the affirmative. But how did you learn to become honest, respectful and responsible? When did you discover the importance of loyalty, integrity and selflessness?

Ethics 101: Higher Education’s Role in Creating a More Socially Responsible and Sustainable World

BY ED BRENNEN

Most of us learn those defining characteristics of personal ethics as kids. Our parents teach us to share our toys, to be on time, to fess up to the broken window. We watch how our teachers, coaches and clergy behave. And if we pay attention to the news, we see what happens when people fail to act ethically (hello, Theranos, Volkswagen and Bernie Madoff).

So it stands to reason that by the time students arrive at Umass Lowell, they should have a firm grasp on their personal ethics. They don’t have to be taught at orientation why it’s wrong to cheat on a test or plagiarize a paper. Their resident advisor doesn’t have to explain that their roommate’s iPhone doesn’t belong to them. Students typically understand right from wrong, and they’re fully aware of the consequences for breaking the accepted rules of society.

Why, then, do colleges and universities teach ethics to students? Why does UML offer more than 100 courses—in fields ranging from business and health care to computer science and literature—that address social responsibility and ethics, one of seven essential learning outcomes of the university’s core curriculum?

“You can’t teach college students ethics—they’re grownups, they have their ethics,” says Asst. Teaching Prof. of Management Elissa Magnant, who nevertheless teaches a required course on business ethics to Manning School of Business students.

She can explain. “It’s not a didactic, ‘you should do this’ course,” she says. “It’s a ‘think about ethics with every decision you make’ course. Think about the impact on your stakeholders. You can’t have a crystal ball for every decision you make, but you can collect as much information as you can and communicate as well as you can to try to make the best decision you can.”

Magnant, a former bankruptcy attorney, spends a lot of time thinking about ethics. She and Assoc. Prof. of Management Erica Stockler are co-directors of UML’s Donahue Center for Business Ethics and Social Responsibility. Established in 2016 thanks to a $1 million gift from Lowell philanthropist Nancy Donahue ‘13 (H) and her late husband Richard, the center’s mission is to promote the value of “doing well by doing good” by advancing initiatives and programs that support student learning, faculty teaching and research.

“Ethics influence literally everything: from small, everyday business decisions to global strategy,” Stockler says. “Our objective is to help students from all disciplines understand the ethical dimensions they’re faced with on a daily basis, in particular in the organizations they’re going to be part of and ultimately lead.”

Chancellor Jacques Moloney hopes that ethical understanding is part of her legacy at UML. As she addressed students at the Donahue Center’s inaugural “Ethics Fest” last fall, she spoke of the university’s commitment to social justice, inclusion and sustainability.

“Students demand that we as a university also hold ourselves accountable, and I believe we have done that,” she said. “You have a voice here, and as you graduate from this university, you will have a voice in your companies. You will have an authoritative voice at the table.”

Donahue says she felt compelled to fund the center after noticing an erosion of “ethics and morals, civility and respect” in the world.

“I look at the halls of Congress and I am appalled by what I see. I’m very concerned about the future,” Donahue said while visiting campus this spring to make a $2 million gift to renovate Durgin Concert Hall (see story, page 10). “I’m hoping that young people in college will get a grounding and learn how important ethics are in business, medicine, law, engineering—whatever field it is they are pursuing.”

As students pursue their chosen fields, they find themselves weighing successful and lucrative careers (doing well) against trying to be principled (doing good) in very challenging times. They face not only the effects of climate change and a global pandemic, but also the need for social justice and improved diversity, equity and inclusion. Throw in hyper-polarized politics and an unpredictable economy full of unregulated cryptocurrencies, and it’s clear that ethics are more relevant than ever, according to Magnant.
“It’s relentless,” she says of the Gen Z zeitgeist. “Even though it might seem exhausting, students are open to the considerations of right and wrong. They’re thinking about ethics every day.”

For business major Adam Basma ’22, the Business Ethics course made him realize that he wants to work for a company that “prides itself on the positivity” of an inclusive and diverse work environment.

“I started looking at companies that are leveraging data and the digital future for good, which is something I never would have thought about before,” says Basma, a native of Shirley, Massachusetts, who started a sales development job with B2B marketing technology firm Zoominfo shortly after graduation. “I’m seeing that social entrepreneurship—thinking about corporate social responsibility and the number of people you can save—is more important than how much money you make. The money will follow if all those other things come to fruition.”

‘MAKE A POSITIVE RIPPLE IN THE WORLD’

Ethics are important to students, but also to the companies that hire them. Many companies now highlight their corporate social responsibility (CSR) on their websites, detailing their commitment to employees, consumers, communities and the environment. And investors, including asset management giants BlackRock, State Street and Vanguard Group, are holding businesses accountable by factoring environmental, social and governance (ESG) outcomes into their financial analyses.

“If a company isn’t able to say what their CSR is, or what impact they’re having on their community or their stakeholders, there’s no purpose for the business to even exist,” says Carly Burson ’05, founder and CEO of LAUDE the Label, a socially conscious company that provides living wages for at-risk women in exchange for their sustainable, artisanal apparel and accessories (see profile, page 54). “The marketplace is demanding more, and if companies don’t start to get onboard with what the expectation is, especially from Gen Z, they’re not going to be around forever.”

From her vantage point as a professor and Donahue Center co-director, Steckler finds that students are keenly aware of companies’ commitments to things like sustainability, inclusivity, diversity and community.

“They genuinely want to make a positive ripple in the world,” she says “They care about values alignment with the companies they work for. It’s a really big deal and the foundation of social responsibility.”

Business alumna Meaghan O’Brien ’21, ’22 is a good example. After working as a research assistant for the Donahue Center and taking a deeper look at her personal ethics as a student, the Dracut, Massachusetts, native landed a job as director of procurement and compliance for the Lowell Regional Transit Authority. The role allows her to make a positive impact on the lives of those who rely on public transportation, while also helping the environment.

“I’m very lucky that my first opportunity for employment has been something that really aligns with my values,” O’Brien says. “A lot of people my age are starting to think like that now: How can we improve ourselves and take care of the community, and maybe reverse some of the damage that’s been done with global warming?”

HELPING STUDENTS GROW UP—NO MATTER THEIR MAJOR

The Donahue Center is fulfilling its benefactor’s vision in a number of ways. It hosts a Distinguished Speaker Series, sponsors student participation in case competitions, awards research grants and even started a book club. Last fall, at UML’s inaugural Ethics Fest at University Crossing, more than 250 students discovered how ethics and social responsibility intersect with their everyday lives—often times in unexpected ways.

At one end of Moloney Hall, Assoc. Prof. of Philosophy Nicholas Evans got students thinking about the ethical implications of proposed technology that would allow the implanting computer chips in the brains of soldiers in the U.S. military. At the other end of the room, Assoc. Director of Disability Services Brandon Drake explained the concept of “universal design,” which is the process of creating products that are accessible to people with a wide range of abilities, by asking students to consider how they interact with things like the apps on their phones, door handles and sinks.
At 19 other “engagement stations” across the room, faculty researchers, campus center staff members and student groups explored the ethics of everything from interviewing for a job and using proper pronouns to “leave no trace” camping and K30 disclosure issues in accounting.

While the Philosophy Department on South Campus teaches the most ethics-related courses at UML, Evans says the center is multifaceted and addresses the challenge of teaching ethics to students, while also pursuing research, building partnerships with other faculty researchers, campus center staff members and students. Evans teaches the most ethics-related courses at UML, teaching a class on ethics and public health ethics whose work ranges from the pandemic to sustainable development.

Faculty researchers, center staff members and students get research grants to encourage cross-college collaboration and interdisciplinary faculty research grants to encourage cross-college collaboration. “Fortunately for me, those early lessons arose often because those young adults who don’t have ears for ethics lessons throughout their college career,” Evans says. “Ethics is not a message carried by a few, or only taught in classrooms or training centers,” he says. “It’s an approach that needs to permeate all levels of business.”

Students have worked with the center’s corporate partners, such as Fidelity Investments, on the process of becoming a signatory to the United Nations’ Principles for Responsible Investment. The United Nations-supported initiative ensures that signatories integrate environmental, social and governance factors into their investment processes and decisions.

At Fidelity Investments, “I was being asked to leverage all the things I had learned,” says Brown. “I was being asked to think about how intricately woven the ideals of fairness, integrity and respect really were,” says Brown, now a vice president at Fidelity Investments. “I was being asked to leverage my internal barometer when assessing the differences between right and wrong, realizing through these interactions and instructional moments that those lesser decisions, when aggregated, carry just as much significance and consequence as the larger ones.”

Because the unethical actions of just a few can lead to scandals and financial crises that erode public trust and cast shadows over entire industries, Brown says it’s critical for organizations to constantly nurture their ethical culture.

“Ethics is not a message carried by a few, or only taught in classrooms or training centers,” he says. “It’s an approach that needs to permeate all levels of business.” Moloney says she’s “forever grateful” to the Donahues for dedicating their lives to making the world a better place.

Each year, the center sponsors student case competitions. At the International Business Ethics Case Competition, students like Thomas Stranberg ‘21, Kavunayaur ‘22 and Prabakar Adithya ‘22 turned their heads to places after paying the price of an immoral ethics advisory board at Fidelity and addressing the inequity of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution among underserved communities. “That was probably one of my favorite moments in college,” Aurora says.

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[Image of students and faculty]
E ntreprise Bank CEO Jack Clancy ’80 is proud the bank has helped so many River Hawks get a good start in their careers. Being a partner to local organizations is one of the founding principles of the community bank, which is situated on the corner of UMass Lowell’s campus. More than 150 current and former employees of Enterprise Bank are UML alumni, including Clancy.

“As a strong supporter of the university’s co-op program, Enterprise has been fortunate to welcome many students back as full-time team members after graduation,” Clancy says. “Enterprise Bank has been honored to partner with UMass Lowell. Our missions to help build stronger communities—where we live and work—are aligned.”

As frequent partners for the co-op program, career fairs, athletic sponsorship and on-campus panels, the bank and UML each benefit from the relationship.

“What I like about Enterprise Bank is they always show up,” says Greg Denon, associate dean of student affairs for career development. “I like having relationships with companies that are not just about recruiting.”

Through Enterprise’s co-op program, students learn that careers in banking are varied, from working on loans to engaging in social media marketing. Students receive a salary and gain valuable experience, Denon says. Co-ops help students learn what they are looking for in company culture, work schedules and job positions so they can choose wisely when they accept their first job after graduation, he adds.

In the spring, senior business administration major Autumn Ouellet ’23 was a social media marketing co-op student at Enterprise. In March, she produced a social media media takeover day on behalf of the bank.

For Ouellet, the takeover event was an opportunity to engage in social media marketing, to film Clancy as he welcomed viewers to the social media marketing with companies that are not just about recruiting.”

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For Ouellet, the takeover event was an opportunity to engage in social media marketing, to film Clancy as he welcomed viewers to the social media marketing. She then spent the day posting on Instagram, often appearing on camera to discuss the Bank’s Non-Profit Collaborative Seminar Series as well as the Racial Equity & Inclusion Seminars, and a community service event where which bank employees collected personal goods to benefit high school students.

the bank’s devotion to community service was something that caught Ouellet’s attention during the co-op application process. She noticed a large section

on Enterprise’s website was dedicated to its involvement in community service.

“I thought it was really cool how much community service they do,” she says. “I am in a sorority, Phi Sigma Rho, so I do a lot of community service and philanthropy. I think it’s important to give back.”

Her co-op experience has been “by 10 out of 10,” she says, adding that she will always remember the big smile with which every Enterprise employee greeted her on her first day—and also their immediate acceptance of her as a team member whose opinions they valued.

Ouellet also picked up new skills from colleagues, including website coding.

The experience has helped her think about what choices she will make as she shapes her career.

“We truly value having UMass Lowell co-op students work collaboratively alongside our team members,” says Clancy. “The program provides the students with firsthand knowledge about our bank, culture and service philosophies, while strengthening our departments and branches where they work and share their talents.”

But the relationship is about more than a mutually beneficial workforce pipeline. Enterprise Bank is one of a select group of corporate partners that support UMass Lowell in a variety of ways. In addition to being part of the co-op program since 2013, the bank also has a tuition reimbursement program at UML for employees who enroll in graduate courses.

The company also sponsors university athletics and events, and supports several UML entrepreneurship, culture, arts and diversity and equity programs. Enterprise has made gifts to help the MD2 (the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center & Biotech Incubator, a partnership between UMass Lowell and the UMass Chan Medical School); the Innovation Hub at 110 Canal, the Rist DifferenceMaker program; the River Hawk Scholars Academy for first-generation students; the Center for Asian American Studies; the UMass Lowell Global Entrepreneurship Exchange program; the Saab Center for Portuguese Studies; the UMass Lowell Women’s Leadership Conference, and scholarships to support students and emergency student needs.

Clancy says the partnership between Enterprise and UML has flourished under Chancellor Jacquie Moloney’s leadership.

“Chancellor Moloney has had a profound impact on the university and the greater Lowell community,” he says. “Her leadership, perspective and insight as a member of our board of directors is invaluable.”

BY JENNIFER NEJMAN BOHONAK
Since graduating with two psychology degrees, Shahjehan Khan ’14, ’16 has been busy. Between his trailblazing Muslim punk band The Kominas, an acclaimed podcast series “King of the World” and his thriving career as a voiceover artist, Khan has recently fit in several acting gigs—including a small role in the 2021 Oscar-nominated film “Don’t Look Up,” which was filmed in Boston. “I’m one of those people who needs to have a million things going on, or I’m existentially questioning everything,” he says. Read more on page 58.
1973

Philip Infurna shares that his granddaughter is now a freshman at UMass Lowell and a member of the Honors College.

1974

Robert Gossen retired and moved to Tennessee.

1975

Gail (MacDonald) Burnett has helped establish a scholarship fund through the Emily's Light Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in memory of her daughter. The fund helps other students with Cystic Fibrosis.

Chi Ip shares, “Time flies. Miss Lowell Tech!”

1978

Norman Lombardi is alive and well and living in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, despite a misprint in the last issue of this magazine, in which he was listed in the “In Memoriam” section. We regret the error and wish Norm many more years of good health.

Elena Parsons is traveling across country in July 2021 for one month, then residing in Oregon for five months with the goal of building a home and relocating there.

Sharon (Healy) Yang published her third mystery novel with TouchPoint Press, “Always Play the Dark Horse,” and is under contract for two more books. She is also a member at large in the Sisters in Crime New England for Central Massachusetts. She recently retired as full professor from Worcester State University.

1980

Erik Day has served 24 years in the U.S. Navy and is owner and president of North Shore Line-X Inc.

1984

Panagopoulos, who spent 12 years honing his acting skills at a community theater based in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. “I’m 59 years old, and I feel like I’ve only just begun in this new journey.”

Panagopoulos, who earned a B.S. in computer science and an M.S. in computer engineering at UML, worked full time as director of faculty development, and support for online learning in the Division of Graduate, Continuing, and Professional Studies for more than a decade. She retired in June 2020 to pursue a new journey.

Joseph (Joe) Catalano has been nominated for the 2022 National Association of Landscape Architects (NALA) Honors Foundation.”

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1991
Col. Scott Guilbeault recently retired as vice president of the Joint Special Operations University and from the U.S. Air Force after over 30 years of service. He and his family plan to relocate to the Florida panhandle, where he has accepted a teaching position at Ponte Vedra High School as the AFJROTC senior aerospace science instructor.

1999
Melanie Wells is program director for a drug and alcohol treatment facility. She started in the Master of Social Work program at UMass Global.

2003
Jessica O’Neal ’03, ’15, ’18 was promoted to CEO at New England Neurological Associates. Formerly, she was the executive director of physician and ambulatory services at Lawrence General Hospital, overseeing high-throughput COVID testing and vaccine sites, outpatient operations, physician staffing and other areas.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER
He may be a top producer in the real estate world, but Ron Carpenito ’92 didn’t have to work too hard to sell his daughter, Stephanie, on his alma mater.

“I was really involved on campus,” says Carpenito, who served as class president and was a peer advisor and orientation leader. “I hope she plugs into opportunities to give back and get experience leading others. All of that really helped me grow as a person.”
HIGH HONORS

Alumna is first woman of color and first faculty member from an HBCU to win nation’s top award for early-career scientists and engineers. The annual award, which was established by Congress in 1975 and is named after the agency’s first director, recognizes outstanding young U.S. science or engineer in 1975 and is named after the agency’s first director, recognizes outstanding young U.S. science or engineer.

The National Science Foundation named Lara Thompson ’01, one of three recipients of this year’s Alan T. Waterman Award, the nation’s highest honor for early-career scientists and engineers. Thompson is the daughter of UML’s Prof. Charles Thompson of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The NSF recognized Thompson for her efforts to help people with disabilities, or loss of balance, by understanding the disorder and mitigating its effects using a wearable prosthetic, or inner-ear implant. She investigates various assistive technologies and robotics to help improve balance in elderly individuals and stroke survivors and reduce their risk of falling.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from UMass Lowell, Thompson went on to earn a master’s degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from Stanford University and a doctorate in biomedical engineering from the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology program. Each Waterman awardee received a $1 million grant to support new research in a field of their choosing.

“For this grant, I can take my research a step further and explore various ideas, and perhaps look into rehabilitation robotics and devices for veterans and amputees, which is another group that I am really interested in,” says Thompson. —EB

2005

Marcelo Ortiz ’05, ‘13 opened a private practice as a psychology nurse practitioner in 2015. “It was a lot of work, but it gave you the visibility to connect with a whole different array of people,” she says. “I opened doors.”

Tamburrini lives in Mansfield, Massachusetts, the town where she grew up, with her husband and 13-year-old twin daughters. Every other week, she travels by high-speed train to work in Johnson & Johnson’s offices in Bridgewater, New Jersey. “In many ways, Tamburrini’s life was turned upside down by the pandemic: Alan T. Waterman Award, the nation’s highest honor for early-career scientists and engineers. Each Waterman awardee received a $1 million grant to support new research in a field of their choosing.

2006

Susan Hedley-Bulger says that two of her children, Joshua H. Bulger and Ella H. Bulger, are 2022 UML graduates. “They join three other siblings in earning this distinction,” she says.

Christina Tangney was promoted to processing architect at the MIT Libraries.

2007

Megan Theriau was officially named the first female police sergeant of the city of Newburyport, Massachusetts, in March. Theriau earned the Newburyport Police Department in 2010 as a dispatcher and become a patrol officer in 2012. From 2016 to 2020, she served as the resource officer.

2010

Carey McGovern reports that she brought her first house.

T_Remember the year 1994, ‘95, ‘96, and now; there goes to turn when she wanted to get an MBA. “The professors at UMass Lowell are so knowledgeable. They care deeply for their students and they really invest their time,” says Trivedi, a triple River Hawk. “And economically speaking, it’s the best value.”

Originally from Ahmadabad, India, Trivedi earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in computer science. That set her on a course for computer engineering career that has taken her to Hewlett-Packard, Lucient Technologies, Broad- com and beyond. As Trivedi ascended to more managerial roles — most recently as a senior engineering manager at Waterbot in Waterbury, Massachusetts — she realized she lacked a business background. She was an expert in software, but not so much in accounting, finance and operations management. “An MBA was the key. It has opened my eyes to a world I didn’t know about before,” says Trivedi, who chose concentrations in information technology and managerial leadership. “The hands-on coursework—in negotiations, organization, marketing, project management, database—is just amazing. It’s very much relevant to the work I do in my industry."

Trivedi, who works in electronic health records for Athenahealth, has lived in Lowell since 1990. “I never left. I love the city so much,” says Trivedi, who also met her future husband at UML. Harish Hande ’98, ’10, ‘13 (M). A social entrepreneur who co-founded Solar Electric Light Co. India, Hande delivered UML’s Graduation Commencement address in 2011. Nearly a decade later, he and their two children — daughter Aashni and son Arjun — were both on campus for Trivedi’s Graduation Commencement ceremony. —EB

Back to School
ART EVOLUTION

When she graduated with a B.F.A. in painting two decades ago, Hillary Scott planned to illustrate children’s books. She loved making paintings that employed free-form shapes, realistic forms, dramatic lighting and elements of fantasy. But she didn’t get any of the illustration jobs she applied for right out of college. “It was a rude awakening,” she admits.

Twenty years later, her landscapes of New England marshes, woods and open skies fetched thousands of dollars. In the mid-2010s, when the pandemic began, her work has been “flying off the shelves,” she says. “People were home, and they needed art to look at. They found my work calming.”

It wasn’t an easy journey from that rude awakening to her current success. She stole time to keep up her own painting while working as an art teacher, having two children and then returning to school to train as a physical therapy assistant. When she was laid off from a part-time job as a physical therapy assistant, she decided to throw herself back into art full time.

“At that job, I honestly had to talk myself into it. Art. I had to talk myself out of it,” she says. “Painting is a part of me. Painting. To me, it is breathing.”

She began by bidding on illustration jobs through websites. Her work won praise, but she discovered that she needed a different artistic vocabulary for landscape painting, including a more subdued color palette and techniques for pulling viewers’ focus through a work.

Scott’s paintings, inspired by the marshes on Plum Island and the woods and ponds of northeastern Massachusetts, slowly got better under a series of newteachers. “It was five years of intense study, failures and no sales, but that was when the growth began,” she says. Eventually, a few paintings were accepted by juried art shows and some galleries offered to represent her. She placed one painting in the 2019 OIL Painters of America national show, and another won an honorable mention in the International Artist magazine competition. That led to an interview with a national art magazine.

But her sales really took off after she started marketing her paintings on Instagram and selling directly to the public. Now, she makes more money pursuing her passion for painting than she did at any of her previous jobs.

Her message to other artists and art students? “Don’t give up—and keep learning. “If you’re not learning, you’re stagnant,” she says. °

BY KATHARINE WEBSTER

Amanda Klechinsky got married during the pandemic. °

Paul Smith knew early in his career that he wasn’t cut out for coding. He did, however, have a strong interest in how technology could improve the performance of organizations.

After earning an undergraduate degree in computer science, Smith worked for an electronic medical records company, traveling across the country to implement new software systems in hospitals.

“The experience was trial by fire,” says Smith, who graduated from the M.S. health care management program in 2017. “I got to see how deploying health care medical records could improve care and help clinicians. I also learned how the complexity of health care with patient confidentiality and multiple disparate systems all needed to be taken into consideration.”

His determination to turn problems into solutions is a common theme throughout his 20-year career, and got him to his current role as chief operating officer at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, Massachusetts. He is responsible for hospital operations across both clinical and non-clinical areas, from cardiology and the operating room to food service and housekeeping.

“It is very lucky to have found a profession that challenges and meaningful,” says Smith, who is also the Massachusetts Market CIO for Tenet Healthcare Corp., which owns the hospital. “I appreciate the sense of teamwork, collaboration and how technology can provide data for clinicians to make the best decisions, as well as improve operations.”

Smith arrived at St. Vincent after a seven-year tenure with Steward HealthCare, which culminated in his role as chief operating officer of Steward’s flagship hospital, St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center in Boston. He helped lead the organization’s response to the pandemic, worked with physician leaders to grow and develop service lines, and guided large-scale capital projects. Before joining Smith, Steward spent a decade at Cambridge Health Alliance, where he worked his way up to director of surgery and anesthesia. His mentors at the three-urban hospital alliance noticed his leadership potential, and urged him to earn a master’s degree.

“I was self-taught, and my colleagues suggested that getting my master’s would be beneficial to my personal development—and they were right,” he says. “Earning my graduate degree at UMass Lowell really helped me apply research to on-the-ground experiences at the hospitals that I worked for,” says Smith. “Everyday problems area that need to be dealt with, but I feel that I have the experience and knowledge needed to find the best solutions.” ° °

Continued

Where Others See Problems, Paul Smith ’17 Sees Solutions

Amanda Klechinsky was named the 13th poet laureate of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The youngest and the first person of color chosen to be the city’s poet laureate, the Dominican American poet and educator was born and raised in Massachusetts. Her debut poetry collection “Ugly Music” won the Pamet River Prize and a 2020 Whitney Award.

Tracie Clemens was sworn in as mayor for the town of Norway, South Carolina, in January 2020. °

Marcela Marquez says that after graduation, she became a motion graphics producer and motion design artist in the film industry, mainly for movie trailers. “Using the photography skills I learned at UML, I knew as much as I can and post them on my Instagram page 24/7,” she says.

Cassandra Sanchez ’12, ’14 was nominated by New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu to lead the Granite State’s Office of the Child Advocate.

Andrea Somoz-Norton received a promotion and tenure to associate professor. She teaches in the MA, Educational Leadership and Administration program at Cal Poly. She received the 2020 Association of California School Administrator Professor of Education of the Year Award.

Rachel (Rock) DeCic got married and had a baby.

Katrina Walter is married with two stepchildren and works for Suffolk Construction as a superintendant.

Joseph Releassana started a new role as sanitation manager at Gorton’s of Gloucester.

Paul Smith ‘17 Sees Solutions —KA

CLASS NOTES

SUMMER 2022

CLASS NOTES
FASHION WITH A PURPOSE

BY ED BRENNER

Carly (Hopkin) Burson ’05 joined the retail fashion industry as an escape. A couple of years into her career as a social worker, the psychology alumna from Boylston, Massachusetts, hit “rock bottom” after eight clients died from overdoses in a single year.

“I needed to take a break, step away and take care of myself a little bit better,” says Burson, who took what she thought would be a short-term job with Banana Republic as a visual director. Before long, she was recruited by J. Crew to work as a visual merchandising manager in New York City. In 2014, she and her husband, Kyle Burson (the couple met at UMass Lowell, where they both played soccer), adopted a daughter, Elia, from Ethiopia. While visiting the orphanage, Burson witnessed how economic insecurity in the developing world forced mothers, many of whom worked in the garment industry, to give up their children. She had an epiphany: The fashion industry was holding people in poverty, and she was contributing to it.

“I decided I wanted to create something that would honor the people that make our products,” says Burson, who founded LAUDE the Label, a socially conscious company that partners with struggling women around the world to provide living wages in exchange for their sustainable, artisanal apparel and accessories.

“I want to school for psychology and social work, so I love that I am now using those skills and those passions,” she says. “I love fashion as well, but I’m probably the one on the team that cares the least about it. It’s really the medium that we use to empower women.”

What started eight years ago as a side hustle, with a half-dozen women employed in Guatemala and Honduras, has grown into a full-fledged business, with 550 artisan makers working in 12 female-led design cooperatives in five countries (Haiti, India and Peru now included). Burson also employs 10 women at the company’s home office/boutique in Fort Worth, Texas, where she and Kyle are raising their family. Seven years ago, they adopted a teenage mom, Pricka, through refugee services; the Bursons are now grandparents to her daughter, Flory.

“I grew up feeling a strong responsibility to other women,” says Burson, who watched her aunt, Lori Connell, start a nonprofit in Honduras called Mi Esperanza that offers free skills training, education, and meaningful employment through various mediums, including jewelry making. Today, all of LAUDE the Label’s jewelry is made by the nonprofit.

The apparel, meanwhile, is made almost entirely from upcycled or organic materials, such as cotton and linen. The label’s collections of dresses, jumpers and separates—which are carried by about 150 retailers across the country, including Neiman Marcus, J. Crew and Madewell—come in an array of natural tones like “sand grid,” “coconut milk” and “ginger.”

That’s all by design. The fashion industry is one of the biggest polluters on the planet, generating 10% of global carbon emissions (more than international flights and shipping combined), cheap, synthetic fibers like polyester are a major source of microplastic pollution. Textile dyes and treatments account for 20% of industrial water pollution. And, thanks to the rise of “fast fashion,” the average American throws away 81 pounds of clothes each year.

“Climate change is our greatest threat, so we want to support initiatives that hopefully leave the Earth in a better place for future generations,” says Burson, who was proud to report that her company achieved its goal of 100% carbon neutrality last year.

Living up to its values of sustainability and social consciousness comes with a price, however. For the first time, the business didn’t turn a profit in 2021, but Burson prefers to measure success by impact. “We approach impact the same way we approach revenue numbers that we need to hit every month,” she says.

In a capitalist society, where businesses are constantly looking to grow while cutting costs, LAUDE the Label is an anomaly: Burson doesn’t want her company to get too big, and she wants to focus on higher-end clients so she can increase wages for her makers.

“If I ever recognize that our ethos is being compromised because of how much we’ve grown, my hope is that we’ll prioritize our mission and pull back in order to stay true to our values,” says Burson.

CARLY BURSON ’05
LAUDE the Label CEO
Through music education, Anthony Beatrice ’07 aims to ‘amplify all voices’

Anthony Beatrice’s 07 path to becoming a music teacher began in Durgin Hall—which he says “was an incubator for me—where I got to expand my leadership skills, my musicianship, ensemble directing, performing and percussion.”

Since earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music education at UML, Beatrice has taught in the Lowell and Pentucket Regional school districts, as well as Merrimack College, Northern Essex Community College and UMass Lowell.

Now, his impact is felt far beyond a single classroom. As the Boston Public Schools executive director for the arts, Beatrice leads a staff of over 300 visual and performing arts educators serving more than 50,000 students across the district. Beatrice says he takes pride in “helping teachers help students.”

Beatrice says the support he received from UML professors like Jeffrey Fischer, Gena Greher, Deb Huber, Daniel Lutz and David Martins paved the way for his academic and professional success.

“They were like my crew,” he says. “They were always checking in on me … I always had a support team to help move me along.”

Outside of his work for Boston Public Schools, Beatrice (himself a percussionist) directs the Merrimack Valley Community Concert Band, which he’s led for 11 seasons. He also advocates for music education across the state as president-elect of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association.

The goal of all his professional and musical endeavors, he says, is to have a lasting impact on everyone he interacts with.

“You really need to open up opportunities to amplify all voices, and that’s what I get excited about,” he says. “That’s my jam.”

2013

Michael Baker retired from the U.S. military after 21 years of service.

Irving Gadoury recorded two platinum records with Megan Thee Stallion, and received a Grammy nomination for his work on The Beastie Boys Book.

Justin Kopec received a Ph.D. in school psychology in 2020 and recently became a licensed psychologist in the state of Pennsylvania. He is now employed as a psychologist at the UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Caitlyn (Farren) McIsaac writes, “Alex and I met in 2011 in student government, got engaged in 2012 at my Merrimack Street apartment, had our first mini River Hawk—a pandemic baby in May 2020—and will be taking her to her first Homecoming this fall!”

2014

Courtney Clark ’14, ’16 writes, “Since getting my B.A. and M.S. at UMass Lowell, I have moved to enjoy a slower paced life in the White Mountains in New Hampshire, where I work in my field as the local school district’s board certified behavior analyst. I have been able to enjoy the gorgeous environment and have found a positive work and life balance.”

Christopher Federico is an attorney at law, representing clients charged with murder among other serious charges.

Kari (Olson) Heggie married Matthew Heggie in July 2016 in Salem, Massachusetts. They met while both pursuing music degrees. They welcomed their first child together in January 2020, a son named Jonah.

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“You really need to open up opportunities to amplify all voices, and that’s what I get excited about,” he says. “That’s my jam.”
From his big-screen appearance in ‘Don’t Look Up’ to his ‘King of the World’ podcast series, Shahjehan Khan ’14, ’16 proves he’s more than a punk rocker

T he irony of playing a Homeland Security official in the 2021 film ‘Don’t Look Up’ is not lost on Shahjehan Khan ’14, ’16.

“A friend reached out and said, ‘I felt a little weird seeing you in a major motion picture wasn’t always smooth. He recently shared a scene in “Don’t Look Up” with Hollywood heavyweights Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence, among others.

His love of acting, which he developed at UML in theater productions like Shakespeare’s “The Tempest,” has led to a sold-out run in independent films over the past two years—as well as the nonspeaking “featured extra” role in ‘Don’t Look Up,’ which was filmed in Boston during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Even though I’m only in one scene for like a second and a half, it was still the coolest thing ever,” says Khan, who had to sequester in a hotel for eight days prior to his one-day shoot.

Khan says there’s talk of turning ‘King of the World’ (which is the translation of Shahjehan) into a movie or TV series. The podcast also includes episode guides that educators can use in their curriculum, and Khan has been invited to speak at several schools about his experiences.

After several starts and stops in his own education, Khan says coming to UMass Amherst “felt like a therapy session.”

“You couldn’t half-ass this, because it would be kind of pointless,” says Khan, who recorded the podcast in his closest friend’s studio in Walthamp, Massachusetts, where he lives with his wife, Lauren.

He also uses the studio for his work as a voice-over artist, a career that began in 2009 when a producer from Audible heard him being interviewed on his podcast and wanted him to voice his character.

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After several starts and stops in his own education, Khan says coming to UMass Lowell for a bachelor’s degree in psychology and master’s degree in community social psychology was “definitely a reawakening of the self, a kind of repositioning.”

“A big reason why, he says, was the mentorship of Psychology Assoc. Prof. Jana Sladkova, with whom he co-authored a paper on undocumented migration that took them to Spain.

As for The Kominas, they played the Boston Fuzzstival last September, their first show since the pandemic.

“I think we have another album and tour in us, but everyone is doing their own thing right now,” says Khan, who has filled the musical void by playing with Ravi Shavi, a Providence-based musician.

“I don’t think we’ve ever had so many projects going on at the same time,” he says of his acting, voice and music careers. “I’m one of those people who needs to have a million things going on, or I’m essentially questioning everything.”
Megan McLaughlin was recently promoted to the role of home care program manager at Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley and North Shore, a local nonprofit organization serving the elderly and people with disabilities.

Kelli Enare moved to Hawaii and started her own personal training business. "I moved to Hawaii and started my own personal training business in 2015."

Matt Enaire has been working at HubSpot for 5 years, and says he is starting to see more UML alumni joining the company. "We’re always looking for more folks to join!" he says.

Sarah (Pach) Feola and Andrew Feola married in June 2021 in Hampstead, New Hampshire. They met on campus their senior year, prompting Sarah to write about their relationship for a New York Times Modern Love contest.

Brent Kimball started a new job in medical device manufacturing—knee, hip, and shoulder implants—after working in aero space manufacturing for six-and-a-half years.

Rohan Joy Mathew started grad school at the George Washington University School of Business.

Thipphachanh Phommachanh married their college sweetheart in October 2021, and says, “We met in 2015 in the old business study lounge in Falmouth Hall. The rest is history.”

Tyler Valila recently got married in Florida with seven UML grads by his side. Pictured left to right, Officiant Melissa Meotti ’15, groomsman Tyler Valilia ’16, Michael Valla, Ryan Mansfield ’18, Benjamin Clarkson ’17, ’20, James Muszty ’14, Fabio Braz ’16, Jonah Adler ’17 and Stephen DePrato ’15.

When Ally Desjardins ’16 and Sarah Krawiec ’16 first “borrowed” the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering banner from Assoc. Teaching Prof. Ed Hajduk ’95, ’99, ’06 and former department admin Deb Campagna, Desjardins says she “never imagined the journey I would take.”

Maria Nichols says she “never imagined the journey I would take.”

The banner made its first appearance at Desjardins’ wedding in Gloucester, Massachusetts, in June 2019, where she married Kevin Desjardins ’15 in front of many other UML grads including Khalid Gervais ’15, Khal Gervais ’16, Ian Gervais ’18, Mike Alves ’16, Zach Sandonato ’16 and Zach Sandonato ’16.

Returning the banner to the civil department kept getting delayed, she says—until it made its next appearance at the June 2021 wedding of Ellen Gerardi ’16 and Michael Newman ’17, in Seabrook, New Hampshire.

It returned to Gloucester in October 2021, to attend the nuptials of Andrew Spur ’15 and Megan Pickert ’15. The banner made its final stop at the wedding of Valla and Sandonato in Pasadena, Maryland.

“It was slated to make its next appearance at Tyler Valila’s wedding the following weekend but, unfortunately, it was left at the Sandonato wedding venue and was lost,” Desjardins says.

Valila ’15 (whose wife is not pictured) posed with friend Fabio Braz ’15, holding up a white towel, which, thanks to the magic of Photoshop, was later replaced by the banner.

“We had a great run with the old white banner, and it became a unifying thread through so many important moments in our lives,” says Desjardins, who has since “borrowed” a new blue banner from Department Coordinator Michelle Riccio. Its next scheduled appearance is the wedding of Gervais, planned for August 2023 in Maine.

“In the meantime, the banner is safe at my house, and I would encourage any of my fellow alums to reach out if you want the new banner to make an appearance at your special day,” says Desjardins, who is an engineering specialist at STV Inc. in Boston.

“I can’t say enough great things about the group of alums,” says Hajduk. “Many of them have been to campus this past academic year to help the student groups rebuild from COVID. Just an absolute fantastic bunch of engineers.” —SC
After living together their entire lives, twin sisters Elizabeth ’16, ’17 and Laura Kender ’16, ’17 made a major decision last summer: They were getting their own places in Boston. They now live a whole two blocks apart. “That was a big transition in our lives,” Laura says. “It’s been awesome for our personal growth.”

The Chelmsford, Massachusetts, natives followed identical paths at UML. They both earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in plastics engineering. They both had internships at New Balance. They were teammates on the women’s lacrosse team. They participated together in the DifferenceMaker program. So it’s no surprise they now have similar careers in Boston’s crowded athletic footwear industry: Elizabeth is a senior product developer at New Balance, and Laura is product developer at Converse. They’re both responsible for taking shoes from the design stage all the way to production, juggling multiple models through the 18-month process.

“We’re competitors, so we can’t trade secrets,” Elizabeth says with a laugh. “It is funny that we’re both in footwear, but we don’t talk about work a lot,” adds Laura, who has worked on everything at Converse from skateboarding shoes worn by U.S. Olympians to a collection of upcycled Chuck 70s made from pre-worn denim jeans that were sourced by UK-based fashion and vintage retailer, Beyond Retro. She is currently a product developer for women’s shoes. “It’s so rewarding to start a project from scratch on paper, working to solve issues and then seeing them in the market or on people’s feet,” says Laura, who has been known to stop people on the street who are wearing one of her shoe designs and ask to take a picture.

Elizabeth has also climbed the ladder at New Balance, where she works primarily on lacrosse, baseball and softball cleats. Her first basketball shoe is scheduled to hit the market in February. “New Balance is an amazing company. I love the culture,” she says. In the DifferenceMaker program, the sisters teamed up with their younger brother, Stephen Kender ’18, to create KEnDERS Body Armor, a novel sports equipment design that took a second-place prize of $2,500 in the Innovative Technology Solution category. From working with advisors on their idea to pitching it to a room full of people, the sisters agree that the DifferenceMaker experience has proven valuable in their careers. “That’s basically what making a shoe is,” Elizabeth says. “You have an idea, you need to come up with the problem and the solution, and then find ways to make it marketable so people will want to buy it. You learn all those skills from DifferenceMaker.”

Exercise Science alumna Caitlin Ciccone ’17 with U.S. Men’s Alpine Ski Team member Ryan Cochran-Siegle, who won a silver medal in the men’s super-G at the Winter Olympics.
Seventeen days shy of receiving her public health degree, Kelsey Gonzalez ’21 (above, right) was diagnosed with stage 2A Hodgkin lymphoma. “Despite the emotional and physical difficulties of the treatment, I refused to let this disease take control of my life,” says Gonzalez, the first in her family to graduate from college. “What’s more, I have used it to fuel my passion for working in the public health field.”

During treatment, she was reminded of what she learned in class: Access to excel lent health care is a privilege that not all can depend upon. “I was fortunate for the care I received,” she says, “but it begged the question of what if excellent health care for all wasn’t a reflection of race, socioeconomic status or location?” This led her to pursue a position caring for asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border. In her role as program manager for global disaster response and humanitarian action at Massachusetts General Hospital’s Center for Global Health, Gonzalez works with partner nongovernmental organizations to provide emergency humanitarian medicine to people living in makeshift refugee camps in Reynosa and Matamoros in Mexico.

“Working on the border has further opened my eyes to how much advancement is needed at a global scale to improve the quality of life of vulnerable populations,” she says, adding that her experiences at UML formed the foundation of her desire to help others. During her junior year, Gonzalez traveled to Valencia, Spain, to work with an NGO that defends migrant rights and their access to citizenship. She collaborated with a team to design and implement health education programs. And to better understand the role of culture on mental health stigma, she conducted an honors research project in her senior year investigating mental health disparities among first-generation students.

“God put me exactly where I needed to be,” she says. “The people that I met and am blessed to know are what made my time at UML an incredible experience.”
2022 Alumni Awards: UML Honors 10 Grads Across Colleges, Fields

UMass Lowell recognized 10 distinguished graduates for their service to the campus and community with the presentation of the 2022 University Alumni Awards. “These honors single out those stars among us who epitomize UMass Lowell values: hard work, integrity, compassion and stewardship,” says Executive Director of Alumni and Donor Relations Heather Malarek Allen ’06, ’08, ’21. “We are proud to celebrate them with these awards and recognize their many contributions to their alma mater.”

A ceremony honoring the recipients was held at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center in April, capping the university’s annual Days of Giving, a two-day fundraising campaign to support the success of UMass Lowell students.

Alumni award honorees were selected from graduates of each of UMass Lowell’s schools and colleges. This year, the awards recognized three outstanding young alumni and seven additional honorees, including two couples, each of whom have made UMass Lowell, and service to others, a priority in their lives. The award recipients are:

Kristine Beaudette ’74 and Louis Beaudette ’74: Kristine is a graduate of the School of Education and a former schoolteacher at Nottingham West Elementary School in Hudson, New Hampshire. Louis, a graduate of the Kennedy College of Sciences, is a board of directors’ chairman, founder and former president of Admix Inc., a manufacturer of mixing equipment based in Londonderry, New Hampshire. Louis serves on the Kennedy College of Sciences Advisory Board and together, the couple established the Admix Inc. Endowed Scholarship Fund, which supports participants in UMass Lowell’s UTeach Program. The initiative gives students majoring in science, technology, engineering or mathematics the opportunity to investigate and prepare for a career as a high school teacher in any of those subjects. [1]

Janice Lemoine ’00 and Richard Lemoine ’96: Named in 2019 as one of the top 10 “Leaders in 50 Years” by the university’s Solomon School of Nursing, Janice has served as a quality assurance registered nurse at the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Richard earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice in 1996 and went on to pursue public health graduate studies. He is the former executive director of administrative services, environmental and emergency management at UMass Lowell, where his career spanned more than four decades. The couple established the R.J.K.B. Lemoine Endowed Scholarship Fund to support graduate students studying public health or nursing. [2]

Natalie Olson ’88: A resident of San Diego, California, Olson is a graduate of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. She is a former parent educator and consultant, having served at the Mounds View School District Working Family Resource Center in Shoreview, Minnesota. She and her husband, Chris, established the Chris C. Olson ’88 & Natalie Tappey Olson ’88 and Family Endowed Scholarship Fund to help first-generation college students at the university. While pursuing her graduate degree at UMass Lowell, Olson worked closely with Chancellor Minter, who played an instrumental role in her life. [3]

Jon Geanakos ’84: A graduate of the Manning School of Business, Geanakos was recently the executive managing director and global co-head of investor client relations at Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc. A varsity lacrosse player during his years at UMass Lowell, Geanakos holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration and serves on the university’s Manning School of Business and athletics advisory boards. He also served on UMass Lowell’s Inauguration Host Committee, when Chancellor Minter was installed as UMass Lowell’s chancellor in 2015, and as a member of the Campaign Cabinet for the recently completed “Our Legacy, Our Place” fundraising effort. [4]

Toby Hodes ’88: A grad of the UMass Lowell Francis College of Engineering, Hodes is a former buyer/contract administrator for General Electric Co., and holds a bachelor’s degree in textile chemistry from Lowell Technological Institute. She is the former longtime president of the university’s Learning in Retirement Association, which provides educational and enrichment opportunities to older adults. Together with her late husband, Lawrence Hodes, she established the Larry and Toby Hodes Discretionary Endowment to support students in UMass Lowell’s Honors College. [5]

Young Alumni Awards were presented to:

Kelly Freitas ’16 (left): An art director at Imarc in Amesbury, Massachusetts, Freitas was honored for service as a volunteer graphic designer for many UMass Lowell projects and other organizations in the community. She also serves as a member of UMass Lowell’s Young Alumni Council, which connects recent grads to their alma mater. A standout on the River Hawks field hockey team as an undergraduate, Freitas is a UMass Lowell “True Blue” donor who contributes in support of this squad.

Kelly Michael Skelton ’16, ’19 (middle): A resident of Austin, Texas, Skelton is a special projects and operations manager with the consumer goods company Thrasio. He was honored for innovation and success as a young business leader. At UMass Lowell, he established the Dorothy C. Skelton Fund to support students at Manning School of Business commuter students involved in student activities.

Lucy Wafo ’11, ’13 (right): The Washington, D.C., resident is a staff pharmacist with Johns Hopkins Medicine, and was honored for her contributions to the community. Along with her volunteer work assisting UMass Lowell graduate students, Wafo co-founded The Mission, a nonprofit organization that provides free medical access and education to underserved communities.

The New England Commission of Higher Education is one of seven accrediting commissions in the U.S. that provides institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 250 institutions in New England as well as several American-style institutions overseas. UMass Lowell has been accredited by the Commission since 1975 and was last reviewed in 2013. For the past year and a half, UMass Lowell has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission’s Standards for Accreditation. An evaluation team will visit the institution to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The public is invited to submit comments regarding the institution to:

Public Comment on UMass Lowell
New England Commission of Higher Education
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100
Burlington, MA 01803-4514
E-mail: info@nechec.org

Public Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution. Comments will not be treated as evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The public is invited to submit comments regarding the institution to:

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UML Connect
When Prof. Emeritus Stephen Orroth ’66 retired from the Plastics Engineering Department seven years ago, Prof. Stephen Johnston ’07 gladly inherited a vintage wooden bookcase from his second-floor office at Ball Hall.

“I hated the bookcase because it was an older style —classier than the new IKEA junk—and I didn’t want to see it get thrown away,” says Johnston.

While in his office one day this spring, Johnston noticed that one of the two drawers at the bottom of the bookcase wasn’t closing completely. He removed the drawer and discovered some old papers lodged in the back of the opening. Among them was a remarkable find: an unused season ticket from the 1925 Lowell Textile Institute baseball season.

“I was struck by how a piece of history that had been lost for nearly a century suddenly appears in my office, almost like a time capsule,” Johnston says of the white, business card-sized ticket that, with the exception of a faint stain in one corner, was in near-mint condition. “I’ve heard all the stories about Lowell Tech, and we have fantastic alumni from the institution, and here I am holding a piece of original Lowell Textile Institute memorabilia.”

Also at the front of the ticket are the numbers 1-9, which could be punched for each of the team’s nine home games that season. On the back of the ticket is the team’s full 11-game schedule, which it finished 4-6 (the season finale against Saint Michael’s was canceled). Two of the schools that Lowell Tech played that season—Boston University and the University of New Hampshire—no longer have baseball programs.

The 1925 season was the first (and only) for Coach George “Lefty” Tyler, a former major league pitcher who helped lead the Boston Braves past the Philadelphia Athletics in the 1914 World Series. A native of Derry, New Hampshire, Tyler also pitched for the Chicago Cubs in the 1918 World Series, which they lost to Babe Ruth and the Boston Red Sox. Tyler, who died in Lowell in 1953 at the age of 63, won 127 games in his 12-year big league career.

The 1925 season ticket also lists the names of team captain Andrew Scanlon ’25 (described in The Pickout yearbook as “a true sportsman and an athlete of more than ordinary ability”), Manager Eddie Weinstein and Director of Athletics L.H. Cushing, namesake of the Cushing Field Complex.

Johnston, who gave the ticket to the Advancement Office so it could be shared with alumni, has been trying to retrace the history of the bookcase. The plastics program started in 1954 in the basement of Pasteur Hall (now Dandeneau Hall) and moved to Ball Hall in 1964. Orroth joined the Plastics Department a few years later and Johnston figured “he must have inherited a bookcase that was at least 40 years old when he moved into the office.”

—EB

AN ACCIDENTAL TIME CAPSULE
NOW...

Almost a century later, the UML baseball team is coached by Ken Harring. In March, he earned his 500th career win with the River Hawks’ 17-3 rout of Holy Cross. In May, UML made it to the America East championship game for the first time in program history. “Seeing the season ticket from 1925, I immediately imagined what the players were wearing and how the field looked,” Harring says. “Baseball carries on for generations. The uniforms and fans change over time, but the game and the field remain the same. There is no other game like it.”
PASSING THE TORCH

As Chancellor Jacquie Moloney steps down and returns to the faculty, longtime Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Julie Chen takes office as the fourth chancellor of UMass Lowell. “In the 25 years that I’ve worked with Julie, she has been a trusted colleague and friend,” says Moloney. “She is a tremendous administrator and an even better person. She is unquestionably the dynamic visionary that our students, faculty, staff and alumni deserve as their next leader.”