WILL ROBOTS RULE THE WORLD?

Page 34
Honors students traveled to San Sebastian, Spain, over the summer for a cultural immersion course with special emphasis on the Basque people and culture. In addition to intensive language instruction, students took excursions around the city, interacting with locals and absorbing the culture. They spent an entire day traveling throughout the city dressed in traditional Basque clothing.
It’s been a busy fall here on campus. We jumped right in to the academic year with a larger, more diverse group of students than ever before. A few weeks ago, UMass Lowell’s diversity was formally recognized with a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine—for the second year in a row. Fostering a campus where everyone feels included—regardless of gender, race, nationality, religion, sexual identity or disabilities—is a top priority to us at UMass Lowell, and to me personally. Last month we were thrilled to learn that the NSF has awarded a $3.5 million grant for a Center for Women & Work project that aims to increase diversity and inclusion in STEM fields. I’ve been directly involved with the CWW effort and am pleased that the NSF has recognized the team’s work.

But that’s just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to university honors. As you’ll read in this issue, our U.S. News & World Report ranking jumped another four spots this year, making UMass Lowell the second-fastest-rising university in the country. The Chronicle of Higher Education, meanwhile, recently named us the ninth-fastest-growing public doctoral institution in the nation.

It should be no surprise, then, that NASA entrusted university researchers with one of just four humanoid robots that it hopes will help make life on Mars possible. Read all about it—and our faculty’s predictions for the future of robotics—in our cover story. The rest of this issue has a little bit of everything—good music, delicious wine and doses of updates on the great work being done by our students, faculty and alumni. That includes our strong support for Our Legacy. Our Place, the university’s first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign. Turn the page to dive in—and then consider stopping by campus to get a glimpse of the excitement firsthand.

Jacquie Moloney ’75, ’92

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Moloney ’75, ’92
New year launches with focus on ethics

In September, the university welcomed 2,900 incoming students—the largest-ever group of incoming new and transfer students—who became part of the nearly 18,000 students pursing their futures at UMass Lowell.

The 1,700-member freshman class is the most diverse ever and has the highest-ever average high-school GPA and average SAT score for UMass Lowell. The Class of 2020 also includes the first group of students—approximately 130 with an average high-school GPA of 3.7—to use the university’s SAT-optional admissions program, which allows high schoolers to apply without test scores by completing other requirements.

The university community gathered at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell for Convocation, the traditional academic year kickoff. Business ethics expert and author Corey Ciocchetti delivered a lively keynote address, using his own experiences to illustrate that true success is not necessarily defined by wealth or in other ways that students might expect. He urged the students to seek peace and contentment, as well as true friendships, and to act with principle.

Acting with principle is a value the university wants to stress, and will be better able to do so thanks to a new $1 million gift from philanthropist Nancy Donahue to establish the Donahue Center for Business Ethics.

The Donahue Center—which will be based in the Manning School of Business—will expand education in ethics to all majors, offer new research opportunities for faculty and students and develop ethics-focused programs and events for the university and the public.
WHAT’S THIS HELMET FOR, ANYWAY?

3.8M

OUR $3.8M IP DEAL.

When pharmaceutical giant Allergan acquired a startup named Anterios, UMass Lowell saw its biggest-ever payday for intellectual property. Anterios owned the rights to NDS—a technology for delivering therapeutic neurotoxins through the skin without needles. Its inventors: A research team led by engineering Prof. Stephen McCarthy and Prof. Emeritus Robert Nicolosi.

AND IN THIS CORNER…

Senior business major and professional wrestler Cameron Zagami starred on the first season of the Fox reality TV show “American Grit,” which finished airing in June. He was cast on the military-inspired survival show after catching the eye of producers during an audition for “WWE Tough Enough,” a USA Network reality show that awards the winner a pro wrestling contract. “Though he didn’t win ‘American Grit,’ he did get to meet WWE superstar (and West Newbury native) John Cena, the show’s host. “They never told us who the host was, so in the first episode when we all run down the hill and see him for the first time, I was completely losing it,” says Zagami, who has wanted to follow in Cena’s wrestling shoes since seeing him in action at TD Garden arena in 2009.

THE ELECTION.

Nov. 8 looms large and so does the battle between The Donald and Hillary. Both have been on campus. Trump rented the Tsongas Center for a campaign rally in January. Clinton’s visit was in 1998, when then U.S. Rep. Marty Meehan (now UMass president) brought the first lady and a group of women members of Congress to campus for a forum on women’s issues. Also having logged many hours on campus: Corey Lewandowski ’96, Trump’s former campaign manager and current CNN commentator, and an alumnus of our political science program. (Psst: Read about how our students were in the middle of the action at the Republican and Democratic conventions on Page 11.)

U.S. News & World Report bumped us FOUR SPOTS TO NO. 152 on its list of best national universities. That’s a jump of 31 spots since 2010, making us the second-fastest-rising university in the nation over the last six years. UMass Lowell is the only institution, public or private, in the eastern United States to move up more than 30 spots in the same timeframe.

MOVIN’ ON UP!

3.8M

31

OUR WORLD

+31

MOVIN’ ON UP!

3.8M

OUR $3.8M IP DEAL.

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A majority of Americans believe that concussions and brain injuries resulting from sports like football are a major problem and that leagues like the NFL are not doing enough to respond, according to a national poll released recently by the UMass Lowell Center for Public Opinion.

BLUE HAIRS.

Happy 50th to the UMass Lowell hockey program. But don’t worry: there’s no midlife crisis on the horizon. In late September, the team was tabbed fourth in the Hockey East preseason coaches’ poll.

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In June, UMass Lowell’s first woman chancellor presided over the university’s inaugural Women’s Leadership Conference, which played to a sold-out crowd on campus. Among the speakers were HGTV designer Taniya Nayak ’97; former Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Evelyn Murphy, now president of The Wage Project; Lisa Brothers ’84, co-founder and chief executive of Nitsch Engineering; and Gina Barreca, professor of English and women’s studies at the University of Connecticut and author of “If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse?”

BOSS LADIES

“We’re getting pretty good at protecting secrets.”


President Meehan’s Million-Dollar Investment

Call it the very best kind of “campaign promise.” In June, UMass President Marty Meehan ’78, a member of Congress from 1993 to 2007, officially closed his campaign committee and transferred more than $4 million in campaign funds to a new education foundation named for his parents, Marty and Alice Meehan. The foundation’s first gift: a $1 million gift to Our Legacy, Our Place: The Campaign for UMass Lowell, which will be used for student scholarships.

Our Legacy, Our Place: The Campaign for UMass Lowell

FISHER RECITAL HALL was filled to capacity on an evening that combined the creative talents of students, alumni and faculty from the university’s Music and Art and Design departments.

In a first of its kind effort, John-Morgan Bush, lecturer and executive director of the UMass Lowell String Project and Youth Orchestra, and Pouya Afshar, assistant professor of art and design, teamed up to present musical selections with custom-created, live animation projected on performers and the walls of the recital hall.

Art + Music = Magic

“A select team of graphic design art students listened to each work, and created animations to complement them,” says Afshar.

The evening’s selections included the world premiere of “Serenade for Bass-Baritone, Horn and Strings,” composed by Derek Weagle ‘15, a contemporary composer and University String Project composer-in-residence.

“The composition weaves Bush’s love of poets including Walt Whitman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, Edgar Allan Poe, e.e. cummings and Sara Teasdale,” says Weagle.

Solo vocalist Allyn McCourt ’15, a bass-baritone who is now pursuing vocal performance at the New England Conservatory, performed the work.

“John-Morgan Bush is my arts mentor—he has inspired me to fulfill my dream of becoming a composer, and this piece is my thank you to him,” says Weagle.

—SE
For decades, an overgrown alley that runs between Salem and Merrimack Streets in Lowell’s Acre neighborhood was a neighborhood blight that attracted nighttime criminal activity. No longer. Welcome to Decatur WAY (Water, Art and You), an urban oasis transformed through colorful art, poetry, community vision and sweat.

The cleanup of the L-shaped, 1,200-foot-long, 16-foot wide sliver off Decatur Street was made possible through a partnership between an Acre neighborhood group, the City of Lowell and UMass Lowell. The project was led by neighborhood activist Dave Ouellette, whose vision it was to transform a weedy blemish to a welcoming walkway of poetry, simple green technology and 108 works of art.

Decatur WAY features murals from dozens of community groups and a piece painted by Steve Mishol of the university’s Art & Design Department, with his daughter, Sophie. The University Relations design team also painted a panel. —DP

REBIRTH OF AN ACRE ALLEY

On the second night of the Democratic National Convention, Adeja Crearer ’17 (above, bottom left) was heading out to the deserted media tents to edit footage for Agence-France Presse TV when a crowd of disappointed delegates for Sen. Bernie Sanders rushed out of the Wells Fargo Center chanting “Bernie! Bernie!” They took over a media tent and she went in with them—just as police moved to block the exits.

“So I’m trapped inside,” she says. “I was in shock for one minute and then I realized, you can’t live it, you have to start working.”

She snapped into action, using her phone to take photos and record interviews with the protesting delegates. After a while, she was able to go to the AFP-TV tent, grab a camera and shoot some video. She edited it all together for an exclusive story. That was a thrill for the aspiring journalist.

“That was real. It was then that I knew—I love that feeling. It was a rush of adrenaline,” says Crearer, an English major with a journalism concentration and a digital media minor from Piscataway, N.J.

Crearer was one of five students who went to either the Democratic or Republican convention in July through the university’s partnership with The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. The students earned six credits for the two-week program, supported by scholarships from the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The first week, the students attended seminars with political and security experts. The second week, they interned, mostly for media organizations.

Assistant Dean Francis Talty says the convention program, which also was offered in 2008 and 2012, gives students a crash course in party politics. “For students interested in the political experience, this is Woodstock,” says Talty, who manages the Washington Center partnership and serves as an academic seminar leader. “It’s total immersion.”

Political science major and Hillary Clinton volunteer David Todisco ’19 (above, right) says it was gratifying to witness Clinton make history as the first woman nominated by a major party.

“You knew it was coming, but to see it finally happen and Bernie turn over his delegates—it was a very satisfying moment,” he says. “I had the chills so many times from all the inspiring speeches. And that’s what I crave: inspiration in American politics.”

He says the convention, where he interned for NBC news, inspired him to run for local political office someday. He’s already gaining plenty of political experience: first as an intern for a state representative, then as a Clinton volunteer and most recently as a summer intern for Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Tyler Farley ’18 (above, top left, first from left) worked as a runner for CNN at the Republican convention in Cleveland from 3 p.m. until lights out each night. For hours before his shift each day, he interviewed delegates for a research project with Asst. Prof. Morgan Marietta on the issues animating Donald Trump’s supporters. Farley, an Honors College student double-majoring in political science and economics, says he found the convention fascinating.

“It was a fun, crazy week. It was what you would expect it to be with Trump as the nominee; there was controversy every night, always something dramatic, and it was exciting to be there—to be part of the show.” —AW
"Not too many nursing programs offer the chance to study abroad," says Stracklachya Thakul ’16, who recently traveled to China with seven other nursing students and two faculty members on a cross-cultural exchange experience. "I was able to integrate academics with my love for travel. It was an amazing experience."

The 18-day study-abroad program—led by Asst. Prof. of Nursing Yunn Zhang and Clinical Asst. Prof. Valérie King—was part of the university’s Global Health Experience course, designed to give students an international perspective as they compared the Chinese healthcare delivery system and culture with those from the U.S. It was offered in partnership with Shandong University’s School of Nursing, one of China’s top nursing schools.

"If someone had told me when I was a student that I would have this opportunity, I never would have believed it," says Macioci, who enjoyed the fact that MFS chairman Robert Manning ’84 is also the namesake of her business school.

"I basically taught the middle school kids how to draw and interact with these people—and actually believe it," says Macioci. "To come here in two years, I wouldn’t have had the experience I had."

"Putting what we’re talking about on paper—it’s amazing what I’ve experienced."
Robert Forrant Named 2016 University Professor

History Prof. Robert Forrant has been named UMass Lowell’s 2016 University Professor for his outstanding contributions in research, teaching and public history projects in the community. Forrant has consulted with the U.N. Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Metalworkers Federation and other trade unions. He says he will use the three-year award, in part, to work with groups of students on researching and writing a history of the Coalition for a Better Acre, a community development corporation in Lowell’s Acre neighborhood, and an exhibit on Portuguese immigration to Lowell for the university’s Saab-Pedroso Center for Portuguese Culture and Research.

Last year, Forrant commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act with a photo exhibit and events. As chairman of the Lawrence committee for the centennial of the 1912 Bread and Roses strike, he led walking tours, put on commemorative and educational events, created an honors seminar on the history of the strike and Lowell’s connections to it and collaborated on two books on the strike and an exhibition for the Digital Public Library of America.

—KW

Tsongas Digital Archive Comes to Life

Over the course of 34,000 archived pages, students, scholars and anyone with a thirst for political history can now explore the legacy of Lowell’s own Paul Tsongas. For years, scholars and researchers had to visit UMass Lowell’s O’Leary Library to view papers belonging to the late U.S. senator. Now, thanks to a project that began in 1986, anyone can access the Paul E. Tsongas Congressional Collection from his or her computer or smartphone.


“I remember Paul making the decision about where all his papers would go,” said Tsongas. “He was a graduate of Dartmouth, but in the end Lowell is where his home is, where he knew they would be valued and taken care of.”

The collection includes 720 boxes of Tsongas’ political papers.

“Thankfully,” his widow joked, “they’re out of the attic.”

—DP

MISSION: SPACE

NASA recently awarded $200,000 to a team of UMass Lowell students to design and build a satellite the space agency hopes to launch into orbit in 2018. More than 50 UMass Lowell science and engineering students are developing the “SPACE HAUC” satellite under the direction of Physics Prof. Supriya Chakrabarti, who leads the university’s Lowell Center for Space Science and Technology.

Once the spacecraft is ready, NASA hopes to deploy the satellite into orbit around the Earth for a yearlong mission to test its ability to collect and transmit research data at faster speeds than ever before possible. The satellite’s name, pronounced “Space Hawk,” is a nod to UMass Lowell’s athletic teams, the River Hawks. The acronym stands for Science Program Around Communications Engineering with High-Achieving Undergraduate Cadres.

—EA

GROW, BABY, GROW!

UMass Lowell is No. 9 on The Chronicle of Higher Education’s 2016 list of fastest-growing public doctoral institutions, with a 54.9 percent jump in enrollment between 2004 and 2014.
Sure, there’s Allen House and its showy sunsets. The Saab Center’s not too shabby, nor is the Rec Center. Hard to turn your nose up at the Riverwalk behind the Tsongas, hard to avoid the “Wicked Blue” turf alongside Cushing Field. But there are other, lesser known (or understood) gems on campus. Some of them are hidden in plain sight; others are just plain hidden.

[1] AN ARCH OPENING.
In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, American architects often left empty spaces in their blueprints with the text, “Guastavino here.” One such space is near the arch at the entrance to Southwick Hall. Built in 1903 by Rafael Guastavino, who brought his celebrated “Tile Arch System” from Spain, the arch can be seen in major U.S. constructions like the Boston Public Library, the Plymouth Rock portico and the Queensboro Bridge in New York.

[2] HISTORY AT YOUR FEET.
Between the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell and the Merrimack River is a cluster of small 19th century mill buildings. Demolished in the 1930s, the structures’ foundations are today marked by granite stones throughout the grassy terraces behind the Tsongas Center. Three penstocks like this one—which held the water that was converted by turbines into power—are preserved.

[3] A WINDING PAST.
Today with offices and research facilities, the university is part of a masterful re-use and re-imagining of one of Lowell’s mills, where the American Industrial Revolution was born. But where cotton was once king at Wannalancit Mills (known as Suffolk Mills from its 1830s birth to the 1950s), there remain monuments to its former life, like this “applecore” staircase where mill girls trod up and down to work.
THAT ’70s SHOW.
North Campus’s concrete creation Olsen Hall greets visitors with a lobby surprise—a retro modern look, with colorful panels placed strategically on the walls and artistically cupped black chairs to hold you. It’s a perfect spot to linger and dream of ’70s grandeur.

BENCH WARMING.
Thought-provoking quotations were affixed to dozens of benches across campus between 2004 and 2006 as part of the “Take a Stand, Have a Seat” project. The idea was to celebrate diversity by displaying lines espousing social justice, equity and integrity. The notables vary greatly, from Goldie Hawn (“I have witnessed the softening of the hardest of hearts by a simple smile”) to Martin Luther King (“True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice”).

SKY LADDER.
The centerpiece of the atrium in University Crossing is the Lantern, a sculpture that reflects light and dampens sound. The polished panels and large wood lattices diffuse the light and give scale to the variety of central spaces. The changing play of natural light on the Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood tapestry is meant to evoke both the future and textile history of the university.

FOR THE BIRDS.
When a peregrine falcons’ hideaway was discovered on the top of Fox Hall in 2007, the female had laid eggs on a bed of gravel on the roof, but the eggs didn’t hatch. The university’s carpentry shop, in consultation with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, designed and built upgraded digs for the endangered birds. Featuring HD-quality cameras that provide live streaming video of the interior and exterior, the nest box has been home to the successful raising of more than two dozen chicks.

MYSTERY MAN.
He sports a glorious handlebar mustache and fixes you with an arresting gaze as you descend the stairs from the first floor of Cumnock Hall. But no identification accompanies his portrait—who is he? He is Alexander G. Cumnock, the first president of the board of trustees of the Lowell Textile School, founded in 1895, as the earliest predecessor of UMass Lowell. An agent of the Boott Mills, Cumnock was respected for his technological expertise and his understanding of the economic and competitive forces challenging the textile industry at that time.

TREASURE TROVE.
Down a hallway in the Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center on French Street sit the treasures of Lowell, piece by piece. Sorted, organized and preserved are stories of Lowell’s people and places. It’s the university’s Center for Lowell History, established in 1971. Perhaps the deepest vein of Lowell’s history, the center houses the university archives. Janine Whitcomb, shown here, manages special collections—including the new Kerouac Room, which houses the university’s Beat Literature collections and is open to the public.
STATE OF THE ART.

These murals of mill girls at work and at leisure are the only visible examples of a set of murals painted by Works Progress Administration artists during the Great Depression and mounted in Coburn Hall. A large group of murals in the Assembly Room depicting students at Lowell State Teachers College was painted over by the early 1970s and awaits restoration, says Marie Frank, associate professor of art history and architecture.

CAST IN STONE.

A series of 10 plaster casts of men on horses and a singing choir, made more than a century ago, hang in Coburn 205. The Boston-based Caproni Brothers made the casts from the frieze at the Parthenon, and they were installed in Coburn around 1911. They’re rare and valuable—and when art history Prof. Marie Frank realized what they were, they’d been the victims of coal dust from an old heating system. Frank and her students painstakingly used conservation tools to heal the art.

WINDOW TO THE PAST.

Coburn Hall, named for Frank F. Coburn, the first principal of Lowell Normal School, is unique among the university’s structures. Dedicated in 1898, the four-story structure is a reminder of our roots as a school for educators. Designed by architects Stickney & Austin, it remains a sturdy study in grey brick and arched windows. Every now and then, its windows catch a timeless cloudscape.

OH, JOAN.

She is in a corner of Coburn 205, in plaster on a pedestal. She kneels, hands clasped in front of her, head slightly tilted back. She is Joan of Arc, and seems poised for instruction from the heavens. All over her are the signatures of former students, mostly from the 1960s, in pen and pencil. Like the casts that share the room, says Prof. Marie Frank, it is by the Boston-based sculpture studio Caproni, probably purchased around 1911 for Lowell Normal School.

HEART LINE.

This heart is one of a series connected by an EKG line that graces the central stairwell at O’Leary Library. The Teen Arts Group from The Revolving Museum created the mural in the summer of 2008 as part of the Healthy Campus Initiative. Faculty in the College of Health Sciences also installed sensors to study whether motivational signs on the previously blank, concrete walls would inspire more people to climb the stairs instead of riding the elevators. They did, says Associate Dean Deirdra Murphy.

SIGN OF HONOR.

It is fastened to the University Avenue side of the engineering-rich Ball Hall on North Campus, and it’s easy to mistake the root of its design. The insignia is reminiscent of the Masonic “square and compasses” symbol, but it’s actually the official symbol of Tau Beta Pi, the second-oldest collegiate honor society in the nation. It’s a watch key with a bridge trestle as part of the design, says Plastic Engineering Department Chairman Robert Malloy.
These stories tell everything about the character of our place, the kind of legacy we have inherited—and the kind we can leave by supporting this campaign. On the facing page, we share one such story. Go to uml.edu/ourlegacy-ourplace to find more, and to learn how you can make your own impact.

Sowing the Seeds

Capt. John Ogonowski ’72, ’03 (H) lost his life on 9/11, but his impact lives on at UMass Lowell

John Ogonowski ’72, ’03 (H) understood the power of a seed. History remembers Ogonowski as the senior captain of American Airlines Flight 11. Fifteen years ago, he became one of the first casualties of 9/11 after terrorists hijacked his Boston-to-Los Angeles flight and flew the plane into the World Trade Center’s North Tower.

Yet those who knew Ogonowski best remember him as a farmer—a young boy who grew up on a hundred-acre farm in Dracut, land his family has been farming since they emigrated from Poland in the early 1900s. They remember the smart and capable kid who could drive a tractor by age 7. The youth so hardworking and good-natured that other farmers lined up to hire him. The gifted engineering student who came home on weekends to get the hay in. The skilled captain who flew Air Force transport planes in Vietnam and transcontinental flights for American Airlines, but who couldn’t wait to get home to Dracut so that he could change into his work clothes, climb on his tractor and get back to work. “A lot of people didn’t even realize John was a pilot,” says his mother, Theresa. “They thought he was a full-time farmer.”

And no wonder. In addition to running the 150-acre farm where he lived with his wife, Peggy, and their three daughters, Ogonowski worked with New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, a nonprofit that places Cambodian refugees and other recent immigrants on local farms where they can raise their own commercial crops. He also helped found the Dracut Land Trust, to preserve farmland from commercial development. “He did all this because he loved it,” says his younger sister, Carol. “For John, farming was one big science-fair experiment. Every year he would try something new. He was always evolving, always learning.”

Trong Ngo ’17 understands the power of learning. From an early age, Ngo knew education was his ladder to a better future. Both his parents emigrated from Vietnam, eventually settling in Worcester, where Ngo grew up with his four brothers and sisters. His mother, the daughter of a U.S. serviceman, wasn’t able to finish school. “She always stressed how important education is, so that you can have more opportunities,” Ngo says. “One of my biggest motivations is to make her proud.”

A gifted math student, Ngo enrolled at Worcester Technical High School, where he earned a certificate in computer-aided drafting and design along with his diploma. After a year at Quinsigamond Community College, he transferred to UMass Lowell to study mechanical engineering. Like Ogonowski before him, he enrolled in the Air Force ROTC, Detachment 345. With courses in aerospace studies, leadership labs, a four-week field training unit and two years of professional officer coursework, “ROTC is almost like a second major,” Ngo says. “It’s demanding, but I’ve learned so much. And I’ve met people who I think will be friends for life.”

Next May, Ngo will become the first member of his family to graduate from college. After receiving his commission as a second lieutenant, he hopes to fly remotely piloted aircraft or work as an Air Force engineer. He has another goal, as well. “I’ve never met my American grandfather,” Ngo says. “I’m so curious about him and his stories of Vietnam. I hope we’ll meet some day, and that I can show him I’ve become an officer.”

From top: John Ogonowski ’72, ’03 (H) and Trong Ngo ’17

BY BETH BROSNAN
The Ogonowski family understands that learning can be the most special seed of all. Even as they struggled with his loss, they were determined the qualities that made John special would somehow survive him. With help from then-Congressman Marty Meehan ’78, who secured more than $600,000 in federal funding, the Ogonowskis and other local conservationists were able to purchase 33 acres of farmland slated for development as a “living memorial” to Dracut’s best-known farmer. John’s father, Alexander, chose a second “living memorial”: an endowed scholarship at UMass Lowell, where John and his younger brothers, Jim ’79 and Joe ’85, received their degrees. A World War II veteran who served with the Army Air Corps, Alexander was a strong believer in service to country, says Theresa, and three of his five children followed him into the Air Force.

At his direction, the John Ogonowski Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to top junior ROTC cadets who exemplify the Air Force’s core values: “integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do—qualities that were the pillars of John’s life and accomplishments.” If 9/11 has changed the world in ways that John Ogonowski could not imagine, his scholarship is changing lives in ways he would surely recognize. Since 2002, more than 20 UMass Lowell students have been awarded the scholarship—including Trong Ngo.

“It’s such an honor,” says Ngo. “It pushes me to do my best work, and reminds me not to give up.” Growing up in a post-9/11 world has fueled his patriotism, he says, “and my desire to be part of something larger than myself. I want to help keep the world as peaceful as possible.”

Editor’s note: John Ogonowski ’72, ’03 was one of five UMass Lowell graduates who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001. The others are Douglas Goodell ’71, Robert Haney ’86, Brian Kinney ’95 and Christopher Zarba ’79, all of whom are honored in a memorial on UMass Lowell’s East Campus, along with family members Patrick Quigley and Jessica Leigh Sachs. Kinney’s employer, Price Waterhouse Coopers, endowed a scholarship fund in his memory, which has benefitted more than 30 UMass Lowell students.

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ALUMNI MAGAZINE: How has election polling changed with cellphones, the web and other technology?

JOSH DYCK: As you’d probably guess, 20 or 30 years ago everyone was doing their polling by phone. People were only just starting to use devices like caller ID or voicemail; they still didn’t have much of a way to not answer the phone. As a result, response rates were higher than they are today, and polling results were generally more accurate. Since then, the world has gotten a lot more complicated. Most people today use cellphones, and response rates on them are much lower, even on landlines they’ve lowered over the years. Overall, the typical response rate we’re getting today is between 10 and 15 percent. So achieving good samples is harder than it used to be, and more expensive.

AM: How do you compensate for this?

JD: One way some polls lower cost is by getting rid of live interviewers, using automated machines instead—robo-callers—and doing shorter polls. Another method is to conduct your polls online. The gold standard, though, is still to use live interviewers, and to do the poll by phone on both cell and landline.

AM: How do you get the cell numbers you call, since they’re not published lists?

JD: Actually, they are. Pollsters get them the same way marketers do—people put their information on everything they buy, and companies collect that data, which they sell.

AM: How do you know you’re calling the right people?

JD: One way is just to use what we call random-digit dialing, where you’re not controlling whom you call. The other way, for election polling, is to make calls from registered-voter lists.

AM: Which method does the Center use?

JD: We use random-digit dialing on pretty much all our calls. The problem with relying on voter lists is that you tend to miss the effect of “shocks”—something that happens, as it often does, the polls can actually put upward pressure on turnout.

AM: In your view, over the last several election cycles, what poll results have been best and worst at predicting outcome?

JD: I’m going to give you a real non-answer: there’s no single poll that’s as good as the overall polling average. Statistics tell us this: the average of all the well-conducted polls will almost always hit the nail on the head. You can get those averages at RealClearPolitics.com or the Huffington Post. As for the weaker polls, I’m not going to name any names, but generally the least reliable ones are those using automated voice responses as opposed to live interviewers.

AM: Based on what you see in the polls, who’s your pick in November?

JD: History tells us that there are three basic pieces of data that can throw some real light on the question: (1) the president’s approval rating going into the election; (2) the country’s economic growth rate and (3) the poll averages following both conventions. I’d say the president’s approval rating, which is OK at this point, probably gives an edge to Clinton; on the growth rate factor, which is just barely OK, I might give a slight advantage to Trump. This is a weird election in a lot of ways. To start with, you’ve got the two least popular major-party candidates ever. Then you have Hillary’s scandal issues—a big trust factor—and, in Trump, a candidate who poses a huge question mark: not only are his negatives off the charts, but how do you deal with his seeming inability to stay out of those skirmishes he keeps getting into over race or gender or whatever. From a campaign strategist’s perspective, it’s difficult to figure out what to do with this guy to get him to 50 percent of the vote.

AM: So if you had to call it...

JD: At this point, if we were handicapping the race, given Trump’s issues I’d have to say Clinton’s the favorite. But I wouldn’t predict her winning because Trump’s a total wildcard, which could produce some really crazy swings. A big part of the answer is going to lie in turnout. Who’s more disinclined to vote: the Republicans with Trump, or the Democrats—particularly that Bernie Sanders wing—with Hillary? At this point, there’s just no way of knowing.

I will say this: right now [in early September], it looks like Clinton is up by about 7–8 percentage points, which does make her about a 4-to-1 favorite to win the presidency if we go strictly by the numbers. Trump has also not shown a willingness or ability to moderate his campaign, reach out to centrist voters who are suspicious of both candidates, or put together an effective ground campaign in swing states to get out the vote.

By the numbers, Clinton is a favorite, but she’s probably an even bigger favorite because the Trump campaign is not demonstrating the discipline necessary to turn out every vote. This is certainly a strange election.

THE POLLSTER:

Trump, Clinton and the Business of Predicting

— BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS —

JOSH DYCK’S ELECTION ANALYSIS and views on polling have been featured in The New York Times, Time, Reuters, ESPN The Magazine, the Globe and Mail and countless other media outlets. He also happens to be an associate professor of political science at UMass Lowell, as well as co-director of the university’s Center for Public Opinion, where he leads national polls on topics ranging from sports-related concussions to federal elections. For the past two years, he has served as well as pollster for Boston’s WHDH-TV, an NBC affiliate. We asked him to give us an inside look at the upcoming elections—and more specifically, the seemingly insurmountable business of voter polling. (It’s likely that some of his views and predictions on the November election, by the time you read them here, may already have been upstaged by events).
From Aerosmith to Zappa, from Dylan to Drake to the Dead. Those musicians and countless others have performed at UMass Lowell over the years, their music becoming part of the soundtrack of college for students lucky enough to snag a ticket.

Some shows were legendary...
he Kinks left a recorded legacy of their UMass Lowell concert. A little-known Tom Waits opened for Frank Zappa at Costello Gymnasium, Pearl Jam’s Eddie Vedder serenaded a capacity crowd in Cumnock Hall, Aerosmith and Cheech & Chong got racy in live interviews on the campus radio station. Taking Heads were rendered powerless and the Grateful Dead melted the ice at the Forum hockey rink in Billerica.

And the shows go on. Since UMass Lowell took over the Tsongas Center in February, 2010, dozens of concert tours have pulled through, including Drake, the 1975, Katy Perry and Bob Dylan.

In one of those performances he selected from dozens of bidding colleges, Billy Joel used story and song to commandeer Durgin Hall on Dec. 14, 2011 to serve up a two-hour master class.

There is more to come, including Schoolboy Q and Bob Dylan.

Continued

The venue was not designed for concerts—it was home ice for the university’s hockey team in addition to year-round community skating—but it would do for the university-sponsored show.

“So when the band came to play, the ice was covered,” says McNally from San Francisco. “Apparently, not very well. And certainly not affectively.”

Typically, lighting is hanging from the ceiling of concert venues.

“Typically, lighting is hanging from the ceiling of concert venues. For whatever reason they did not do that in Billerica,” says McNally, “I don’t know.”

The lights were stacked on a truss that sat on the plywood covering the ice.

“And as the show progressed,” says McNally, “the ice under the truss melted. They were playing a rock and roll concert and the lights began to sway. And when the lights are glaring down at you when they aren’t supposed to be, this creates some anxiety. So there was considerable concern onstage that night. That may be what people heard in the music.”

RIDING DYLAN’S WAVE

Bob Dylan brought his Rolling Thunder Revue to Costello Gym in November 1975, a storied show among fans and alumni who saw it. The highly anticipated tour featured a ragtag band including Joan Baez, Roger McGuinn, T-Bone Burnett and others.

Tony Janeczek ‘76, ’86 (electrical engineering, computer science) recalls the buzz that swirled on campus in advance of the show. He was in a buddy’s dorm room when a Student Activities committee member walked in and said, “We’re in front of Cumnock Hall at 8 a.m. Monday.”

He was. Tickets for the Dylan show were sold from a bus.

“It sold out quick,” he recalls.

“It was general admission and people started lining up that morning. We got there in the afternoon, and when the doors opened, you just sort of rode in on the crowd, like a wave. Great show.”

HEADS, INTERRUPTED

When Talking Heads took the stage at the Forum in 1983 they opened with their hit “Psycho Killer.” Six songs later, the building’s power blew, forcing the band to hit pause. Eventually, the show continued with a second set of 12 songs and the encore, “Life During Wartime.” Laura Dyer ’87 (computer science) recalls the joy of having easy access to live music.

“I remember being so excited that music was right on campus. I loved going to concerts and eventually served for two years on the student activities committee. Having concerts on campus meant there was something to do right there. All you had to do was walk across the street.”

Other performers to hit campus during the ’80s included Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Joan Jett & The Blackhearts, Squeeze, “TIl Tuesday and Huey Lewis & The News. Hip-hop legions Run DMC were among the performers on campus in the ’90s.

PEARL WHO?

Rachel Chandler ’95 was studying sociology when Pearl Jam blew through a 75-minute set in Cumnock Hall in April 1992. Seattle, and grunge, were about to explode and Pearl Jam was on the brink of stardom.

“And I had no idea who they were,” Chandler says. “I was not a Pearl Jam fan. I was probably listening to show tunes and my boyfriend at the time lead hair bands.
I stood way in the back, much more interested in the social aspect of it.

DON’T BOGART THAT MIC!
Cheech & Chong rolled through Cumnock Hall in 1972 with their edgy, stoned humor. A member of the WLTI campus radio station talked the duo into visiting the studio for a post-performance interview, to the surprise of the student disc jockey.

“Cheech & Chong just took control and hammered the interviewer. The DJ was inexperienced and it was hilarious,” says Nick Fountas ’75 (plastics engineering), who worked at the station, including a stint as music director.

Janeczek remembers it was not particularly funny to Dean of Students Leo King. “He called the station and said, ‘We’ve got to talk.’”

Similarly, a year later, Aerosmith played a show at Costello Gym following the release of their first album. A live interview on WLTI featured a slew of seriously off-color puns and juvenile humor, recalls Janeczek.

“And we got another call from Dean King.”

WORKING OUT THE KINKS
Then there was The Kinks, who played a university-sponsored show at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium in March 1979.

“You never knew how good the sound would be when an act played the LMA,” says Dean Johnson, a freelance writer and radio host. “But the Kinks were clearly on fire the night UMass brought them in.”

So hot that the band included two classics from that evening—“Where Have All the Good Times Gone” and the blazing “You Really Got Me”—on its live double LP, “One for the Road.”

Fountas says during his time on campus, the shows were memorable despite the challenges of often being held in a gym, general admission seating and less-than-perfect acoustics.

“Enthusiasm carried the experience and we had some great acts come in,” he says.

He recalled Zappa’s November 1973 show at Costello Gym as, “His free-jazz work, amazingly complex stuff. Either you let it flow over you or you didn’t like it.”

“Frank Zappa didn’t need to come to Lowell but they got him, and it was right here on campus. You didn’t have to go to Boston.”
Maybe you’re an accountant, or a chemical engineer. Perhaps you take care of the elderly, or teach high school Spanish or manage an IT team. Whatever the field, imagine that you’re applying for a new position. Naturally, you speculate about your competition: Will they have more experience, better references, a lower price tag?

It’s less likely, presumably, that you wonder if the other job candidate’s brain is controlled by a computer. But maybe you should.

Two-thirds of Americans polled by the Pew Research Center in 2015 said they believe robots and computers will do “much” of the work currently done by humans within 50 years. In many industries, it’s already happening. For decades, robots have been fixtures on factory assembly lines. Many of the tasks done by travel agents, bank tellers, cashiers, toll-takers and librarians—to name just a handful of fields—have been taken over in recent years by the cost-effective convenience of self-scanners, ATMs and the internet.

Surgical robots are regularly used in operations on hard tissues (like bone), and a recent study at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., revealed that a supervised autonomous robot could also successfully perform more challenging soft-tissue surgery. In Japan, robots are cooking and serving meals in restaurants; and on many Royal Caribbean cruises, they’ll mix you up a fresh margarita. Meanwhile, companies like Tesla, Google, Uber and Ford are developing “fully autonomous” cars that they say will be available to consumers by 2021.

And if UMass Lowell researchers have their way, robots will allow us to one day live on Mars.

Despite all this, most people like to believe their profession will always be immune to automation; 80 percent of the same respondents in the Pew study believe their own jobs will still exist in their current forms in 50 years.

“Just what’s happened with technology over the years. We don’t make buggy whips anymore, right? If robots are now doing jobs that people used to do, like picking and placing goods in an e-commerce situation, well, now we need people to build the robots and program the robots and take care of the robots,” says computer science Assoc. Prof. Ben Liu. One of only four of its kind in the world, the 6-foot-2, 300-pound humanoid robot named Valkyrie was entrusted to the university’s New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation Center by NASA.

TIME TO LEARN SOME NEW SKILLS

The good news is you probably don’t need to dust off your résumé just yet. But experts across the university agree that rapid, oncoming advances in artificial intelligence and machine learning will continue to revolutionize the role of robots in the workplace, changing life as we know it.

“It’s not that we won’t have jobs; we’ll just see a shift,” says computer science Prof. Holly Yanco (at right), director of the NERVE Center and founder of the UMass Lowell Robotics Lab. “Look what’s happened with technology over the years. We don’t make buggy whips anymore, right? If robots are now doing jobs that people used to do, like picking and placing goods in an e-commerce situation, well, now we need people to build the robots and program the robots and take care of the robots.”

Computer science Assoc. Prof. Ben Liu sees three driving forces behind the robot revolution. The first is advances in machine-learning algorithms, the “brains” of a robot that are designed to adapt through an endless process of trial and error, teaching them how to navigate a world beyond traditional computer programming. The second is the explosion of big data from across the globe, and the third is exponential improvements in computation power to crunch all this data.

One of only four of its kind in the world, the 6-foot-2, 300-pound humanoid robot named Valkyrie was entrusted to the university’s New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation Center by NASA.
NASA's deputy manager for robotics research—Kimberly Hambuchen, I've ever seen.”

Conveniently enough for UMass Lowell, the three biggest robot test facilities in the country—located just two miles from the campus center, developers and R&D resources. Developers also for the region’s leading robotic companies, academic research labs and policy makers. Rather than operate in silos in the race to build a better robot, the Robotics Cluster encourages companies to take advantage of the area’s wealth of world-class universities and R&D resources.

BIG BOT ON CAMPUS

The NERVE Center is the most incredible robot test-bed area I’ve ever been to,” says Yanco. “It’s like Roomba vacuums and bomb-disposal units used by law enforcement, are another type growing in popularity, designed to do jobs deemed too dull or dangerous for humans. There are the more complex collaborative robots, or “co-bots,” which are designed to work autonomously alongside humans in settings of offices from hospitals to stores to farms. Or, in the case of Valkyrie, on Mars.

Developed by NASA’s Robonaut program, Valkyrie has become a campus celebrity since arriving at the NERVE Center in April, showing the capabilities of all of its Boston news outlets, as well as nationally from the Associated Press, the History Channel and National Geographic. One look at the 6-foot-2, 300-pound RS (Valkyrie as technically known) and it’s easy to understand the fascination. With a gloss-white frame highlighted by gold trim, a 15-minute drive from campus, Brooks Automation in Chelmsford, Amazon Robotics in North Reading and Robot in Bedford.

“We’re developing a real robot ecosystem in the area,” says Yanco, co-chair of the Mass Technology Leadership Council Robotics Cluster, which was formed in 2005 to spur industry growth through knowledge-sharing and relationship-building among the region’s leading robotic companies, academic research labs and policy makers. Rather than operate in silos in the race to build a better robot, the Robotics Cluster encourages companies to take advantage of the area’s wealth of world-class universities and R&D resources.

“It’s amazing to have Valkyrie here,” says Yanco, who is leading a team of more than a dozen student researchers from UMass Lowell, in collaboration with Northeastern University over the next two years to teach Valkyrie how to walk, manipulate objects and understand the world around her. “She falls sometimes, but we’re learning to program her to walk better and balance better.”

Valkyrie is actually a quadruped—her three sisters reside at MIT, the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston. Chen says that having one of four Valkyries in the world here on campus is a coup for the university. “Everyone can appreciate going to Mars,” she says. “It’s helpful in getting people to appreciate and understand science and technology.”

So Valkyrie arrived on campus, the NERVE team has been painstakingly fine-tuning the algorithms that control her balance and motor functions, slowly teaching her to walk. “It definitely makes me appreciate the machine,” says Jordan Allspaw, an undergrad computer science major who spent two weeks in January at the Johnson Space Center learning how to train and maintain an RS. “Computer science graduate student Carlos Ibarra Lopez, who in 2013 was part of the UMass Lowell “Rover Hawk” team that won NASA’s Robonaut competition in April, says that working on a groundbreaking project like Valkyrie is as thrilling as it is challenging.

“Valkyrie looks like a life-size ‘Star Wars’ action figure. Of course, it’s all artificial intelligence. The space agency hopes she’s the prototype for a next-generation version that will travel to Mars and pave the way for human exploration on the Red Planet.”

Before Valkyrie version 2.0 can set foot on the Red Planet, Valkyrie version 1.0 must learn how to walk in Lowell.

It’s been 40 years since NASA successfully landed its first spacecraft, Viking 1, on Mars. Since then, there have been a half-dozen more missions to send “rovers” to explore the Red Planet, including the most recent six-wheeled Curiosity rover that touched down in 2012. NASA has begun transmitting selfies back to Earth that looked like they could have been taken in the Dear, and not leave a trace.

One of the instruments on Curiosity is ChemCam, a laser that it shoots at rocks and soil to see if they have been altered by water and contain chemicals necessary for life. Naukulliit M. Khuljuk, the new dean of UMass Lowell’s Kennedy College of Sciences, is a member of the NASA ChemCam team—and is now part of a team working on a Supercam that will be used in the space agency’s planned Mars 2020 rover mission.

“Supercam will quickly tell scientists what rocks on Mars are made of,” says Meekhij, who previously served as dean of mathematics, natural sciences and technology at Delaware State University. “About 4 billion years ago, the conditions for habitability, including flowing water, did exist on Mars. What happened since? Where did the water go? What is the habitability situation on Mars today? Answers to these questions may help us better understand the state of our planet.”

Even though NASA already has several laser-shooting rovers scouring the Red Planet to study its atmosphere and geology, there’s still a long way to go, and many obstacles to overcome, before human astronauts can make the trip. For starters, there’s literally a long way to go. The average distance between Earth and Mars is 140 million miles (depending on where they are in their orbits around the sun). The journey to Mars will be one of the most arduous things astronauts have ever been in space for that duration, and there are serious potential health risk implications with extended stays in microgravity and the exposure to space radiation outside of low Earth orbit. And then there’s the issue of weight. It’s one of the harder things to bring on a 400-pound rover to Mars aboard a spacecraft in a single launch. So Valkyrie’s design is to send several astronauts, along with the equipment and supplies necessary for an extended mission, aboard a spacecraft that would also need enough fuel to return home. And then the catch-22: The heaver the payload, the more fuel is needed to propel it back home.

That’s where Valkyrie comes in. If NASA can develop humanoid robots like her to the point where they can travel to Mars and build a habitat ahead of time, then the mission becomes much more feasible. Robots like Valkyrie could even work alongside astronauts on Mars, using the same tools and handling tasks that are too dangerous for humans.

It’s so expensive to send equipment into space, if you can use the same equipment they’re sending up for astronauts, that’s a big cost savings,” says computer science Prof. Holly Yanco, director of the NERVE Center. “Even though it’s harder to control a humanoid robot’s balance, NASA wants it to look like an astronaut and do the things that they’re already sending into space for the astronauts.”

So Valkyrie will be put through her paces for the next year on the NERVE Center’s test courses, gradually taking on different terrain like sand, gravel, ramps and steps. Yanco and her team will also validate the autonomous skills needed on a space mission, such as exiting an airlock or collecting rock samples.

And it’s all planned, two decades from now a descendant of Valkyrie will be taking a giant leap for robotkind on Mars.—EB
**SOPHISTICATED SENSORS**
As part of the Carnegie Robotics MultiSense SL sensor package, a pair of video cameras on Valkyrie’s head allows for 3-D viewing (with the help of four sets of LED lights for illumination). Another pair of cameras mounted on the robot’s abdomen provides the operator a second set of eyes. Behind the dark visor, a spinning lidar system scans laser scanning to survey and map Valkyrie’s surroundings at high resolution, allowing her to navigate safely around hazards and obstacles. The NASA emblem on Valkyrie’s chest is a color-coded status indicator that alerts people when the robot or its motors are running or on standby.

**HIGH-TECH BACKPACK**
The backpack contains a 2-kilo-watt-hour rechargeable battery to power the robot’s sensors and motors as well as a fast vehicular network for transmitting data. The backpack also houses Valkyrie’s “brain”—two Intel Core i7 COM Express processors loaded with Ubuntu Linux and custom control software. One computer is used for low-level functions like controlling joint movements, while the other is for high-level functions like processing data from the robot’s array of sensors.

**PROTECTIVE ARMOR**
Valkyrie’s fitted panels of fabric-wrapped foam armor on her body and arms, and polymer covers for her legs are designed to protect the robot’s critical joints, sensors, and electronics from impact should the fall or get hit by an object. Holes in the hard plastic covers help reduce weight and provide ventilation for the motors.

**Humanlike Anatomy**
Valkyrie’s motorized and articulated hands, wrists, elbows, shoulders, neck, waist, hips, knees, and ankles have a total of 64 degrees of freedom (e.g., rotational movements), giving the robot the dexterity to operate tools and conduct a wide variety of duties and experiments. These autonomy skills will help her perform tasks in future planetary exploration missions—such as descending a ladder to reach the Martian surface, collecting rock samples and helping to build permanent bases on the Moon and Mars.

**ONE STEP AT A TIME**
Valkyrie’s feet are equipped with pressure sensors to keep the robot upright and steady. The sensors also assist her in maintaining balance while walking on uneven terrain or climbing a star.

**Bionic Legs**
Valkyrie’s legs and ankles contain motors that control rotational and linear movement and walking. Her legs and arms are both removable, with a quick, mechanical and electrical disconnect between the first two joints that allows for easy transport and servicing. Valkyrie’s limbs are designed to operate independently. They are also engineered to be interchangeable and easily fixed—a damaged arm or leg can be quickly replaced with a new one, or, if needed, the left limb can even be replaced with the right limb, or vice versa, since they are built identically.
on her chest plate to communicate some basic concepts and interact with those around her.

“This is a very broad range of human-robot interaction, which I find very interesting to think about,” Yanco says. “For less-capable robots, the interaction could be using a joystick to control a bomb disposal robot. If you’re talking Valleyly on Mars, the interaction is a little different. It might have to sand messages back to NASA saying it’s having trouble. One of my grad students is running a survey on the internet to see what icons people could look at and say, ‘I understand it means the robot needs help.’”

And then there’s the question of how Valleyly, or any autonomous robot, can best communicate with people around them who aren’t familiar with them. Yanco says the impending proliferation of self-driving cars as the most obvious example of this problem.

“When we cross the street we make eye contact with the driver of a car. What do you do with an autonomous car? There’s no one to make eye contact with. How do you know it’s safe and they recognize that you’re there?” she says. “As more and more autonomous systems are deployed, we need to understand what they’re doing. Are they moving? Are they not moving? Can we get near them? Should we not get near them?”

In addition to studying this human-robot interaction and validating the autonomous skills that Valleyly would need for deep-space missions, Yanco and her team are helping NASA develop test courses for the 2017 Space Robotics Challenge, in which teams from around the country will control a virtual Valleyly through a series of tasks.

“There aren’t many other places in the world where I could be working with a robot like this,” Lopez says.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Earlier this year, researchers and academics, including Sociology Department Chair and Assc. Prof. Mignon Duffy, gathered at Mount Holyoke College for a conference on “The Future of Jobs: The Dual Challenges of Globalization and Robotization.” Duffy’s research focuses on care work such as health care, child care and education, one of the fastest growing sectors of the labor market.

“It’s also one of the most resistant to being fully automated, given the need for human responsiveness and relationships,” says Duffy, who is also associate director for the Center for Women and Work.

“The conference was specifically focused on work and workers, but I do think that is one of the major things we need to think about with the rise of artificial intelligence: How does this impact jobs as we know them? It has the potential to have a huge impact.”

While Duffy believes care jobs require “invisible pieces” such as human relationships and emotional responsiveness that even the most advanced robots just can’t imitate, she is concerned that the rise of artificial intelligence could change the way society thinks about those jobs as it is to care for others.

“If we don’t recognize it and value the important emotional and relational work that people like teachers and nurses do, could we then try to reduce their jobs to a series of tasks that could be automated?” she says. “In some ways automation is the next stage of standardization, if we think something can be standardized, broken down into a series of steps, then it can be automated.”

Looking 50 years down the road, Scott Latham, associate professor of management in the Manning School of Business, sees workplace automation creating an even wider socio-economic divide than exists today.

“There will be no more minimum-wage jobs. Robots will take over a lot of those jobs—everything from landscaping to working in restaurants to home care,” says Latham, who researches business strategy. “The jobs will be in industries like robotics and biotechnology, where higher knowledge workers are required. Unfortunately, that means there will be an even greater disparity in wealth.”

To counteract this disparity, Liu says that the workforce will simply need to adapt and keep learning new skills, just as it has always done when technology evolves.

“If I think we’re in a unique position at UMass Lowell,” Liu says, “because of our technology advances and lifelong learning and job training, to provide these opportunities.”
THE MANY HATS OF PROF. STEVE DRISCOLL

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

PROF. STEVE DRISCOLL '66, '72 was in Mumbai last January, teaching a class of 45 employees of the largest plastics firm in India. “I was on my feet all day,” he says, “from early in the morning until late at night, answering all the questions they had. By the end of the week, I think I learned as much as they did.”

He has been in India often over the last 10 years, too often to count. And in Taiwan, Israel, Japan, Germany, Mexico, France, Canada and England. Mostly he travels in the summer, or over semester breaks, when the classes he teaches in Lowell are in adjournment. And always, he says, “the best challenge is to learn about the students’ lives and work, to share in their teachers’ problems. And the more you learn about them, the more knowledge you bring back, the better it is for your students, I think.”

Driscoll has taught plastics engineering at UMass Lowell for 49 years. He spent another six before that, earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. To his students (to judge by a sampling of their online comments) he is “a great professor,” “very understanding and fun,” “full of knowledge and wisdom,” who “will go out of his way to help you with anything at all”—while to the university, which honored him earlier this year with its 2016 University Alumni Award, he is among the faculty’s most honored professors, with “an unwavering commitment to alumni engagement and student success.”

Certainly he is all of this. But maybe as much as anything, he is a worldwide ambassador for his school. It began more than 30 years ago, when he was first named a consulting fellow to the UN Industrial Development Organization and was sent abroad to teach in developing countries—most of which, like India, he says, were “strong emerging industrial countries” still new to modern technology, but “trying hard to catch the opportunity” afforded by plastics. Over the years, as those countries grew more prosperous and technologically advanced, and the university’s reputation grew apace, more and more of its students began arriving in Lowell. India today contributes more students to UMass Lowell than any other foreign country, a large percentage of them in the plastics engineering program.

But Prof. Driscoll doesn’t meet them all in person. Over the last 10 years, or so, as one of the authorship faculty advisers of online education, he has also been teaching web-based courses from his on-campus office—literally hundreds by now—to students from all over the globe.

“You don’t get the same intimacy you do in the classroom,” he says, “but you compensate by reaching people from all the countries, from all over the world. You watch people from different backgrounds, different cultures, getting to know each other, expanding their knowledge that way. It’s a wonderful thing to do.”

Often, he says, he will announce to his students well in advance of a semester’s final exam, that the exam is to be a “team effort” that will require the use of the class’s online discussion board.

“So they’re forced to interact with each other—all those students from all over the globe, working together to solve problems.”

Once, while teaching in India not long ago, he met a former student who, as it turned out, had been the first online student to earn a plastics engineering certificate from UMass Lowell, more than a decade before. “And he said he remembered that he’d taken two of the courses from me. He thanked me; he was so grateful. I’ll always remember that. It really reaffirmed my belief in the value of online education.”

Meanwhile, the students he teaches in foreign-based classrooms are more than matched by those who arrive in Lowell from all over the U.S. to study at summer—multi-day workshops featuring state-of-the-art labs and classroom instruction—taught by him and others: “Companies from all over the country and their employees. The department is in big demand with the plastics industry. We have a truly great reputation.”

His pride in the university clearly runs deep—it goes back a long way, and doesn’t stop with himself. Decades ago, not long after he’d earned his M.S. degree in early 1972, his wife Reese under- took her own pursuit of what would be the first of three degrees, in business and computer science, at what was then the Lowell Technological Institute. Her next two would be earned at UMass Lowell, the immediate predecessor to today’s university.

“It was a postdoctoral student loan for awhile,” he says. “And so committed to it. I remember being back in about 1975, when she was very, very pregnant—as large that the little desk in the classroom was jangling her in the stomach—but she was determined to finish before our son was born. As it turned out, I think she ended up with the highest GPA in the department.”

It didn’t take long before Driscoll started giving back to the university. “It was years ago,” he says, “and a bunch of us [in the department] just got together and decided that we’d each contribute something every year. We did that for a while. Then I just decided I wanted to do something on my own.”

The fund that resulted, the Stephen Burke Driscoll Scholarship Fund, to benefit UMass Lowell students of plastics engineering, is fully endowed today. But it was only the beginning.

Next came the Students of India Fund, underwritten, he says, by the honorarium he had been paid over the years for his teaching trips to that country. Then, 10 years ago, the Pi Lambda Pi Fraternity Fund was established; that was followed by the Ruth Dubey and Gail Sheehey Fund, honoring the department’s two administrative assistants, because, says Driscoll, “they’re the ones who hold it all together.” All four funds benefit plastics engineering students, and all are fully endowed, with at least $25,000 each.

Finally, last year, he made an opening contribution to a fifth fund, this one named for Chemistry Professor Emeritus William Bannister, who died August 2013 at the age of 86. He plans to put off retirement, he says, at least until this last fund is fully endowed. “Bill was a good man. I need to lower that commitment.”

“Steve Driscoll is more than an asset to this university,” says Chancellor Jacquie Moloney. “He’s a dynamic—yes—professor, an alumnus, a generous donor, and a representative of our campus worldwide. That’s an extraordinarily rare combination of roles.”

So what motivates him to donate, to continue to look for new people and causes to honor? He answers that question with one of his own. “How can you expect the students to support the university if the faculty won’t do it themselves? If you’re going to make a career here, you’ve got to have some skin in the game.”

His own investment—he, skin, if you will—goes far beyond the years he’s invested in the university’s growth. “Half of so many student groups, he confesses to being an adviser to the Thai Student Association. Over to several student societies within the engineering department, but also to the Pi Lambda Pi fraternity and the university’s International and Sorority Council. One of the roles he continues to play today is as adviser to the Thai Student Association.

“It’s a social sort of thing,” he says. “We go out to dinner together sometimes, everybody just gets to know each other. We have a lot of fun.”

Asked why it is that he seems to be a favorite of so many student groups, he confesses to being partial: “I really don’t know who,” he answers. “Maybe I’m just seen as approachable.”

It's a wonderful thing to see.
CESAR ARBOLEDA stands atop a hill overlooking row upon row of grapevines and takes in the view. It’s early summer, a perfect 10 of an afternoon, and the land is bursting in 50 shades of green. By his own admission, Arboleda ’96 doesn’t often stop to soak up the scenery, a winery and vineyard on 11 acres of rolling countryside in Amherst, N.H., that he and his wife Amy LaBelle opened four years ago. Most days Arboleda is too focused on the work at hand—bottling wine, meeting customers and overseeing sales, among his other responsibilities as cellar master—to take note of the lush setting. “If I stepped back and looked I would be amazed, but this is work. There are always things to do,” he says.

Located in southern New Hampshire, about 30 miles north of Lowell, LaBelle Winery has established itself not only as an award-winning producer of wine and gourmet products but also as a destination for weddings, corporate and community events, cooking classes and private functions. LaBelle produces 80,000 gallons of wine per year, and with an annual growth rate of 140 percent since opening in 2012, it is among the fastest growing wine producers in New England. Seven varieties of grapes are cultivated on site (LaBelle also purchases grapes and other fruit from local growers to supplement its harvest) and the winery produces 31 types of wine and counting. Its products are now sold in 300 stores in New Hampshire. The winery has a bistro and an art gallery and hosts tastings and events like weekly yoga classes in the vineyard.

Running a winery was never a career aspiration of Arboleda, who earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. The business was LaBelle’s vision—an idea she nurtured for years in her spare time while practicing corporate law. “This wasn’t my dream, but I am blessed to be a part of it,” Arboleda says. “I take satisfaction in helping Amy fulfill her dreams.”
Born in Medellin, Colombia, Arboleda attended public schools. His parents, who worked in Lowell’s factories, set an example of hard work for him and his two sisters. After graduating from Lowell High School, Arboleda enrolled at UMass Lowell, where he could walk to campus and the tuition was affordable enough that he could put himself through school. He had plans for a law enforcement career, but after graduation he took a different path when he applied for a temporary job at Sun Microsystems. It was 1996 and the tech business was booming. “My brother-in-law worked there and told me they needed part-time help at night. It was a way to make some money.”

A sign at the top of the hill bears the name and the notation: “Dedicated to the Pursuit of the American Dream.”

Arboleda recalls. The part-time position led to full-time work and then promotions. Before he knew it, he had a career in information technology. Next came a job in network security at Fidelity Investments. The money was good and he was good at the work. “I walked in and it hit me like a ton of bricks. This is what I should be doing,” she says. But with a mountain of law school debt, she wasn’t ready to make a radical move. “I think I found my calling doing this,” he says. “We create an experience.” He enjoys interacting with customers. One afternoon in June, his seventh grade teacher from Lowell’s Bartlett Community Partnership School came in for her annual visit to the winery’s bistro for lunch. Arboleda stopped by her table to chat. “I think I found my calling doing this,” he says. 

The couple is a model of perseverance. When they were looking for financing to build the winery, four banks turned down their loan application. In 2010, with the economy still shell-shocked from the Great Recession, credit was tight. Banks weren’t interested in taking a chance on a business that relied on growing grapes in New England’s unpredictable climate. The couple persisted and finally, Enterprise Bank in Lowell gave them the green light. In recognition of their success, the bank honored them with its 2016 Entrepreneurs of the Year Award.

For LaBelle and Arboleda, that pursuit unfolds every day, on events at the winery. “We make them fall in love with us,” he says. “We create an experience.”

Arboleda left Fidelity in 2008 to devote his time to the business and LaBelle quit her job there in 2012 when the winery opened. Now, LaBelle makes the wine and oversees product development, branding and marketing and business development while Arboleda is responsible for bottling, sales and customer relations. His approach from the start has been “one customer at a time.”

Tina ‘11, ‘13 and Luke ‘11 Orlando received thousands of calls from people all over the country looking to do the same. After the tiny house they designed outside of Portland, Ore., was featured on “Tiny House Nation,” engineering alumni Tina ‘11, ‘13 and Luke ‘11 Orlando received thousands of calls from people all over the country looking to do the same. Read their story on Page 58.

LIVING SMALL
After the tiny house they designed outside of Portland, Ore., was featured on “Tiny House Nation,” engineering alumni Tina ‘11, ‘13 and Luke ‘11 Orlando received thousands of calls from people all over the country looking to do the same.

Read their story on Page 58.
Alfred Jacobs ’56 spent four years at Lowell State College on the GI Bill, then went on to teach music, first in Massachusetts, then for 22 years in St. Croix. These days, he follows the sun. At 92, Alfred Jacobs ’56

Looking Back at 100

In December 1936, six months before Betty Keller ’37 graduated from Lowell State Teachers College, the heir to the British throne, Edward, VIII, captivated the world with his announcement that he would renounce his birthright to marry a divorced American socialite. On the day of Edward’s abdication speech, Betty remembers, her science professor “listened to the speech spellbound.”

“Really,” she says, “that was a joyful day for me because I thought I was headed for a career in teaching and had a huge crush on my science instructor.”

It was a lovely ride along the Merrimack.”

Betty Keller ’37 graduated from Lowell State Teachers College, the heir to the British throne, Edward VIII, in 1936. She married the man she loved after he renounced his birthright to marry her. They bought a radio to share the moment with their students.

“Without the woman he loved beside him,” writes Keller, “he would renounce his birthright to marry a divorced American socialite. Betty remembers, her science professor “listened to the speech spellbound.”

“It was a time when women who had won the right to vote less than a generation before, had limited options in life. Some, perhaps most, chose to marry, for those who didn’t, writers Betty, the choices were basically three: ‘teacher, nurse or secretary. There are many more choices today.’

She recalls other differences as well. “Living in Baltimore during World War II, I saw black people denied access to department stores above the first floor. Traveling south by train once, I remember seeing a black woman being told to move to a segregated car when the train reached Washington, D.C.”

She marvels at today’s technological advances—especially “the cell phones that allow people to stay in touch and be so much safer”—and the ease and speed of transportation. “But there were blessings to be had too, she writes, in her era’s slower pace of things: “In 1936, I remember seeing a sleeveless dress with a neat string of (what else?) pearls cascading from her collar. For a portrait, George in his crisp U.S. Navy service dress khakis and Pearl in a beautiful street dress, across the Merrimack River from the Lowell Technological Institute. They sat for a portrait, George in his crisp U.S. Navy service dress khakis and Pearl in a beautiful sleeveless dress with a neat string of (what else?) pearls cascading from her collar. It was the couple’s most treasured photo of themselves—and one they thought they’d lost forever when a small fire broke out at their Rhode Island home in the early 1960s.

“George spent his entire career with the company and still lives in the same house. Every Wednesday he makes the 80-mile drive up to Lowell to have lunch with his old friends.”

He was named to associate with George. After he finished his bachelor’s degree, and before the Navy shipped him off to the Korean War, they got married in July 1952. Upon earning his master’s degree in 1958, George took a job as technical service rep at Kafth & Swanson (now ACF/Internat Sales) in Wilmington, Mass., selling paint to the costume jewelry industry. The company moved him to Barrington, R.I., in 1960, where he and Pearl raised two sons, Richard and Michael. George spent his entire career with the company and still lives in the same house. Every Wednesday he makes the 80-mile drive up to Lowell to have lunch with his old friends. The special presentation at the O’Leary Learning Center opened an attic door of memories. Born in Manlius, N.Y., in 1930, he recalled moving to Lowell at age 6 after losing both his parents in a two-year span. Scagos and his two siblings lived with their aunt and uncle and their seven cousins. First in the Acre neighborhood and then Pawtucketville; Scagos remembered going to a friends house where he was around 13 and seeing his friend’s older sister, who was around 16. It was Pearl.

I said, ‘My goodness, how come I never saw her before?’” Scagos recalled. “He said, ‘She’s shy. She doesn’t associate with people.’

After several years of persistence, Pearl finally agreed to associate with George. After he finished his bachelor’s degree, and before the Navy shipped him off to the Korean War, they got married in July 1952. Upon earning his master’s degree in 1958, George took a job as technical service rep at Kafth & Swanson (now ACF/Internat Sales) in Wilmington, Mass., selling paint to the costume jewelry industry. The company moved him to Barrington, R.I., in 1960, where he and Pearl raised two sons, Richard and Michael. George spent his entire career with the company and still lives in the same house. Every Wednesday he makes the 80-mile drive up to Lowell to have lunch with his old friends. The special presentation at the O’Leary Learning Center opened an attic door of memories. Born in Manlius, N.Y., in 1930, he recalled moving to Lowell at age 6 after losing both his parents in a two-year span. Scagos and his two siblings lived with their aunt and uncle and their seven cousins. First in the Acre neighborhood and then Pawtucketville; Scagos remembered going to a friends house where he was around 13 and seeing his friend’s older sister, who was around 16. It was Pearl.

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Michael J. Morin, who received a baccalaureate in 1976, is currently president and chief executive officer of Immunex, a biotech startup in Seattle, Washington. He has spent over 25 years in pharmaceutical research and development, overseeing immunology, anti-bacterials and cancer drug discovery. Michael is a member of the scientific advisory board of the Children's Tumor Foundation and therapeutics review panel, chair of the Drug Discovery and Development committee. His work includes the discovery of immune system checkpoint molecules used in immunotherapy cancer treatments.

25 YEARS OF CLASS NOTES

FALL 2016

2016

Register for your 35th Reunion during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 21-22 by visiting alumni.uml.edu/Reunion2016.

1980

Lawrence F. Broderick was recently named senior vice president of business banking at First National Bank. Lawrence joined the business banking team in 2013 with a particular focus on the municipal segment. He resides in Londonderry, N.H.

1979

David J. Calvo is a woodcarver, sculptor and painter. He was featured in the Gloucester Times for his wood carving signing for the Brass Monkey on Main Street.

1981

Richard S. Danaforth has been named CEO of San Diego-based IIRAD Corp., the world’s largest provider of acoustic hailing devices and advanced mass notification systems. Richard has over 30 years of defense and aerospace industry experience including executive leadership positions with two of the world’s largest defense contractors, Boeing Company and DRS Technologies Inc.

Stephen J. McWhirter was awarded a patent, inspired by his 1984 patent in his access management system.

1983

Stephen J. Churchill and his wife, Theresa (Young) Churchill, have moved back to their home state of New Hampshire. After 33 years working in the engineering industry in Los Angeles, Calif., they are happy to be enjoying the retired life.

1984

American Farmer

By Geoffrey Douglas

Dave and Caroline Owens started out in the mid-1980s, pretty much like a lot of other couples: looking for a home and some land they could afford. They looked first in Massachusetts, when there was nothing there—"We couldn’t find anything even close to our price range," says Dave ‘84—they moved the search north to New Hampshire. Finally, in Pelham, they found an old house on 13 acres of land. The idea at first was just to raise a few sheep. "We certainly weren’t on any sort of mission to start a farm," says Dave, who earned his UMass B.S. in engineering and was working at the time in the computer field. But then 13 acres in Pelham became 112 acres in central Pennsylvania. The livestock population expanded from sheep to horses and pigs, as well as chickens, turkeys, working border collies and an apiary for honeybees. Over time, even the function of the place widened: Owens Farm today is not only a conventional farm, but also a kind of agricultural theme park and learning center that attracts visitors from all over the world.

You can bring your kids for an overnight "farm stay," a week of "sheep camp" (halter training, wool making, lamb thick and fast). For curious adults and farmers-to-be, there are lambing clinics, farm tours and a "Pastured Pork Day." The lambs’ fleece and the bees’ honey are both for sale, of course, as are the sheep and lambs themselves. What makes it all possible, and keeps it working, says Dave, are the "complementary skill sets" of the Owens family. Caroline, a former vocational agriculture teacher who has also worked in marketing communications, "is very good with animals," he says, as well as the marketing end of things. Their daughter, Melissa, a lover of all things equine, takes care of the horses. "And I’m in charge of maintenance, of anything that breaks," as well as the poultry and bees. "A farm is a system of parts you have to put together," says Dave, who left a job at Hewlett-Packard in the mid-90s but still does some consulting online. "And the engineering training I got at UMass helped give me the confidence to make it all happen."

Scott D. Cleveland has published a new recording entitled “Short Pieces for Solo Piano.” Scott, a pianist, singer, composer and jazz piano teacher, has served as a lecturer at the University of Maine-Augusta since 1972. After earning a bachelor’s degree from the Berklee College of Music in 1976, he earned a master’s degree in music theory and composition at the University of Lowell in 1983 and a master of divinity degree from Boston College School of Theology in 1994. Continued on p. 12.
From TV Land: Alumna Tracks the Tastes of a Nation of Viewers

When “Once Upon a Time,” ABC-TV's fantasy series, premiered in the fall of 2011, the country, still beleaguered from the effects of the worst recession in decades, badly needed an escape. And the show, provided one: People by foye-sex charac- ters living in a vialt under a lice from an evil queen, it drew over 12 million viewers. Today, four years into its run, the show still attracts a sizable audience, and remains one of ABC’s top series.

“People were feeling stressed, they needed some social escape,” she says. “Elizabeth Sloan ’94, senior vice president of consumer insights for ABC Entertainment, ABC Studios and ABC News. “It’s important, always, to pay close attention to the country’s mood.”

For years as manager of an ABC lab, and in her role as associate director of social media and demand generation for the market-leading XenApp and XenDesktop products.

Richard E. LaBianca has been appointed chief engineer at Howard Stein Hudson, transportation company based in Roslindale, MA. He has more than 30 years as a consultant in workers’ compensa- tion insurance.

Debra Willard-Waltz was named safety management consultant by the MEMIC Group, leading specialist in workers’ compen- sation insurance. Debra has an extensive career experience with 10 years of experience in workers’ compen- sation specialties and the consumer end of things.

At the end table, University Relations staff officer Sheila Eppolito was doing the same with her husband, Larry, and daughters Grace, Rose and Sophie. They all started talking, and Eppolito and Shah quickly bond- ed at the Plant since it was under construction in 1995. Kathleen has worked for recycling, generating electric- ity energy-from-waste compa- nies, including Carpenter's Hall of Fame in 2010. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire, where he has worked for over 30 years. Making his last sibling, Kimberly Eppolito. She then called the executive director of the UMass Lowell office of Information Technology.

Cynthia R. Bresnahan recently joined Sunrice Labs, a medical device development company in Auburn, NH, as director of mechanical design and development. She is also a member of the UMass Lowell advisory board of mechanical engineering.

Douglas J. Brown recently joined Sunrice Labs, a medical device development company in Auburn, NH, as director of mechanical design and development. He is also a member of the UMass Lowell advisory board of mechanical engineering.

Eric Renick was appointed vice president and chief technology officer at West Pharmaceutical Services.

Yan Yang ’98, ’02 is the Carec and Lawrence E. Tan’s, Jr., chair in engineering at the UCLA, a faculty position in chemistry and liberal studies.

Masse ’16, for graduating from Masse ‘16, for graduating from the University of Washington.

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Class Notes

Open Class of 1995

SRT Grad Wins Daytime Emmy

Matt Pavolitz ’95 thought his own good fortune might sink him. Not many folks get nominated for a Daytime Emmy Award, let alone two, in the same year. In the same category. Outstanding Original Song for a Drama Series. The UMass Lowell Sound Recording Technology graduate had two of the five nods, as composer of the songs “Lost in Time” and “Love’s Masterpiece” from the Lifetime movie “American Revolution.”

He landed the job. “The day I graduated, I flew to L.A. with a resume and three songs, and by the end of the day, I had a job.”

He has since become the new president of Springfield Technical Community College. John has served as vice president of academic affairs at Granite State Community College since 2005. Prior to arriving at MCC, John was an assistant dean at Granite State Community College in Concord, N.H. John holds an undergraduate degree in psychology and anthropology from St. Lawrence University, a master’s degree in commu- nication/social psychology from UMass Lowell and a PhD in education from the University of New Hampshire.

Close-Up of 1995

Cheryl Henry: Planning Menus, Building Buildings, Fighting Storms

“Follow your dream” is the oldest of old saws among graduation day mantras. And it’s all well and good if it works for you. But sometimes, as Cheryl Henry ’96 would be among the first to acknowledge, sometimes it just happens.

Twenty years later, midway through a career path that has embraced everything from government and politics to real estate and restaurant development—and has landed her today at the pinnacle of a hugely competitive industry—it seems clear that, sometimes, headlining off into the wind with a plan can work pretty well as a plan of its own.

Henry was recently named president of Florida-based Ruth’s Hospitality Group, the largest fine-dining company in the world, with 4,300 employees, $370 million in revenue and more than 140 restaurants worldwide, most of them in the U.S. “It’s a big job—mostly because it’s not one job but more like three,” says Henry. “I oversee everything to do with food, I also run the real estate division,”—negotiating new locations, overseeing the building of new restaurants—and “HR reports to me.”

What does a “Cowboy Ribeye” (a 22-ounce, perfectly marbled cut) of steak have to do with building restaurants or a career in Denver? The answer to the question, or at least part of it, may lie in a look back at where Henry has been along the way: a succession of career moves that combine, almost perfectly, the skills and interests that define her job.

Her first stop after graduation, leveraging her political science degree, was as public information officer for Henry County, S.C., home base of Myrtle Beach—which where she honed her people skills putting the best face on things, including a devastating hurricane, Floyd, in the fall of 1999, that put the county under 18 inches of water. Later came a stint with NRA, the nation’s largest fine-dining company, and the Prostate Cancer Foundation in 2015. Henry earned a master’s degree in education studies from Rivier College in Nashua, and holds certi- fications as a special education teacher, and as a school principal.

Continued on P. 56

Register for your 25th Reunion during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 21-22 by visiting alumni.uml.edu/reunion16.

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Continued on P. 56

Register for your 25th Reunion during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 21-22 by visiting alumni.uml.edu/reunion16.
Dave Casey has been named All-Star Boys Track & Field coach of the year by the All-star Boys Track & Field Systems in Nashua, N.H., as the coach of the year for the F-35 Lightning II Program. Casey is also the operations program manager for the F-35 Lightning II Program. His team includes a former star of Florida State University and a former All-American athlete from the University of Southern California. Casey is married to Gretchen Rose Mullins and they have a new family with their daughter, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Maj. General M. D. W. McEachern. The college sweethearts met in 2008 and they have been married for 10 years. Casey is currently active in 12 communities and helps fight the epidemic of addiction in Lowell. He is currently serving as a member of the board of directors at the Employee Assistance Foundation in Lowell. He is the current president of the Employee Assistance Foundation in Lowell and has been with the foundation for 10 years. He is currently serving as the president of the Employee Assistance Foundation in Lowell and has been with the foundation for 10 years. He is currently serving as the president of the Employee Assistance Foundation in Lowell and has been with the foundation for 10 years.

After receiving a master’s degree in clinical lab science, Shanthanu Chenn ‘07—known as the “King of the Lab” in China—has become a runner-up in China’s first cooking reality show, “The Lab.” That is in part due to the underground economy for which he is known in China. He is now a low-calorie cooking expert for NBC and has over 1,000,000 followers. A nutritionist for China’s second-largest food company Shintao, Chenn has published two cookbooks. After receiving a master’s degree in clinical lab science, Shanthanu Chenn ‘07—known as the “King of the Lab” in China—has become a runner-up in China’s first cooking reality show, “The Lab.” That is in part due to the underground economy for which he is known in China. He is now a low-calorie cooking expert for NBC and has over 1,000,000 followers. A nutritionist for China’s second-largest food company Shintao, Chenn has published two cookbooks. After receiving a master’s degree in clinical lab science, Shanthanu Chenn ‘07—known as the “King of the Lab” in China—has become a runner-up in China’s first cooking reality show, “The Lab.” That is in part due to the underground economy for which he is known in China. He is now a low-calorie cooking expert for NBC and has over 1,000,000 followers. A nutritionist for China’s second-largest food company Shintao, Chenn has published two cookbooks. After receiving a master’s degree in clinical lab science, Shanthanu Chenn ‘07—known as the “King of the Lab” in China—has become a runner-up in China’s first cooking reality show, “The Lab.” That is in part due to the underground economy for which he is known in China. He is now a low-calorie cooking expert for NBC and has over 1,000,000 followers. A nutritionist for China’s second-largest food company Shintao, Chenn has published two cookbooks.
LIVING SMALL: Two Pioneers of the ‘Tiny House’ Movement

The average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Portland, Ore., in the spring of 2014—when Tina Orlando and Luke Orlando, newly married, moved into their apartment—just outside town—was around $1,100. A year later it was $1,350. Within two years, it would rise to over $1,500.

“It was just rising, rising, rising,” says Luke ’11 (mechanical engineering) today. “We couldn’t afford it anymore. We knew there had to be a better option.”

Both engineers—Tina ’11, 13 (civil and environmental engineering) is also an alum—they set out to design one. It took them 18 months of mock-ups, 3-D models, zoning constraints and plumbing issues. Once the design was finalized, they hired a specialty firm to construct it.

But today they live in it: a two-quarter-foot “tiny house” with an up-living, the knowledge, they definitely came from there. Her favorite professor, she says, was Clifton Brault, who “not only made classes interesting but was funny, and a phenomenal role model as well.” For Luke, a class in renewable energy was particularly relevant to the tiny house challenge. “The training we got there, it was very real-world,” he says.

But the completion of their small home was just the beginning of big things for the couple. On June 25, they were featured on Tiny House Nation, an FYI Network television series now in its third year. As soon as the show aired, the calls began to come in. Three weeks later, they were still coming.

“Sometimes thousands in a day, from all over the world! Tina reported in mid-July, explaining that the callers all want help or advice on how to build their own tiny houses. She guesses that roughly 10 percent of the calls are to likely lead to something more than enough, she figures, to build a business around.

Their short-term plan, they say, is to offer their designs to buyers for around $300, roughly a fifth less than their competitors (the Pacific Northwest is the epicenter of the tiny house movement, so competition is plentiful), and to offer more options—such as specialty designs for off-grid and pet-friendly homes, bed and, eventually perhaps, custom homes for retirees and others. For more details, visit their website at www.backcountrytinyhomes.com.

Longer term, they hope to partner with regional building contractors who would take care of the construction and of things. A typical tiny house, they say, measures between 150 and 300 square feet and costs between $30,000 and $60,000 to build.

Meanwhile, says Luke, “The goal is to keep our prices low, do good work, offer more, and that way create a reputation for ourselves.”

Judging from early signs, they’re off to a promising start.
Gene Bakinowski proves it's never too late to go back to school

It had been nearly 50 years since Gene Bakinowski's last exam at Lowell State College. So when he decided to return to the university in 2012 to finish his degree, it was hardly a surprise when finals rolled around.

“My hand was shaking as I couldn’t write. I was scared. I hadn’t done this in a long time,” says Bakinowski, who managed to calm his nerves and not only get through the final, but also the next four years of school. In May, at the age of 68, Bakinowski received a bachelor of liberal arts degree with concentrations in history and English.

Bakinowski, a Chelsea native, originally enrolled at Lowell State in 1965 to study criminal justice, but dropped out after one semester. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to the area to work in education. “I was a general education teacher, and I thought that I could still do something,” he says.

In 2012, the Bakinowskis refinanced their home. When the appraiser left, Cathy said to Gene, “That’s something you could do.”

In March to lead the turnaround at Southbridge Public Schools, which are under state receivership. She’s diving in to get the district back on track, using the skills she learned in the UMass Lowell Graduate School of Education. Huizenga earned her doctorate in leadership in school and master’s in educational administration. The programs prepared her, she says, for the challenges she faced as a principal and superintendent and now as the appointed receiver in Southbridge.

“Some kids are dealing with poverty, disabilities, language barriers and more,” says Huizenga. “The critical thinking skills I learned at UMass Lowell have helped me lead schools and establish educational programs that support each and every student’s continuous development.”

Chanthu Phauk ’12 knows nothing of what her parents endured in Cambodia during the four-year bloodbath of the Khmer Rouge, or how they were able to escape the fate of the 1.5 million of their countrymen who starved to death or were murdered. She knows nothing of their lives before the genocide—they lived there, whom they knew, what they did for a living. She has no knowledge of any aunts or uncles or other relatives who went before. Even her grandparents are a collective blank to her. It’s as though her family never had a past.

“Her mother on her trips to ‘the doctor’: group therapy sessions for Cambodian genocide survivors (“Over time, I just get to know her, and my energy level goes up,” says Chanthu. “I’ve always said, ‘They never talk about it,’ says Chanthu. “I’ve always been so close to her. We’re very close. We always have been,” says Chanthu. "We’re very close. We always have been."

Samantha Lowell will begin teaching music at the Roger William Middle School in Newton this fall. Previously, she taught at Clinton Middle School in Clinton. Over the summer, she was a member of the chorus in the “Hunchback of Notre Dame” at the Fords Theater in Olympia, Queen.

Kyle J. Rodrick started a new job at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation construction bureau.

Josh Stachowski ’15, ’16 has joined the staff at the Lowell Association for the Blind as a social worker. He was a member of the choir at UMass Lowell and in the UMass Lowell Graduate School of Education.

Alexandra Snider is a Ph.D. candidate in chemical and biomolecular engineering at Johns Hopkins University, a

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Electrical Engineering Grad Richard Asirifi ’16 Also Has Designs on Fashion Career

Of all the designers invited to showcase their latest lines at New York Fashion Week in February, it’s a safe bet that Richard Asirifi ’16 was the only one simultaneously finishing up a degree in electrical engineering.

Asirifi is founder and CEO of Lief Kultuur, a clothing line he started four years ago as a sophomore in the Francis College of Engineering. “I made this African infinity scarf,” Asirifi recalls, “and when I started wearing it around campus people were like, ‘That’s really nice.’ Then people started seeing it on Facebook and saying, ‘Wow, I need one.’”

Four years later, Lief Kultuur (which is pronounced “Lee-ay Culture” and means “love culture” in the Dutch Afrikaans language) is turning heads far beyond campus with its colorful and abstract line of men’s and women’s “athleisure” wear, a $97 billion market that is turning heads far beyond campus with its culture. “There’s already people seeing your stuff and you see the ‘wow’ factor in their faces, and you can begin to market and say, ‘This is something you can’t do on Facebook and friends being friends and putting us out there.’”

Asirifi discovered his eye for fashion at an early age, when he began getting compliments on the outfits he wore to church. Then, when he was 15, Asirifi thought, “What if I’m spending $50 on a Ralph Lauren shirt when I could just make them myself?” So he bought $10 worth of fabric and asked his mom, Grace, to teach him how to sew.

Asirifi approached a friend, Samuel Boakye, about starting a business. Boakye had some friends in the New York fashion industry, including Malika Cuffie, “an absolute killer designer and a business major. I’m not a marketing major. I’m not a business major. I’m not a marketing major. I’m a designer.”

Asirifi didn’t have a brick-and-mortar store yet (although it does have a partnership at Humanity, a boutique in downtown Lowell), but he did have some headway in Ghana and also build manufacturing relationships in the U.S. and Canada. While some of the items (such as the $199 printed blazers or $150 peacock tier skirt) are a little pricey for the average college student, Asirifi says he strives to produce pieces that everyone can afford. “It’s about ‘love culture,’” he says. “You have to make sure everyone feels like they’re on the same level.”

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“Working with Marty Meehan, Jacquie Moloney, Steve Tello, Ralph Jordan … they built this entrepreneurial spirit in me,” says Asirifi.

To get the business off the ground, Asirifi turned to the Merrimack Valley Sandbox (now EforAll), an organization that seeks to revitalize cities by investing in entrepreneurs. “The Sandbox was the launch for Lief Kultuur,” Asirifi says. “I was just a kid with a dream and some sewing materials, but I didn’t have capital. The Sandbox invested in me, starting with $150, and convinced us to believe in this dream.”

Asirifi also took part in the DifferenceMaker program (his solar electric vehicles team took second) and was a Student Alumni Ambassador, experiences he sees as deeply influential on his careers.

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After appearing in a handful of fashion shows their first two years, Asirifi and his team have been invited to around 20 this year, including February’s New York Fashion Week. “That was mind-blowing,” says Asirifi, who spoke with a fellow designer there who had wanted 20 years for an invite. “I’m not a business major. I’m not a marketing major. I’m an electrical engineer, and me and five other people have been able to make this happen in four years. That’s an amazing feeling, to have this dream come true.”
When it was all over the next day, the failed coup attempt reportedly claimed 270 lives, while more than 2,000 were injured. More than 10,000 military personnel (out of a force of nearly 450,000) were arrested, while an additional 1,389 were expelled.

"Even though the attack caused a lot of casualties and destruction throughout the country, it was not successful," Colak says. "Although the military in Turkey is known for its tough stance on secularism and democracy, the headquarterers had been infiltrated by members of a religious group and they successfully disguised themselves until recently. When the intelligence service revealed the plot, the conspirators (moved up) the attack."

During his two years at UMass Lowell, Colak actively promoted better cultural understanding. He helped initiate a program that paired international students with faculty and staff members over the holidays and was part of the DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge team "Buddies Without Borders," which spawned the Pair-Up Program now run by the International Cultural Understanding Center. He helped initiate a program that paired international students with faculty and staff members over the holidays and was part of the DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge team "Buddies Without Borders," which spawned the Pair-Up Program now run by the International Cultural Understanding Center.

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Our Legacy, Our Place Kicks Off!

As part of the kickoff, Chancellor Jacquie Moloney ’75, ’92 (center) presented the 2016 University Alumni Awards to (from left) Paul Marion ’76, ’05, Amy Henry ’88, William Rhodes III ’82, Kenyon Davis-Bruchem ’02, Ciana Abdollahian ’09, Patrick Kapito ’04, Stephen Burke Driscoll ’66, ’72 and Edward Gallagher ’84.

Members of UMass Lowell’s Opera Workshop and String Ensemble performed a flash mob version of “Make Our Garden Grow” by Leonard Bernstein.

The UMass Lowell Pep Band led the audience in the university’s Fight Song.

Chancellor Moloney welcomes guests. The evening drew more than 300 alumni, faculty, staff and community friends and partners.

Mark Saab ’81, ’13 (H) visits with Julie Chen, vice chancellor for research and innovation.

UMass Lowell President Marty Marsh ’75 (left) greets Donna ’85, ’91, ’11 (H) and Rob ’84, ’11 (H) Manning, the campaign’s chair, who made a $1 million gift to Our Legacy, Our Place.

Professor Steve Driscoll ’66, ’72 checks out the Our Legacy, Our Place license plate frames designed and produced by the Plastics Engineering Department.

UMass Lowell students who intern with the Washington Center got the opportunity to network with alumni in the D.C. area at an Our Legacy, Our Place reception held May 5 at the National Press Club, featuring Roger Cressey ’87 (not shown) and many more distinguished alumni. From left: Vice Chancellor for University Advancement John Feudo, Carry Somboune, Sydney Rebello ’16 and Emily Thorpe ’16.

Together with Chancellor Jacquie Moloney ’75, ’92 (right), acclaimed Broadway producers Stewart Lane and Bonnie Comley ’81 hosted an Our Legacy, Our Place reception for several dozen guests in their New York City home on April 27.

UMass Lowell celebrated the official kickoff of Our Legacy, Our Place on April 15. The campaign will raise $125 million for student scholarships and support for faculty research, campus improvements and our Division I Athletics program.

On hand for the celebration were (from left) Erik Pettaway ’19, Stephanie Carnazzo ’19, Student Activities Associate Director Amy Liss, Dezanae Boston Bernier ’15, Wifrey Boyaj ’19 and Hector Rivera ’16.

On April 15 to celebrate “Opening Day” for Our Legacy, Our Place. Speakers included Chancellor Jacquie Moloney ’75, ’92, Professor Dan Fincher ’73, ’86, ’12 and Senior Class President Christopher Nunez ’16.

Our Legacy, Our Place Kicks Off!
Our Legacy, Our Place Kicks Off!

Make a gift before Nov. 30, and let us thank you for sticking with us with this one-of-a-kind UMass Lowell decal.

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www.uml.edu/give

River Hawks On The Road

[1] Mark Cocozza '71 (right) and his wife, Susan '69 (second from right) visit with Chancellor Jacquie Moloney '75, '92 and her husband, Ed.

[2] Coach Norm Bazin '94, '99, left, talks with James Donovan '70. Bazin, one of the event's featured speakers, gave a preview of the upcoming 50th anniversary season for men's ice hockey.

[3] With its panoramic views of Boston, the UMass Club was a spectacular setting for a June 16 Our Legacy, Our Place reception, which drew more than 100 Boston-area alumni and friends.


[5] Alumnae Nana Kunt '97 and her family enjoying a BBQ with Wally the Green Monster at Jet Blue Park in Fort Myers. From left: Joseph Kunt (grandfather), Konrad, Nikolas, and Lukas Kunt (grandsons), Lorena and Nana '97 Kunt (parents) and Namy Kunt (granddaughters).

[6] UMass Lowell Alumna Mary Suzanne Ebbelshoe '12, center, with husband, Essau Ortiz, left, and UMass Lowell alum Keffi Selim Egbeto '12, '14 gather with other Boston-area alumni for a reception at the home of Buzz '67, '74 and Jennifer LeClair. Alumni from seven decades were well-represented at the regional event.


[8] Omicron Pi families gather for a reunion at the home of Rick and Chris Hoeske. From left: Chris Hoeske, Barbara Milensky, Rick Hoeske '66, Executive Director of Alumni Relations Heather Mahony '86, '08, and Carol Dauksy.

[9] West Palm Beach alumni and friends gather at the Four Seasons for the Florida launch of the university's Our Legacy, Our Place Campaign. From left: Kevin Ryan, Judy Windsor-Branellos and Charles Branellos '82, '80.

[10] University benefactor John Kennedy '70, '16 (H) welcomed dozens of alumni to his home in Naples to celebrate the launch of Our Legacy, Our Place: The Campaign for UMass Lowell. Both Kennedys and Chancellor Jacquie Moloney '75, '92 shared stories of their college experiences with the crowd, and the chancellor offered an update on the university's rapid growth and many recent accomplishments. From left: Frank Spinola '66, Chancellor Jacquie Moloney '75, '92, Ruby Godula '83, and Jerry '78 and Joyce '77 Colella.
River Hawk Reunion Weekend


4. Elaine Vigneau, left, James ’66 and Janet McSheffrey reminisce about the good ol’ days at Lowell Tech.

5. Frank Spinola’66 and his wife Mary Jo Spionola ’66 dance during the 50th and 60th class reunion celebration.

6. Rick Hoeske ’66, Charlie Hoff ’66, ’04 (H) and Jerry Lydon’66 reconnect during the 50th reunion celebration.

Alumni on Campus and in the Community

7. Alumni shared career advice with a group of students at the Multicultural Student-Alumni Social. From left: Cleopatra Lewis, Shamar Ayade, Freddy Lagorte ’17, Karenen Sentam ’16, Marcus Iliescu and Torina Grussm.

8. Emmanuel Lutomia ’92, ’16, left, Dean of Student Affairs & Events Brenda Evans ’94, ’95, and Benjamin Johnson ’08, ’15 attended reunions and reconvened at the UMass Club in Boston at the National Society of Black Engineers Alumni & Friends Reunion.

9. Graduate School of Education alumni served as judges in the university’s DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge, including, from left, Chian Anai Greenwold ’84, ’92; Danvers Superintendent Luis Diaz, ’92, ’03, TK Superintendent John McDonald ’95, Dean of STEAM Ed Roberts ’66, ’90; and retired superintendent Charles Golton ’86. At right are TK-Tide John Brown ’06 and Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney ’75, ’92.

10. At the Alumni Speaker Showcase, Kennedy College of Science alumni Douglas Williams ’80, CEO of Covid-19 Sciences, discussed his career and secrets to success with students, faculty and staff.

Special thanks to our most generous sponsors of the 2016 Commencement Eve Celebration.

We are grateful for your support of our university. Your gifts are an investment in tomorrow’s experts, leaders and difference makers.

FELLOWS CIRCLE ($25,000)
Aramark Corporation
Gerald ’78 & Joyce ’77 Colburn
Nancy Donahue ’13 (H)
John Kennedy ’70
L. Donald ’59, ’75 (H) & Ollie & Louis LaToureaux ’84, ’93, ’99 (H)
Mark Mark ’81, ’09 (H) & Blkta ’13 (H)
Jack & Julie Wilson

PRINCIPALS CIRCLE ($10,000)
Circle Health (Lowell General Hospital)
Richard ’86 & Maryellen Deming
Jacqueline ’71, ’80 & Edward Meloney
Professor Emeritus Bernard ’66 & Yana Shapiro

PATRONS CIRCLE ($5,000)
Enterprise Bank
Commencement Photos, Inc.
Jack & Therese O’Connor
Red Mill Graphics

INNOVATORS CIRCLE ($1,000)
Lawrence Andri ’89 & Linda Carpenter ’89
Casella Waste Systems
Lahay Health
Stuart Mandell ’11 (H) & Pepsi

* = deceased
Alumni on Campus and in the Community

[1] Alumnus and owner of Apex Information Security, Bill Rizos ’02, center, mentors students after a keynote speech by alumnus Bob Manning ’84. (not shown), CEO and president of MIS Investment Management, at the MIB Alumni Networking Event.


[3] Alumnae of Alpha Sigma Tau attended the annual Yellow Rose Formal hosted by the collegiate women of the Beta Tau Chapter. Alumnae enjoyed meeting new sisters and reminiscing about their college days, along with a night of awards, raffle prizes and dancing. From left: Nicole Lemoy ’04, Jessica Salgueiro ’06, Joy Whitbeck ’03, Katie Cook, Tiffany Saragian ’06, Sarah Catalano and Christyn Bergquist ’03.

[4] Volleyball alumnae reunite to take on current River Hawks at Costello Athletic Center. Front row from left: Masha Yelsukova ’18, Alexa Toth ’17, Megan Young ’17, Mad Miller ’18, Lindsey Visvardis ’19, Erica Caprinello ’18, and Haley Shriver ’19. Back row from left: Dianery Mendez ’19, Vicky Wong ’13, Lauren Devries ’17, Chloe Ferrario ’19, Kiana Raposo ’14, Jade Adair ’19, Sarah Cawley ’18, Carolyn Fehly ’14, Rachel Ataman ’17 and Elmana Ahly ’17.

[5] Susan Paganis, in sunglasses, Glenn Morgan ’86, behind Paganis, and Michelle Paganis ’93, Paganis’ mom, along with other alumni and community members, pulled together to clean the canal during Lowell’s Earth Day celebration.

[6] Adam Hogue ’03, Janice Lane ’15, center, and Ciana Abdollahian ’09 build connections at the Young Alumni Council’s Meet-Up in Burlington.

[7] Men’s Soccer alumni reunite for their annual alumni game at the Coasting Field Complex.

[8] Associate Director of Student Activities Leadership Amy Luse, left, Alex Roy ’17 and Catherine York ’18 celebrate with fellow Student Alumni Ambassadors and university administrators at their annual final dinner.

Bernie Shapiro '56: Professor, Mentor, Benefactor, Friend

The remembrances go on—and on—from Florida, California, Georgia, New Jersey, Montreal and all across New England. Some speak of his brilliance as a teacher, others remember his mentoring, his mountain climbing, his road-running, his humor, his friendship—and, nearly always, his warmth.

He was Bernie Shapiro '56, for 47 years a member of the UMass Lowell faculty as a professor of math, business, economics, engineering, continuing ed and whatever else was needed at the time. And he was loved. Not just admired, respected or revered. Loved. If you doubt it, take the time to Google his name, go to his online obituary—he died in April of this year—and scroll through the messages, from former students and colleagues, that follow. He was a "legend," a "mentor," a "true mensch," "my guru," "my hero," "an amazing professor," "the coolest professor," "an inspiration," a cornerstone of the university, "a second father to me." And much more.

I enjoyed offering the students advice, he told this magazine last year. I enjoyed learning about their lives, their challenges, their problems, sometimes even poking my nose in when they'd let me. I think Bernie would be so, so touched. "Never in his wildest dreams," says his granddaughter, Courtney, "did he think he would be so loved; he was never a showoff."

He would be so, so touched.

I'm sorry he isn't here to see it. Not just the kind of response there's been to his passing. Bernie have expected the kind of love, respect and admiration that was the root of the city's economy for a century. The 5.6-mile-long canal system produced 10,000 horsepower, which by 1850 was provided to 10 corporations with a total of 40 mills (dubbed the "mile of mills")."
Now...

The university’s Welcome Back Night in September culminated in a special one-night lighting display at the Swamp Locks canal complex in the Hamilton Canal District. The Waterways Vitality Project—a collaboration between the city, national park and several community organizations—aims to enhance the experience of Lowell residents and visitors by making the city’s distinctive waterways more active and vibrant. While the canals continue as a sustainable energy source, they also today serve as cultural and recreational attractions.
Volunteering

WANT TO CHANGE LIVES—INCLUDING YOUR OWN?
Become a UMass Lowell volunteer. You’ll make a difference in the lives of alumni and students, while also building your résumé and making connections that can last a lifetime.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
Spread the word about our events and programs!
• Become a Social Media Ambassador by sharing news on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.
• Submit a class note.
• Call or email your classmates to encourage them to attend an event.

CAREER SERVICES
Recruit a River Hawk!
• Mentor alumni and students in person or through our online platforms.
• Post jobs and internships for alumni and students on CareerLINK.
• Make connections by serving on a panel or as a class speaker.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT
You make the difference!
• Identify creative ways to raise funds for student organizations and scholarships.
• Sign letters, send emails or make phone calls to encourage alumni to participate in specific initiatives.
• Host a reception at your home.

ALUMNI PROGRAMS
Help us plan and recruit for events geared toward professional development, networking and lifelong learning, including:
• Social and pregame gatherings.
• Affinity programs (based on student experience, cultural identity or professional affiliation).
• Lectures or workshops with industry experts.

ADMISSIONS
Share your story with prospective students across the country!
• Attend a college fair on behalf of the university.
• Host an admissions reception in your area.
• Make congratulatory calls to admitted students.

To learn more about how you can be involved, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 978-934-3140 or Alumni_Office@uml.edu.

alumni.uml.edu/volunteer