

UMass Lowell

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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THE KING HAS SPOKEN

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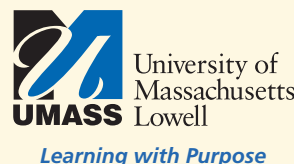
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A Message From Chancellor Martin T. Meehan '78



People always ask me if I miss working in Washington, D.C. And while there are certainly aspects of Congress I remember fondly, it's hard to imagine a more dynamic and exciting place to be right now than UMass Lowell.

There's growth and development happening in every corner of the University.

Most recent, of course, is the elevation of our athletics program to Division 1. As The Boston Globe wrote about us in March, this move "will likely add to the school's burgeoning profile" and help us "soar to heights worthy of the school's growing reputation."

And speaking of reputation, UMass' around the globe is skyrocketing. In the new Times Higher Education Reputation Rankings, the system, at No. 42, is among the top 100 most powerful global university brands—ahead of such schools as Boston University.

Of course it doesn't hurt that our campus has partnerships with nearly 100 leading institutions in more than 40 countries on six continents. Between student and faculty exchanges, research collaborations and joint-degree programs, UMass Lowell is truly connecting the world.

And where we can't connect on land, we're connecting in cyberspace. With more than 20,000 enrollments last year, our online program is a true pioneer—offering more than 30 degree programs. For 10 years straight, we've seen double-digit growth in both enrollment and revenue for the division. As Thomas Friedman wrote in The New York Times a few months ago, "nothing has more potential to unlock a billion more brains to solve the world's biggest problems" than global online education. We're thrilled to be playing a part.

Read more about all of these exciting developments in the following pages. And stay tuned, because we're just getting started. After all, we still have one more continent to get to.

Martin T. Meehan '78 Chancellor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Black Alumni Network Showcase: Wednesday, May 1, 6:30 p.m., UMass Lowell Alumni Hall. For information, email Reja Gamble at Reja_Gamble@uml.edu.

40th & 50th Reunion Weekend, May 17-19: Relive your college days, reunite with classmates and have fun at a series of events during Commencement weekend. RSVP or join a planning committee at 978-934-3140 or alumni_office@uml.edu.

Commencement Eve Celebration 2013: Friday, May 17, 5-8:30 p.m., UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center. Get all the details at www.uml.edu/commencementeve. Cost: \$125 per person.

Alumni Night on Cape Cod: Friday, June 14, 5 p.m., McKeon Park, Hyannis. Enjoy a fun-filled pre-game gathering before watching the Harbor Hawks take on the Wareham Gatemen. Cost: \$17. For information, go to www.uml.edu/alumni or email alumni_office@uml.edu.

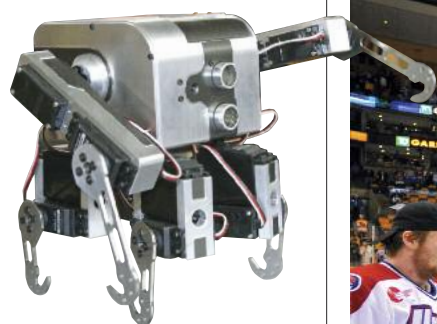
A Day at Tanglewood: Sunday, July 21, 2:30 p.m., Koussevitsky Music Shed, Lenox. Enjoy lunch on the grounds and an afternoon of Vivaldi, J.S. Bach and Telemann, featuring world-renowned conductor, violinist and violist Pinchas Zukerman. A bus will depart South Campus at 9:30 a.m. For information, go to www.uml.edu/alumni or email alumni_office@uml.edu.

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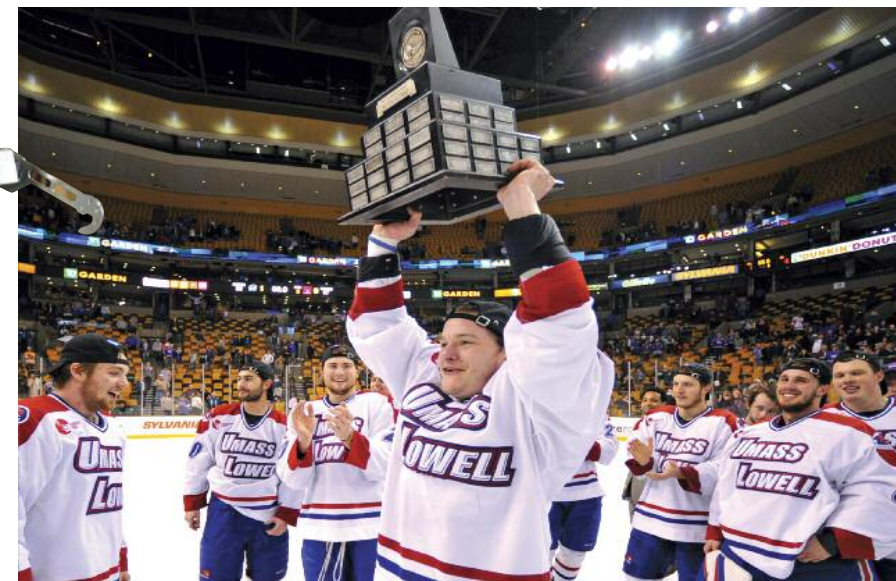


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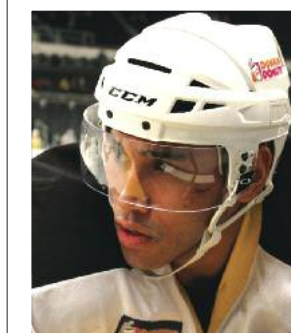
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Editor's Note
Please send comments to Editor Sarah McAdams Corbett at Sarah_Corbett@uml.edu. Submit class notes to: Class Notes Editor, Southwick 250, 1 University Ave., Lowell, MA 01854 or www.uml.edu/advancement/classnotes.

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Here We Come, D1!

Support UMass Lowell's historic move to Division I athletics:
www.uml.edu/givenow.

Over the past six years, UMass Lowell has made more improvements than can fit in all the pages of this magazine.

This summer, we'll add athletics to the list.

On Feb. 14, the University announced its move to Division I and the America East Conference (confetti canons, left, helped mark the announcement). The move is effective July 1.

"We knew we were in the same league as these other renowned institutions of higher education in so many ways," says Chancellor Marty Meehan. "Now, we will join them on the playing fields as well."

UMass Lowell will join the universities of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, University at Albany, Binghamton University, University of Hartford, University of Maryland Baltimore County and Stony Brook University as a full member of the conference. (Boston University will depart America East for the Patriot League after this academic year.)

"Every single one of our peer institutions competes at the Division I level and thus we are uniting with other four-year research universities of similar size and mission," Meehan says. "All of the eight public institutions in the conference, including ours, are ranked among the top-100 public universities in the country by U.S. News & World Report."

The move is a testimonial not only to the abilities of our student athletes—all of whom, except men's ice hockey, compete currently at the Division II level—but to the University's overall upward trajectory.

"When presidents and officials from America East visited campus, they didn't want to only tour our athletic facilities and examine our athletic record," Meehan says. "They also wanted to see the new innovation center where our world-class faculty members are doing research and the bricks being laid for a new student engagement center, health and social sciences building, and two new residence halls. They examined the reports on our student success rates. Just days after the visit, they voted to ask us to join their conference."

The transition will, of course, come with challenges.

"We ask our athletics program and our student athletes to step onto the premier stage of intercollegiate sports," says Meehan, adding that athletes must also meet the highest academic standards.

UMass Lowell will begin competing in 14 sports in Division I in the 2013-14 academic year, but will not be eligible for postseason play while it completes the four-year NCAA reclassification from Division II to Division I. The River Hawks will be full Division I members of America East in 2017-18. UMass Lowell hockey will continue to compete in the prestigious Hockey East Conference. ■

New Research Building Named for Saabs

The University named its new, \$80 million Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center in tribute to alumnus Mark Saab '81, '13 (H) and his wife, Elisia '13 (H). The couple made a new multimillion-dollar commitment that makes them the largest individual donors to the university.

"I have always felt strongly about giving back to UMass Lowell and being involved in the plastics engineering program. I'm grateful for the specialized education that has led to my success and I want to help today's students discover the path to their own future," said Mark Saab. "The research at the center will have a great impact on science and engineering industries regionally, nationally and internationally."

The Saab Center is a dynamic hub for cutting-edge advances in nanotechnology, nanomedicine, molecular biology, plastics engineering and optics, furthering fields such as life sciences, energy, national security and environmental protection.

The Saabs' gift will help equip the building and endow its research and development initiatives. The donation anchors the more than \$10 million in private donations the science and technology center has received to date—the largest amount of private funds raised in University history for a single project.

A portion of the Saabs' gift will also help launch the new UMass Lowell Center for Portuguese Partnerships.

"There is a vibrant local Portuguese population and the UMass Lowell fellowship will enrich local Portuguese studies, assist community members in gaining a deeper understanding of this culture and help the Portuguese community to preserve its heritage," said Elisia Saab.

Mark Saab, who has a degree in plastics engineering, is president of Advanced Polymers Inc., of Salem, N.H.



Elisia and Mark Saab, left, help dedicate the new Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center named for them. Joining them, from left, are Chancellor Marty Meehan, Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney and Interim Dean of Engineering Jack Wilson.

SENATORIAL SCENE

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren visited campus Feb. 19, meeting with students and touring facilities. Here, she looks out the window of the Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center as Chancellor Marty Meehan points out the campus changes underway across the Merrimack River. It was Warren's first return to the campus since October, when she debated Scott Brown before a Tsongas Center crowd of 5,000, gaining momentum in the fall race that would ultimately see her top the Republican incumbent on Nov. 6.



In Dedication of Their Dedication

On March 8, a plaque was dedicated at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell in recognition of the 2010 Lowell State House delegation for its work in passing legislation that permitted the University to acquire the arena from the city. Shown from left are City Manager Bernie Lynch '78, Reps. Tom Golden '94, '02 and David Nangle, former State Senator Steve Panagiotakos, Chancellor Marty Meehan '78 and the former senator's father, William Panagiotakos. State Rep. Kevin Murphy was out of town and unable to attend the ceremony.



Going for the GREEN

Samir ElKamouny, a 2012 graduate of the Manning School of Business, presents his proposal for funding for a bike-sharing venture at the Merrimack Valley Sandbox Showdown Pitch competition. Based at UMass Lowell's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Wannalancit Mills, the Sandbox was founded two years ago by the Deshpande Foundation to foster entrepreneurship in the region. Thanks to advice and funding he's received, ElKamouny is on course to launch his business, called Green Bikes of Lowell, this spring. "I don't think it would be happening without the Sandbox," he says. "It's unbelievable the support we are getting." More than 40 student teams have participated in the Sandbox Campus Catalyst program, which awards grants for students to test out their ideas and facilitates networking with successful businesspeople.



THE LANGUAGE OF LEARNING

For Lawrence middle school teacher Kimberly Rodriguez, learning about her students' personal histories changed her approach in the classroom. Understanding the challenges facing students and their families, many of whom are not native English speakers, helped Rodriguez forge connections with students and open up communication with parents.

Rodriguez used strategies she learned in a pilot project led by Graduate School of Education Assoc. Prof. Michaela Colombo. A partnership between the GSE, the Lawrence schools and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the project's goal was to improve classroom instruction for students learning the English language. More than 40 staff members of the Lawrence school district participated in the training and professional development program.

"It was eye-opening," Rodriguez says. "I wanted to get a better understanding of my students' needs. Knowing each student's story helps me reach them."

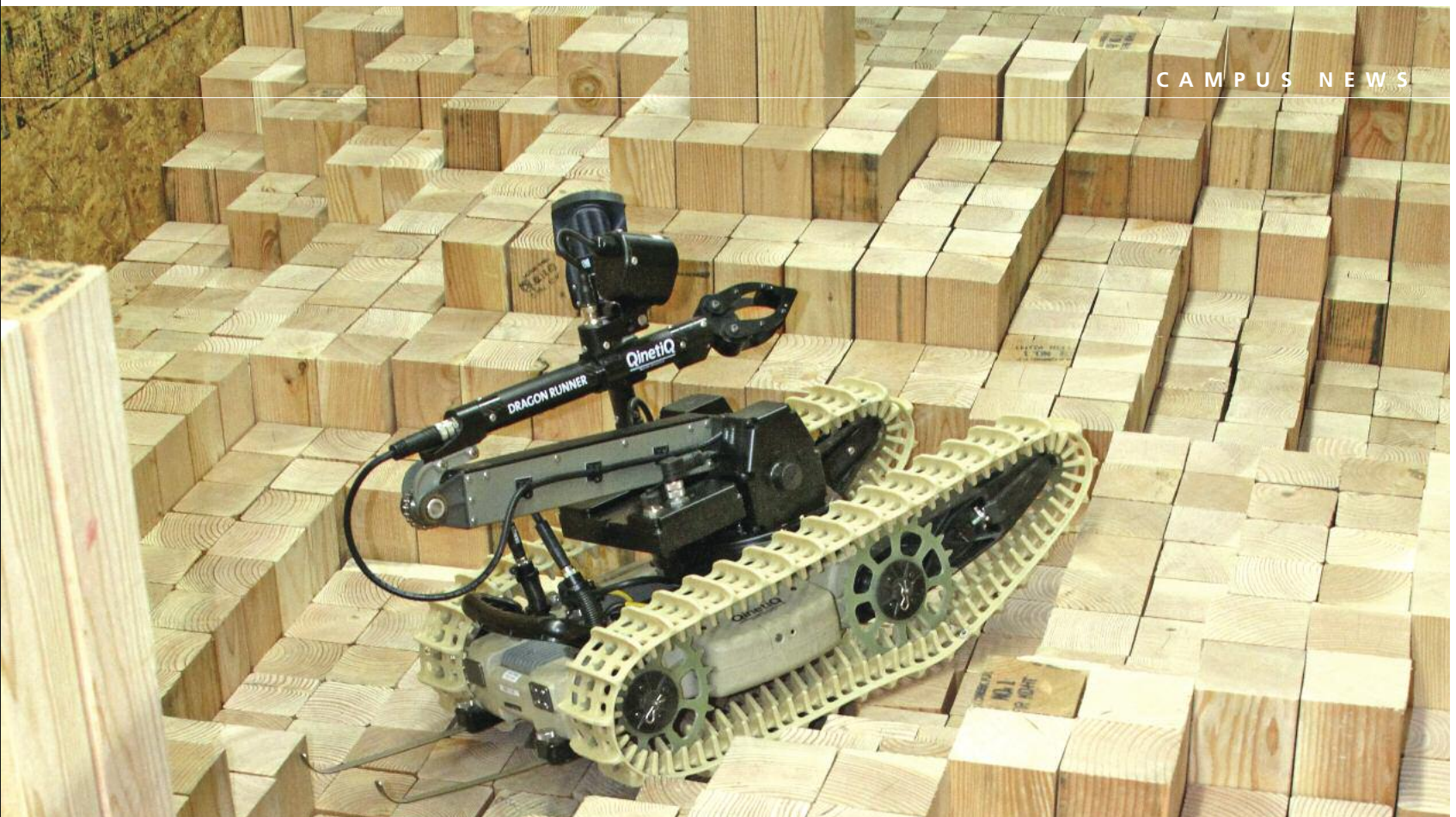


Now, the project, known as Preparing Excellent Teachers of All (English) Language Learners (PETALLs), is expanding, thanks to a \$1.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The five-year grant will fund additional teacher training and professional development, with a focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines.

The GSE is also incorporating English-language-learner training into its curriculum to prepare new teachers. The faculty meets regularly to integrate new methods into graduate education courses, Colombo says.

"This project is a unique partnership," says Colombo. "GSE faculty members are learning from Lawrence, just as they are learning from us."

One of the poorest districts in Massachusetts, Lawrence faces steep challenges in its efforts to improve student success. For nearly 75 percent of the district's 13,000 students, English is not the primary language, according to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.—JG



Robots Hit a 'NERVE'

Robots run obstacle courses, climb through a honeycomb of compartments, test their vision and soak themselves in simulated rainstorms. Those are just a few of the testing areas in the most advanced robotics testing facility in the nation, the recently opened New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation (NERVE) Center, located at UMass Lowell.

Designed to fuel robotics research and development in all of the New England states, the NERVE Center serves what is already a \$1.9 billion industry in Massachusetts alone, according to a new report released by the Mass Technology Leadership Council.

Located at 1001 Pawtucket Blvd., the NERVE Center features a dozen courses that test the strength, durability, design and functionality of robots. The courses use materials like wood, sand, gravel and water to challenge robots' capabilities to negotiate obstacles and rough terrain like rubble, climb inclines and stairs, maneuver through deep water, withstand rainstorms, handle objects and view images in a variety of circumstances. One of the courses simulates the conditions a robot would face if deployed inside a collapsed building on a search-and-rescue mission.

"Investing in innovation helped move Massachusetts out of the recession and continued support for new technology will help us create new jobs and economic growth in the future," said state Housing and Economic Development Secretary Greg Bialecki at the center's opening.

"As one of the most advanced facilities of its kind, the NERVE Center is a new opportunity for our growing robotics industry to continue to expand its frontiers and for Massachusetts to maintain its position as one of the world leaders in innovation."

The center is available to companies regardless of their location for a single use or frequent testing.

"Before the NERVE Center, researchers from companies and universities who wanted to test their robots on the NIST courses needed to travel to Maryland or Texas," says Prof. Holly Yanco, NERVE Center director and UMass Lowell computer science faculty member.

The center is managed by Adam Norton '10, who has been working in robotics research since shortly after graduating from Lowell High School and joining the Artbotics community program Yanco co-developed. As a UMass Lowell student, Norton worked in the University's Robotics Lab, which Yanco founded to educate students from freshmen to doctoral candidates.

"I graduated with a bachelor's degree in fine arts. Although I did not formally study computer science or engineering, I am working in the field of robotics," says Norton. "The fine arts program taught me to think analytically and make informed decisions and working in the Robotics Lab gave me a new and exciting place in which I can test my skills." ■

NEW RANKINGS SHOW UMASS HAS POWERFUL GLOBAL REPUTATION

The new Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings, released in March, placed the UMass system at No. 42 on its list of the “top 100 most powerful global university brands”—ahead of such schools as Boston University, which placed in the 81st to 90th category, and Penn State, which placed in the 51st to 60th category (neither was given a specific ranking).

Powered by Thomson Reuters, the rankings are the result of the world’s largest invitation-only academic opinion survey—“the expert judgment of senior, published academics—the people best placed to know the most about excellence in our universities,” according to sponsor Times of London.

“We are very pleased with this strong ranking, which reflects the way the University of Massachusetts is viewed by academic leaders throughout the world,” says UMass President Robert L. Caret.



‘It’s Not Enough to Talk About Peace’

International human-rights activist John Prendergast, UMass Lowell’s 2012 Greeley Scholar for Peace Studies, spoke on campus recently on a panel with U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern, senior minority whip in the House, and Gordon Halm, a graduate student in the Peace and Conflict Studies program.

The trio described how students have banded together to end the use of child soldiers in central Africa, forcing world atten-

tion on the issue and prompting government action to end the power of the marauding rebel group, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). KONY 2012 is the campaign to bring warlord Joseph Kony, commander of the rebel LRA, to justice in international criminal court.

“In northern Uganda, Joseph Kony takes innocent children, gives them guns and drugs and instructs them to kill, kill, kill—in most cases, starting with their

own parents,” Halm said. “I have gone through the civil war in Liberia. I have seen children with guns. They kill everything that moves.

“I hope that we all take on the effort to bring peace. Peace is not only the absence of conflict. It is also a state of well-being of humankind. It is not enough to talk about peace. We have to believe it is possible. We have to work at it.” ■

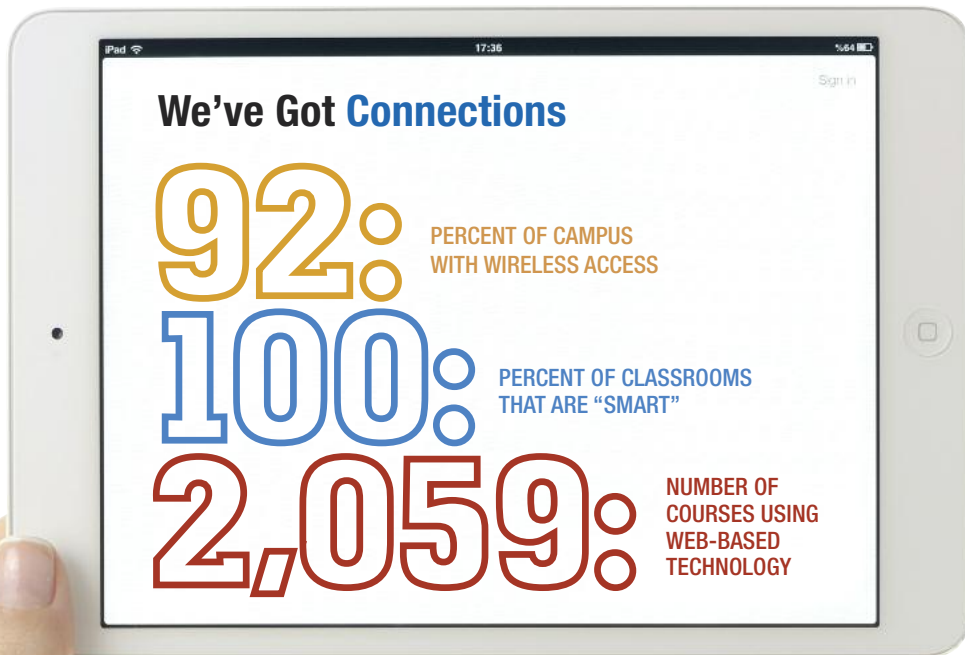


The Thrifter

Assoc. Prof. Maureen Stanton visited an antique auction to catch up with a friend, but found a story as well. Several years and a thousand pages of research later, she’s won the Massachusetts Book Award in nonfiction for “Killer Stuff and Tons of Money: An Insider’s Look at the World of Flea Markets, Antiques and Collecting.”

Stanton’s book is “a journey through a subculture.” She uses literary journalism—applying literary techniques to nonfiction—to explore the world of antiques from hasty flea markets to high-end auctions.

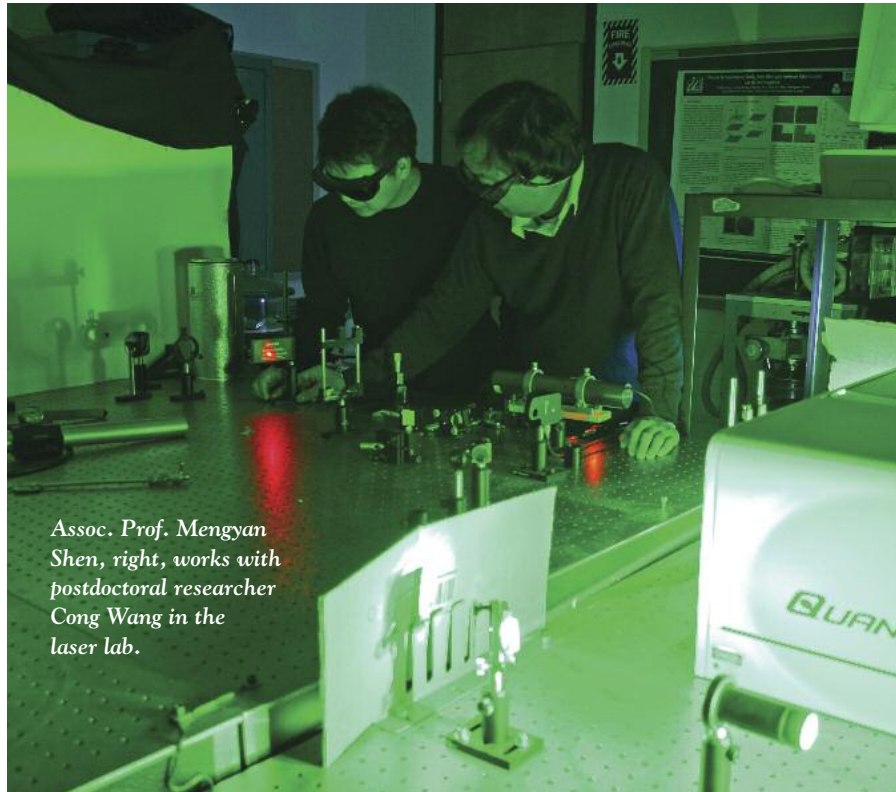
“I’ve always been a re-user,” she says. “I like vintage clothing and have frequented antique stores, but didn’t really have the history part in mind. Writing the book has made me a huge fan. I see an object and want to know more about it and its creator or author.”—JKG



26 Candles

The UMass Lowell community gathered for a candlelight vigil in January to honor the victims of the Dec. 14 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Twenty children and six adults at the Newtown, Conn., school were killed in a rampage that was one of the deadliest school shootings in the nation’s history. The vigil was preceded by a faculty panel discussion on how to cultivate respectful and safe school communities.





Assoc. Prof. Mengyan Shen, right, works with postdoctoral researcher Cong Wang in the laser lab.

DOE to UMass Lowell: Here's \$3M to Solve the World's Energy Problems

Researchers here are working to harness the power of photosynthesis in the lab; the results could help address the world's energy needs. The U.S. Department of Energy thinks we're on the right path: It recently awarded the project a \$3 million grant.

A team from UMass Lowell, UMass Boston and the University of Wisconsin-Madison is overseeing the three year-study, working to develop a metal catalyst for converting sunlight, carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water into hydrocarbon fuel.

The team is applying the principle of photosynthesis—the process by which plants, algae and many forms of bacteria use energy from sunlight to convert CO₂ and water into organic compounds while releasing oxygen as byproduct—to produce the hydrocarbon fuel in the laboratory.

The researchers use nano-optics and catalyst materials to convert carbon dioxide and water directly into hydrocarbon compounds.

"Waste carbon dioxide is an enormous resource, representing more than 200 million metric tons per year," says physics Assoc. Prof. Mengyan Shen, head of UMass Lowell's Laboratory for Nanoscience and Laser Applications and principal investigator for the project. "Converting it to liquid hydrocarbon fuel will decrease our carbon footprint and reduce the nation's dependence on petroleum."

The discovery was made in Shen's lab at UMass Lowell. Last summer, his lab received a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation worth nearly \$417,000 to improve the process.

"This is an exciting opportunity," he says. "Lowell is a cradle for the American Industrial Revolution, and we want to be part of the next-generation developments in alternative energy."—EA

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST FOR SPACE: HIGH SOLAR WINDS, RADIATION ADVISORY

We all rely on local weather forecasts to plan our travels and outdoor activities, or even to decide whether to water the lawn.

But researchers like Prof. Paul Song in the Department of Physics & Applied Physics are also interested in "space weather," the constantly changing environmental conditions in interplanetary space, especially between the sun's atmosphere and Earth's outer atmosphere. While meteorologists deal with clouds, air pressure, wind, precipitation and the jet stream, space-weather scientists concentrate on changes in the ambient plasma (ionized gas), solar wind, magnetic fields, radiation and other matter in space.

"Predicting space weather is the next frontier in weather forecasting," says Song, who directs UMass Lowell's Center for Atmospheric Research. "Inclement space weather has increasingly become a threat to modern space technologies and services, such as GPS, shortwave radio and satellite communications."

While large space-weather events, known as space storms or solar storms, can trigger spectacular displays

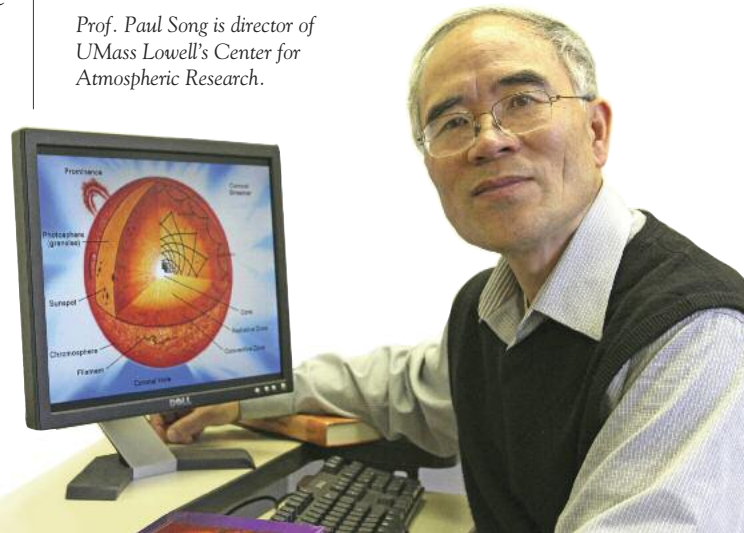
of auroras, the high-energy particles produced by these storms can harm the health of spacewalking astronauts as well as airline passengers and crews flying at high altitudes along polar routes. Geomagnetic storms can also create a surge in electrical current, overloading electric power grids and damaging transmission lines and oil pipelines, notes Song.

Solar storms start out with coronal mass ejections, or CMEs, which are enormous bubbles of plasma flowing out from the sun.

"CMEs travel through interplanetary space and eventually hit Earth, potentially affecting our lives and those of orbiting satellites," says Song. "The effects we feel on the Earth depend on how the interactions take place between a CME and Earth's magnetosphere, a region well above the atmosphere where most satellites fly, and the ionosphere, which is roughly the top of the atmosphere."

Song, along with Distinguished Research Prof. Vytenis Vasyliunas and Asst. Research Prof. Jiannan Tu, recently received a three-year grant from NASA worth more than \$356,000 to study these interactions.—EA

Prof. Paul Song is director of UMass Lowell's Center for Atmospheric Research.



Using Light Therapy to Fight Cancer

Researchers at UMass Lowell are working on a non-surgical, minimally invasive light therapy that could someday help patients fight viruses, bacteria, fungi and cancer cells.

The project—a collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School—is funded by a four-year, \$1.34 million award from the National Institutes of Health.

Led by Prof. Long Chiang of the Chemistry Department and Prof. Mike Hamblin of Wellman Center for Photomedicine at Mass General Hospital, the team is applying nanotechnology to a light-based therapy called photodynamic therapy, or PDT. The technique combines a photosensitizer—a nontoxic, light-sensitive agent functioning as a catalyst—with harmless visible light to produce a photochemical reaction in the presence of oxygen that could wipe out cancer cells

and other harmful microorganisms.

The photosensitizer is administered, then the tumor or infected tissue is irradiated with intense light from a powerful lamp or laser. The photosensitizer absorbs the therapeutic light to form free radicals and singlet oxygen. These reactive oxygen species can kill cancer cells and pathogenic bacteria, fungi and viruses directly or by activating the host's immune system.

Chiang and his team are using chemically modified carbon molecules—called fullerenes—as photosensitizers.

"Several in vitro studies have shown that cancer cells, such as the human cervical carcinoma, as well as gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria and fungal cells can be killed with fullerene-mediated PDT," says Chiang. "Viruses can also be inactivated."—EA

New Lab Will Help Prevent Diseases, Improve Health

How does job stress or working different shifts affect weight? How does leg flexibility relate to injuries or risk of falling? How does fatigue affect physiological systems?

These are few of the questions that are being investigated in the School of Health and Environment's new Human Assessment Lab on campus. The 1,385-square-foot lab is equipped with high-tech equipment that can measure body composition, cardiovascular function, oxygen uptake and fitness levels.

"The purpose of the lab is to assess factors related to human performance including biochemical, fitness, metabolic, nutritional and physical characteristics—all to discover ways to advise individuals and treat or prevent injuries and diseases," says Dean of the School of Health and Environment Shortie McKinney.

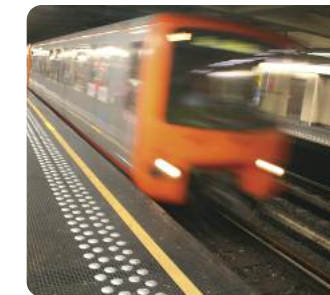
She adds: "It's an interdisciplinary lab where we integrate health fields such as clinical laboratory sciences, ergonomics, exercise physiology, nutrition, nursing, physical therapy and related fields such as biomedical engineering."—KA



Sean Collins '92, '95, '03, chair of the Department of Physical Therapy, attaches a mass flow sensor to measure oxygen intake.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

On July 11, 2006, a Chicago Transit Authority subway train derailed between two of the city's downtown stations. Following the derailment, the train came to a stop and an electrical arc developed between the last car and the 600-volt third rail, generating a lot of acrid smoke. Fortunately, nobody was seriously hurt in the accident, but as a precaution, the train's 1,000 passengers were evacuated. Total property damage was estimated at more than \$1 million.



According to the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, the accident was probably caused by the "Chicago Transit Authority's ineffective management and oversight of its track inspection and maintenance program and its system safety program, which resulted in unsafe track conditions."

Researchers at UMass Lowell are working to make sure that doesn't happen again.

The team—which also includes researchers at Duke University, the University of Vermont, the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and Penn State, Altoona—received a two-year award of \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop a high-tech automated system for inspecting and monitoring the health of the country's rail transit infrastructure.

"Our system will use ground-penetrating radar, laser, geographic information system and GPS to automatically check and collect surface and subsurface data on the track's steel rails, concrete ties, fastening systems and ballast," says Yuanchang Xie, an assistant professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and the principal investigator for the entire project.—EA



Researcher Interviewed by NBC's 'Rock Center' on Marines With Male Breast Cancer

University researcher and cancer epidemiologist Richard Clapp appeared on NBC News' "Rock Center with Brian Williams" on Feb. 22 in an interview with the network's Chief Medical Editor Dr. Nancy Snyderman.

Clapp addressed high rates of male breast cancer at the U. S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C.

"My interview was part of a longer segment about male breast cancer," says Clapp, who has often been called upon by the media, including "60 Minutes," to discuss links between toxics and cancer. "I hope that viewers learned about this rare type of cancer and also got a better understanding of its potential environmental causes."

Snyderman and the crew also interviewed one of the Camp Lejeune Marine veterans and current North Andover resident Pete Devereaux at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, where he was receiving chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Clapp, who conducts research at the University's Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, is advising the Centers for Disease Control on a study that examines whether contaminated drinking water is to blame for a "cluster" of male breast cancer diagnoses at Camp Lejeune.

From the 1950s through 1987, Marines and their families drank and bathed in water contaminated with toxins at concentrations 240 to 3,400 times those permitted by safety standards, and at least 850 former residents have filed insurance claims worth nearly \$4 billion. The water was contaminated by toxics including trichloroethylene, a degreaser; perchloroethylene, a dry cleaning solvent; and benzene, most commonly used as a gasoline additive.

"When the two-year study is published, it will be the best look yet at answering the question of whether contaminated well water at Camp Lejeune is linked to male breast cancer in the Marines who lived there," says Clapp. "Since male breast cancer is so rare—less than 1 percent of all cancers—the studies will have more statistical power than previous ones for making the link between toxics and breast cancer in men and women."—KA

University Mad Men (and Woman)

Lowell City Manager Bernie Lynch '78 was impressed.

While marketing consultants and professional experts had proposed dozens of campaigns about his city over the years, most didn't click.

This one did.

Four teams of students in Assoc. Prof. Karen Roehr's Advertising Design class competed against one another—just like real-world ad agencies—for the City of Lowell advertising account. The project, funded by a Creative Economy grant won by Roehr, challenged students to create campaigns for the city.

The winning team of Jason Taylor '13, Juliana de Souza '12 and Mike Noonan '12 used a variety of media including bus wraps, magazine and newspaper ads and mall banners to convey their version of Lowell.

The dramatic, urban-feeling campaign—dubbed Lowell by the Numbers—showcases Lowell's recreational, cultural and entertainment offerings through images shot by Lecturer Chehalis Hegner's photography students including de Souza and Christian Napolitano '13.

Concise copy, penned by Taylor, follows a theme of wide variety in close proximity: one headline for the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell says "Thirty Decibels Louder: 20 feet closer" while another touts the city's vibrant arts community with the headline "Countless Masterpieces Made 2 Rooms Away."

Says Lynch: "This campaign gets the city. We're not Boston, we're Lowell. We're not like anywhere else, and that's what makes us who we are. This student campaign nailed it."

Noonan says the project offered a real-life foray into the business of advertising—and tapped into a creative side he always knew he had.

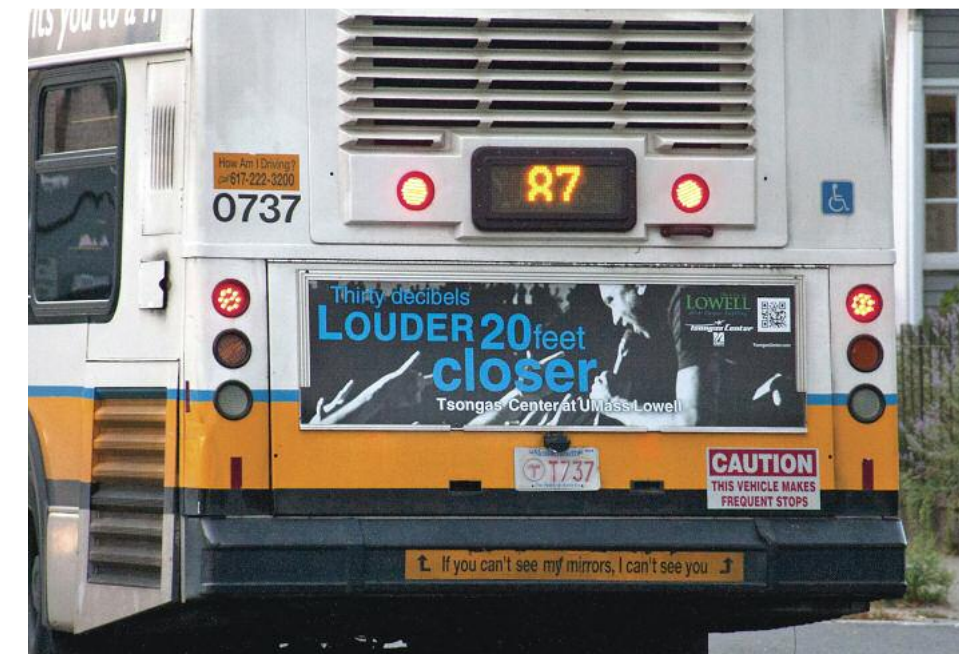
"Prof. Roehr's project was the favorite of my college career—it wasn't just classroom theory, we gathered statistics on the best places to advertise, analyzed the costs associated with the campaign and met face-to-face with executives from Simon Mall to discuss using their venues for our ads," he says.

For Taylor, creating an ad that hangs nine by five feet in the Burlington Mall was surreal.

"My parents went to the mall and took pictures of the ads—people were looking at them like they were tourists," he says.

Roehr says the project gave students valuable experience. The results encourage people to take action by visiting Lowell, helping to raise public awareness and promote business.

In addition to the Burlington Mall, the ads can be seen on buses in Somerville, Burlington and Cambridge, and in WGBH Magazine's May issue.—SE





ALL KEYED UP

Renowned keyboard wizard Jordan Rudess gave master classes and a public concert to benefit scholarships in the Music Department on Feb. 21. "I'm a big believer in education," says Rudess, who is currently recording his eighth studio album with the celebrated progressive rock band Dream Theater. "It's especially important these days to have training. You have to have the foundations and education or you're just limiting yourself."

WILL THE REAL KATE HUDSON PLEASE STAND UP?

If plans for a career in exercise physiology don't work out, student Jessica LeBlanc (below, left) might consider becoming a professional stunt double.

The junior recently spent a few days performing water skiing stunts in Beverly and Gloucester for Kate Hudson (below, right) for the upcoming HBO movie "Clear History," which also stars Larry David, Jon Hamm and Eva Mendes.

The Marblehead native responded to an open casting call for water skiers on the North Shore. "I got a call from Hollywood a few weeks later explaining that I was the only woman out of all the applicants that the directors were interested in and they wanted me on set the following week," she says.—KA



Students' Tricycle Design Improves Child's Life

"It was a great feeling to help a child with a disability," says Anthony Capone.

He and fellow electrical engineering student Derek Dempsey used assistive design technology to create a "hybrid power tricycle" for their client—a 4-year-old boy named Pierce who is afflicted with cerebral palsy, a brain disorder that affects a person's mobility and mental development.

"Knowing you improved the quality of someone's life is very powerful," notes Capone, who with Dempsey delivered the tricycle to Pierce's home in Pittsburgh, just three days before Christmas. "When Pierce first saw the tricycle, he was so excited that he couldn't stop smiling. His parents told us he did not smile often, so knowing our project made him happy was very rewarding."

The tricycle uses a sensor that reads how fast Pierce is pedaling and sends a signal to a microcontroller. The microcontroller calculates how much power to send to the motor controller, which then revs up the electric motor to spin the tricycle's front wheel.

"Basically, Pierce can ride the trike and the motor will assist him while he pedals," says Dempsey. "Pierce's cerebral palsy has left him with poor core and leg muscle strength. Riding the tricycle provides important exercise to improve his physical condition."

"If things work out well, we could decide to start producing these trikes for the general public," Capone says.—EA



Two electrical engineering students designed this hybrid tricycle for a child with disabilities.

Plastics engineering major Alexander Rick worked at Burton Snowboards in a co-op position last winter, a job he says was the perfect alignment of his personal passion and professional goals. A dedicated snowboarder since third grade, Rick worked at Burton's headquarters in Burlington, Vt., helping design the company's 2014 product line. He parlayed his zeal for boarding, his engineering skills and work experience from a previous engineering co-op job at SMC Ltd. into an offer from Burton. "I loved working at Burton. You don't have a bad day there," says Rick, who is scheduled to graduate in December.



GNARLY, DUDE!

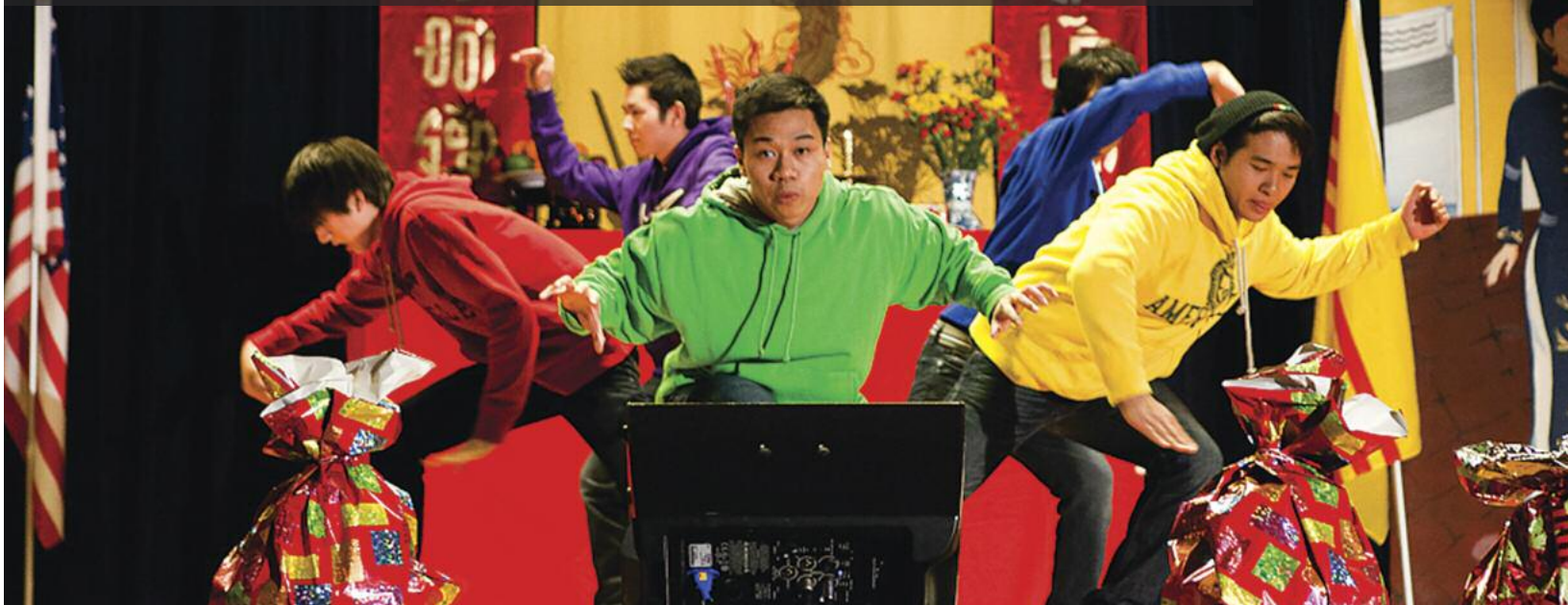
Burning Sculpture Garden

As part of a weeklong collaboration with the Shenkar College of Design and Engineering in Israel, students and faculty from the Art and Plastics Engineering departments (including Studio Manager Anna Isaak-Ross, shown here) worked with Israeli artist Oded Jacob to construct 32 linear sculptures—which were set ablaze on South Campus at dusk recently.



Happy New Year!

For the seventh consecutive year, the UMass Lowell Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) joined forces with local community groups to celebrate Vietnamese New Year at Cumnock Hall in January. More than 700 people attended this year's event, which featured performances by groups like the Rice Paddy Heroes, shown here. The VSA, which has been on campus since about 1975, includes many second-generation members.



Student EMTs Win Awards

The University EMS team won one of just four Striving for Excellence Awards at the National Collegiate EMS Conference recently. The award, which recognizes outstanding student EMS teams throughout the U.S. and Canada, sets the "gold standard for campus EMS delivery and care."

The group also attained one of the highest levels of licensure available to campus EMS programs with a new Class V non-transfer license from the Massachusetts Department of Health. With the license, UMass Lowell EMS has nearly all of the capabilities of a regional EMS service provider—allowing the students to be even more involved with University and community events such as Lowell Winterfest and the Baystate Marathon.

Several students also recently met with members of the Boston MedFlight team at Hanscom Air Force Base to learn more about the challenges of treating patients in the air. Other participated in two FEMA-led training sessions.

Many student EMTs come to the program with an interest in the health field but aren't sure where to begin. The program gives them opportunities to learn about both the front-line and behind the scenes aspects of emergency response, resulting in many participants joining the field.

Get your BLUE on!

Division I River Hawk spirit options for the whole family!

Show off your Division I spirit in style! Get your official UMass Lowell apparel and merchandise at The River Hawk Shop.

North Campus: Falmouth Hall, One University Ave.
South Campus: One Solomont Way
Downtown Lowell: 151 Merrimack Street



Uml.bkstr.com



We Are The Champions!



Sophomore defenseman Jake Suter hoists the Hockey East trophy (above) as the River Hawks celebrate their first-ever Hockey East championship on March 23—just two weeks after they clinched the regular season title for the first time. One week later, the team shut out the University of New Hampshire 2-0 in the regional finals to earn their first trip to the Frozen Four. As of press time, the River Hawks were set to play Yale on April 11, in the first round of the national tournament in Pittsburgh.

ESPN analyst Dave Starman predicted that the River Hawks would take the national title. "UMass Lowell is a team that ... has managed to continue to play at that high level. ... I love their jam. I love their snarl. I love their ability to battle and attack," he said on air.

Also in March, Coach Norm Bazin was named Bauer Hockey East Coach of the Year for the second straight year, while junior defenseman Chad Ruhwedel was named to the Hockey East All-Conference First Team and senior forward Riley Wetmore, junior winger Joe Pendenza and Hellebuyck were each named to the Second Team.



Credit: Emily Antonelli-Ray

The Gooooooaaal of Ellis, Scoggins

Duo Serves as Eyes and Ears of River Hawk Hockey

At first, Chaz Scoggins viewed Bob Ellis as the enemy. “He wouldn’t talk to me,” says Ellis, still incredulous. For years, sitting in the same press box at UMass Lowell hockey games, Scoggins confined the details of his reporting to his newspaper gig. Now, the two men talk constantly. In fact, talking is their job, as the broadcast team that delivers UMass Lowell River Hawks hockey games to radio listeners on the University’s own WUML-FM, simulcast on the Lowell AM station WCAP.

Scoggins, a 1970 UMass Lowell alumnus, and Ellis are the voices of UMass Lowell hockey, a radio force of excitability and calm, of instant, sometimes frenzied reaction and calm perspective. They are peanut butter and chocolate.

The division of labor is simple: “My job is to say what I see,” says Ellis.

“When play stops,” says Scoggins, “I talk about what he’s just seen.”

“I draw the lines,” says Ellis. “And he colors in the picture.”

“He does the play-by-play, which I could never do,” says Scoggins. “I did it for 15 seconds once when he stepped out and I was mentally exhausted. And nothing happened.”

Alas, this is the final season for the team that has broadcast together since a Jan. 24, 1995 contest at Brown University, a 3-3 tie, recalls Scoggins.

On April 2, Scoggins retired from his sports writing gig at The Sun of Lowell after four decades; soon, he will leave for Florida. He leaves behind his hockey sportscasting duties. Ellis will stay on, though the broadcast’s configuration has yet to be determined. The team, which also broadcasts Lowell Spinners baseball games in the summer, will continue to do that, says Scoggins. (Ellis also has a full-time day gig as director of new media for the University’s Athletic Department.)

Long before the puck dropped at a hockey game on Jan. 26, Ellis edited and downloaded interviews he’d done earlier that would air between periods, and the two men gathered interviews with Northeastern head coach Jim Madigan in the bowels of the arena, then in the office of River Hawks coach Norm Bazin.

As Scoggins, 64, went over his notes, Ellis fidgeted. He was unnerved. The River Hawks were about to take on Northeastern’s Huskies for the second consecutive night, and the previous night the teams battled to a 4-4 tie in Boston. A Hawks victory would mark the team’s 11th consecutive unbeaten performance.

A tradition for home games over the past decade, Ellis had brought in a plate of brownies made by his partner of 15 years, Claire Kamasaki, a professor of English at Middlesex Community College.

The press box was packed. The ice below was infused with pink, supporting efforts to battle breast cancer. A crowd of 7,013 was the official tally, the largest ever for a River Hawks home game.

A loss would be more than a number to Ellis, 60.

“Let’s just say my whole mood depends on what happens,” he said at the time. “Check with me after the game.”

Ellis’s voice is known far and wide for its distinct nasal tone. He has a distinct cadence, too. It is a voice much imitated, rarely captured.

“Bob was one of the first people I met in Lowell when I came over here 26 years ago,” says Athletic Director Dana Skinner. “He was over at WLLH and I was introduced to him. He spoke and I said, ‘You have to be the play by play man.’”

His job is to re-create for listeners the college hockey world unfolding before him. He does it with great excitement if the Hawks are faring well, with thinly veiled disgust when they are sluggish and losing.

“I can usually tell right away what’s going on,” says Scoggins. “If I have to work a desk shift at the paper and turn the radio on, I can tell if they’re winning or losing from Bob’s voice.”

Ellis knew Scoggins as a baseball writer for the Lowell daily, a gig that led to serving for years as Fenway Park’s official scorekeeper, including during World Series games.

As for hockey, Scoggins covered a game at Tully Forum in 1974, “when no one was paying attention,” and turned it into a beat.

Ellis played hockey, meanwhile—well enough to be captain of the Emerson College team and most valuable player his senior year. He rarely missed a chance to play pickup games at nearby rinks growing up in the Bronx.

“He’s such a passionate fan of hockey, which helps his effectiveness,” says Skinner. “Having Chaz with him, an alum, makes it extra special. It’s a dynamite combination.”

Back on the ice on Jan. 26, by the time the third period rolled round, it looked like Ellis was headed for a foul mood. Northeastern was ahead 3-0.

And then things started to change.

One River Hawk goal.

Another.

Then, with 55 seconds left in the game, yet another, to tie the game. Each time, Ellis’ mouth curled into a “O” shape as he bellowed, “goooooooooooooaaal!”

In overtime, with 1:53 left on the clock, freshman Christian Folin banged home the winner for the River Hawks.

“I’ve always thought of broadcasting hockey as a passion play,” Ellis said, after signing off. “Tonight was a great example of that. Wow!”—DP



Chaz Scoggins '70, left, and Bob Ellis

Antoinette Toussaint placed fourth in the long jump at the NCAA championships in Birmingham, Ala.



Credit: Hal Yeager

A Nice Run

TRACK AND FIELD SENDS LARGEST GROUP EVER TO CHAMPIONSHIP

The UMass Lowell women's indoor track and field team won its second straight Northeast-10 Conference championship in February. The title was UMass Lowell's fourth in five years and eighth in the last 11. The indoor championship—UMass Lowell's last as an NCAA Division II school—was particularly meaningful for the River Hawks following Thursday announcement it will join Division I and America East effective July 1. Junior Antoinette Toussaint scored 32 points and was named Athlete of the Meet.

The next month, the men's and women's teams together sent five individuals and four relay teams to the NCAA Championship in Birmingham, Ala.—the University's largest-ever contingent to earn NCAA qualification.

Both the women and men placed 21st in the team standings. Between the men's distance medley, men's and women's 4X400 relay teams along—and individual honors for juniors Elisabeth Monty and Antoinette Toussaint—the River Hawks crowned 14 All-Americans.

"We had a great weekend," said head coach Gary Gardner at the time. "I am especially happy for the women, who haven't had an All-American since [2010 outdoor shot put champion] Jacqui Barrett. This weekend, they earned it in a big way with two school records in the 4X400; with Elisabeth in the 60 meter hurdles and with Antoinette coming from way back to win the 800 meters and place seventh."

Just prior to the championship, Toussaint was named the East Region Field Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Gardner was named the East Region Women's Coach of the Year and Sprint Coach Mike Ekstrand was named the East Region Women's Assistant Coach of the Year. ■

**SPORTS SPOTLIGHT
OVER THE PAST 13 YEARS...**

- 114 NCAA post-season appearances
- 2 team national championships
- 2 individual national championships
- 2 national players of the year
- 1 Olympian
- 68 conference championships
- 228 All-Americans
- 36 Academic All-Americans
- 1 transition to Division I

Sports Briefs

With scores climbing and school records falling, UMass Lowell athletic teams were on fire in the rink, on the court and on the track this winter:

- On the basketball court, Bianca Simmons pushed the women's team to new heights. Named Player of the Week more often than not this season and chasing the University's career scoring record, Simmons will attend the WNBA's Free Agent Camp in April. The senior guard is also leading the nation in Division II scoring, averaging more than 25 points a game.
- The men's basketball team celebrated head coach Greg Herenda's 100th win in January, making him the most successful coach in the program's history. Later in the month, legendary college basketball coach Jim Calhoun visited the players, giving tips from his long career and guidance toward a strong season.
- In track and field, senior Eric McDonald ran the fastest mile in Division II early in the season and promptly beat his own record the next week.
- Junior Candace Greene climbed the shot put rankings while several teammates qualified for NCAA championships early in the season.

Features

Kuwait—whose capitol, Kuwait City, is shown here—has long been an important strategic partner of the United States in the Middle East. Now, it's also a strategic partner of UMass Lowell, which is teaming up with Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems and Gulf University for Science and Technology to develop joint-degree programs at the undergraduate and master's levels. The first programs offered as part of the partnership could begin as early as this fall, with focus on sciences, engineering and business. Read more about how the University is reaching out to the world on Page 36.

Inside...

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- 30 SERVING STUDENT VETS
- 34 FACE OF PHILANTHROPY
- 36 CONNECTING THE WORLD
- 43 THE COMPANY WE KEEP



THE KING HAS SPOKEN

BY DAVID PERRY

Literary Rock Star Stephen King Spends a Day at UMass Lowell

A few minutes before 1 p.m. on Dec. 7, Andre Dubus III pulled his Toyota Tundra into the parking lot of the University's Inn & Conference Center in downtown Lowell. Eying a spot in the last row, he lined up the green truck.

Before slipping the Tundra into reverse, he discharged his precious cargo: Stephen King. As Dubus backed between the yellow lines, King playfully booted the side of the truck with a black sneaker.

Dubus jumped at the noise, prompting the lanky King to extract a toothpick from his mouth and laugh.

It was the beginning of a long day. King had left his Maine home at 8 a.m. for a three-hour drive that took him past towns comprising a corridor of brick that runs to Lowell.

After walking into the conference center, King headed straight upstairs to the Paul Tsongas Boardroom. He was without manager, sans publicist. No handlers. Just him.

"I was one of Tsongas' earlier supporters," King, 65, said to Dubus as they climbed the stairs to the second floor. "Good man."

Continued



Stephen King debuted his unpublished story "Afterlife" to the crowd at the Tsongas Center.



I'M A WRITER. I'M NOT A PERFORMER. AND WHEN I GET OUT IN FRONT OF A BUNCH OF PEOPLE, I GET A LITTLE NERVOUS AND A LITTLE SELF-CONSCIOUS.

—Stephen King

Dubus, an old friend of King, landed his pal as the inaugural guest in the University's Chancellor's Speaker Series ("I could never say no to Andre," explains King. "When Andre says 'frog,' I say, how high should I jump?"). His visit raised more than \$100,000, but King insisted upon not taking a dime in return—instead donating his speaking fee to student scholarships (see sidebar on P. 29).

From their arrival and well into the evening, King and Dubus swapped jokes and discussed books, authors and the details of one another's lives. King met students, English professors and those who gathered for pre- and post-show events surrounding a large public event, "A Conversation With Stephen King." He chatted easily, signed everything. He mugged for every photo, wrapping a long, lean arm around the shoulders of strangers.

Stephen King is a literary brand, a monster of sales figures, movie adaptations and plot invention as likely to earn praise from academics and fellow writers as the grown kids who were terrified by "Carrie" all those years ago.

He's the writer everyone knows. He is the most powerful writer in Hollywood, according to The Hollywood Reporter. His more than 50 books have sold more than 350 million copies.

But King is also, as English Assoc. Prof. Bridget Marshall points out, a writer who stops time cold.

Introducing King to an afternoon master class geared to UMass Lowell English majors, Marshall told the more than 150 students that in 1987, she got what she wanted most for Christmas: a stack of Stephen King novels.

Shortly after, her mother tried several times to coax her from her bedroom to join yuletide activities. But the 13-year-old Marshall was too wrapped up in "Misery." The family could wait.

"He has the power to transfix, to hold you really, really tight in the pages of a book," says Marshall, assistant chair of the English Department.

Marshall is now a quarter century removed from her Christmas bliss, but no less excited to rub elbows with King. She had ended her Gothic seminar earlier in the day by telling her class, "Okay, let's go see Stephen King." She was still amazed, standing near King at the faculty reception.

"How many times can you do that?" she asks. "I couldn't make that up. We read 'The Shining' last week."

For all of the ease King seemed to display throughout his visit, he had made it clear in a phone interview with reporters weeks earlier that if one thing terrifies him, it is public speaking.

"Frankly," he said at the time, "it's kind of scary. I'm a writer. I'm not a performer. And when I get out in front of a bunch of people, I get a little nervous and a little self-conscious. It's strange to think that so many people actually want to come out and see, you know, somebody who isn't Justin Bieber."

King's visit is part of an era in which the University has been rediscovering its inner writer—co-sponsoring an exhibit on Charles Dickens' time in Lowell and the

world premier of Jack Kerouac's lone full-length play, "The Beat Generation."

During the master class at the Inn & Conference Center, King fielded questions, including one from sophomore English major Maddie Koufogazos about the art of creating characters.

"Stephen King is my favorite writer," Koufogazos said later. "When I heard he was coming to campus, I knew I had to be there. Seeing him speak and sitting in the same room with him reminded me that he's just a normal man who can captivate readers and really connect with them."

The session inspired her to "go home and get writing to see what I can do. ... It was pretty much the coolest thing I've ever done. Sitting three rows away and asking him a question was a dream come true."

During the class, King recounted seeing Joseph Heller in person while a student at the University of Maine, as-tounded to be in the same room as the "Catch-22" author. Despite Heller's fancy suit, King said he realized "he's just a guy. I'm just a guy, too, here to answer your questions and talk about what you want to talk about."

The students asked King about the genesis of story and character ideas, about the difference between writing for the page and the screen, about what scares him, about the fate of writing in a digital world and if he keeps a notebook handy to record ideas.

No notebook, he told them. Like gold nuggets in a sifter, the best ideas "stay around." The rest fall away.

He said the idea for 2009's "Under the Dome" came in 1973.

"I worked on it for a bit, then let it go," he told the students. "I was too young for it."

The book, which is about how people behave when cut off from society, is now being prepared as a 13-part CBS TV series by Stephen Spielberg.

"I'm gonna read a short story tonight," King told Dubus later that afternoon, while signing a stack of 100 crisp copies of "11/22/63," his 2011 book. "It's new. I'm not sure what people will think. Hey, I have a captive audience."

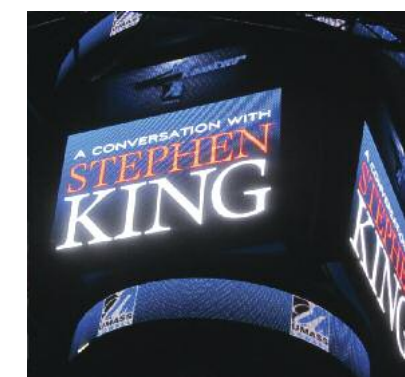
"You're talking more than 3,000 people," said Dubus. "You know, Steve, this really gives me hope for literature. That a writer can get that kind of crowd. Do you realize, we have people here from Denver? Quebec? Ireland!"

This exchange prompted a barrage of jokes, a sort of call-and-response between King and Dubus. Guys at AA, guys walking into bars, a guy in camo hunting in Maine. The eight people in the room howled, none louder than the two writers.

In a serious moment, Dubus recalled King dedicating one of his The Pop of King columns in Entertainment Weekly to Dubus' 9/11-rooted book, "The Garden of Last Days."

"It was the best of all the 9/11 books," King told Dubus. "Great book."

Continued



The Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell's state-of-the-art video scoreboard announces the evening's guest.



Bestselling author and UMass Lowell professor Andre Dubus III interviewed his pal, Stephen King, on stage at the Tsongas Center.



Chancellor Marty Meehan presents Stephen King with a UMass Lowell sweatshirt.

THIS REALLY GIVES ME HOPE FOR LITERATURE. THAT A WRITER CAN GET THIS KIND OF CROWD.

—Andre Dubus III

“He writes about it in his column and it’s on the best-seller list,” Dubus said.

“I wasn’t the dog,” said King. “I was just the tail.”

King told the group that he wrote a short story after 9/11 that remains unpublished. It’s the story of a man who worked in one of the World Trade Center towers who had called in sick the day of the attacks. But he wasn’t really ill.

Eventually, explained King, “these objects start showing up in his house.” As it turns out, they were the belongings of those who perished in the towers.

When King paused for a moment, Carol Scalesse, director of sales and marketing for the Inn & Conference Center, tells him that “It”—the film version—“scared me the most.”

“The clown thing, huh?” said King. “There’s a whole generation of kids traumatized by that movie.”

“Including me!” Scalesse said.

At 6:01 p.m., Chancellor Martin Meehan sat near the lip of the Talon Club at the Tsongas Center, watching the crowd beginning to filter in below.

“The reason we wanted to have this event at the Tsongas Center is that it showcases the venue as more than an arena for sports,” said Meehan. “We can bring in authors, celebrities, musicians, as well. So we’re bringing in more than 3,000 people tonight, and not just students, but people from the city and beyond.”

Meanwhile, King was settling into his dressing room in the bowels of the arena. Though there was a handsome spread of finger foods and tea, he ignored it in favor of a hot dog with mustard. For dessert, he pulled a Hostess Ho-Ho from his gift bag and shared it with Dubus.

Shortly after, he turned toward Russ Dorr, a researcher for King for more than three decades, who had traveled to join the author the Tsongas Center.

“Hey, Russ,” said King. “Need you to find out something for the Mercedes book.”

Dorr, a physician’s assistant whose work has expanded beyond medical, perked up.

Continued King: “Ted Bundy, how was he caught? Things happen. People do terrible things. And then do other things to get caught. Son of Sam, it was parking ticket. Ted Bundy, all I see is, ‘routine traffic stop,’ but I can’t find the specific violation. Busted light?”

“You got it,” said Dorr.

At 7:30, King and Dubus took the stage.

Years ago, King learned that Bruce Springsteen wanted to meet him. Wow, the author said. No problem.

Weeks later, the Boss and the King were settled at a table in a casual New York City joint, chatting over beer and corned beef and cabbage sandwiches.

“Really nice guy,” King told the crowd at the Tsongas, before continuing his story.

While Springsteen and King talked, a husband, wife and their daughter walked into the restaurant and sat at a table nearby. The daughter—“who looked about 16,” King said—stared at the famous pair, jaw agape.

Springsteen, said King, knew this drill.

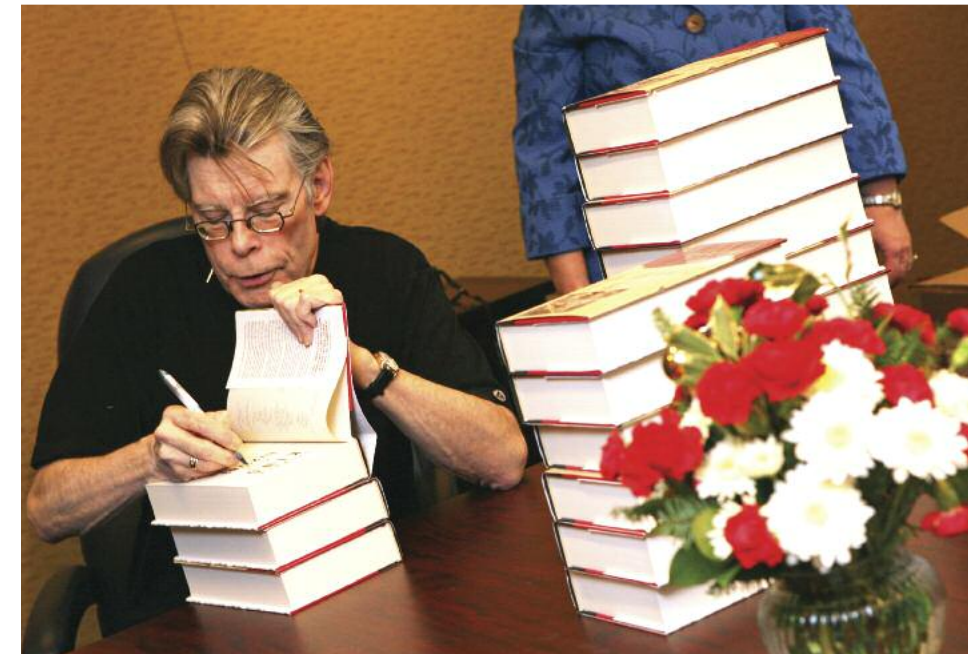
“I could see Bruce getting the pen out of his pocket,” recalled King. “And ... she never even looked at him.”

Her focus was all King, he said: “Are you Stephen King? I have read all of your books. I’d love your autograph.”

The crowd at the Tsongas roared. Dubus leapt from his chair, slapping King a big high-five.

Dubus then prompted King to tell the story of his “Carrie” cash windfall, so beautifully told in the latter’s

Continued





book “On Writing.” The story is also a testament to the 40-year love song King has shared with his wife, the novelist Tabitha King. Turns out King tossed the original manuscript for “Carrie” into the trash, and Tabitha plucked it from obscurity.

“And she’s never let me forget it,” said King.

At the time, the pair lived in an apartment in Bangor, Maine; they had “a couple of kids, no money,” he says.

One day, Tabitha had driven somewhere in their car, which needed a transmission. While she was gone, the phone rang. It was editor Bill Thompson. The paperback rights to “Carrie” were sold. King got half the money in the deal.

The rights went for \$400,000.

King told the crowd that his legs buckled “like an accordion, and I folded to the ground.”

Then he had a thought: He would need to buy a present for Tabitha, who saved the book.

It was Sunday. Only the Rexall was open. “I bought her a hair dryer,” he said.

Following a lively 30 minutes of onstage banter and discussion between the two writers, King looked out into the packed audience.

“Do you want to hear a story?” he asked. The crowd roared back.

King picked up a thick sheaf of computer paper and read the unpublished “Afterlife,” which is, on its surface, about a man named William Andrews who dies, awakening at a moral weigh station. He considers his life and choices with prodding from one of history’s pariahs. Andrews has some regrets.

The reading lasted 30 minutes. For all the rowdiness the sturdy Tsongas Center usually sees with slashing hockey sticks and metal-driven mosh pit frenzy, King’s reading was sublime. The author sat, relaxed, below a 30-foot-tall banner showing his face and a stack of his books.

From his first words, the crowd fell pin-drop quiet. The arena seemed to become a small room, lights dimmed, a writer bathed in utter reverence. If Stephen King ever had the slightest regret about becoming a writer, you’d never know it now.

King was reading a bedtime story to 3,000 of his kids. Considering the author, no one dared drift off to slumber.

The dashing, perpetually chipper Dubus, listened. An adverb to a verb, he was joined to King’s every move during his visit.

Dubus is no slouch, a fellow master storyteller who the week before had closed the book on a new work of his own. He calls it “a collection of vaguely linked novellas.” His “House of Sand and Fog” and “Townie” are perhaps his best-known works.

“Andre is just very special,” says Meehan. “He’s a great author in his own right, five books, two of them New York Times best-sellers. And ‘Townie’—anyone who grew up in an old mill city like Haverhill, Lawrence,

Lowell ... I know when I read it, it reminded me of growing up in Lowell.”

Dubus’ father, the great American short story writer, was the reason Andre met King. In July 1986, the elder Dubus stopped his car to help some disabled motorists. He was struck by a passing vehicle, but saved one of the pedestrians, pushing her to safety. His legs were crushed and he was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. As his bills mounted, Kurt Vonnegut, John Updike, E.L. Doctorow, King and other literary giants organized a Boston fundraiser to help their friend.

The elder Dubus died in February 1999. Four months later, King was struck by a vehicle as he walked along Route 5 in Maine. He nearly died, too, then survived a long, painful recovery.

The crowd at the Tsongas is thrilled he made it through. In some moments, the rock star author seems in concert, the mention of one of his book titles drawing a roar from the crowd. “The Shining.” ROAR! “The Stand.” YEAH!!

“Free Bird!” crowed King at one point.

“My first stadium show!” he proclaimed of the spectacle.

People have come from all over to see him. David Wroblewski, the author of “The Story of Edgar Sawtelle” (which carries a blurb of praise from King) flew in from Denver with his wife, finally meeting King in person in the Tsongas Center hallway.

At least two women wept when they met King.

“Eh, doesn’t happen all the time. You just accept it,” said King in a backstage elevator, after meeting a sobbing fan in the hallway.

Later, he would tell the crowd of the oddness of being recognized, “because writers are the secret agents of the arts. We cruise around reporting on what you all are doing.”

King’s reporting has led to a packed calendar. There’s a forthcoming “Carrie” film remake, a 13-year musical project he is producing with John Mellencamp (the star-studded soundtrack was released March) and a 2013 sequel to “The Shining,” called “Dr. Sleep.”

His is “a great job,” he told the crowd. “You guys put my kids through college and I scared the s*** out of you while doing it.”

Toward the end of the night, King told the crowd that he begins writing with an idea, then a character, pushed along by the question, “what if?” He favors spontaneity over planning of plot.

He gave the aspiring writers in the house one more, less mechanical piece of advice: “Show compassion for the people no one pays attention to.”

At the end of his talk, the lines of folks at two microphones stretched several deep. A Pennsylvanian told of reading “11/22/63” in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. No power, no lights, but the book made life easier to take.



Stephen King gave a master class to UMass Lowell English students.

Another fan, 11 years old, stopped before posing a question. “I’m speaking to Stephen King!” he shouted.

Meehan stepped up to present King with a UMass Lowell sweatshirt. King scribbled his name on the chairs he and Dubus occupied and they are raffled off. Boom! Another five grand for scholarships.

Wrapping up, King—in a nod to his horror-writing background—told the crowd that he’s no alarmist, but maybe they should check the backseats of their cars before they climb in to drive off. Just in case, you know, some bloodthirsty maniac had stashed himself in there.

And then he was done—heading backstage to snap photos with big donors. His face relaxed, he chatted and he signed—until it was time to return to his dressing room, a converted locker room where slashers, at least the college hockey kind, suit up for frozen battle.

King smiled as he settled back into a couch.

And before long, the green Toyota, two artistic secret agents inside, left the lot and slipped off into the dark of the night, where anything can happen. ■

Editor’s note: See Stephen King live at UMass Lowell—including his reading of his new story “Afterlife”—on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/umasslowell.

KING SCHOLARSHIP: FROM FEE TO FUND

“Well,” says Stephen King of being the inaugural guest of the Chancellor’s Speaker Series, “nobody can say everybody was better than me, because I’ll be the only one for a little while.”

He was here long enough to raise more than \$100,000.

Approached by friend and fellow author Andre Dubus III, a professor here, King never hesitated when asked to inaugurate the series, and insisted upon turning his speaker’s fee back to the University. Thus was born the Stephen and Tabitha King Scholarship, named for the writer and his novelist wife of four decades. The money will help deserving English majors with a UMass Lowell education.

“It’s a no-brainer for me,” says King.

A special night with a literary rock star was “even more unique in that Stephen King won’t accept any payment and is giving everything back to the University for a scholarship,” said Chancellor Martin Meehan shortly before King took the stage before a sold out crowd at the Tsongas Center. “That’s generous. And it really says a lot about Stephen and Tabitha King.”

“You go to a place like UMass and they say, we have a lecture fund, and this is gonna be your fee, and somebody says fee to me—and I can get in my car and drive there in three-and-a-half hours—and I go pale,” King says.

“I think to myself, ‘that’s not what I do for a living. I’m not a stand-up guy. I’m not Patton Oswalt or somebody like that who can tell jokes. So if I turn the fee over to the University, they can give it away as a scholarship or do whatever they want.’”



Serving Those Who Served

HOW WE HELP STUDENT VETS LIKE LATASHIA WHITE

BY SHEILA EPPOLITO

According to Map Quest, it's 886.84 miles from downtown Daleville, Ala., to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, but that doesn't begin to tell Latashia White's story.

On April 19, 1987, Latashia Dominique White was born to parents Rosemary and Clarence in Daleville (pop. 5,273), about an hour and a half south of Montgomery.

The family works hard—Rosemary is a Walmart employee, Clarence is a mechanic. Latashia knew that the G.I. bill was her ticket to a degree in information technology ("I've always loved computers," she says) so after high school graduation, she and her parents visited a local recruiting office, and she enlisted.

"My dad was in the Army for more than 20 years, but we decided I'd go Air Force," says White, who completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base before being stationed at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, where she performed information management and clerical duties.

Then, in 2007, at 18 years old, White was deployed to Iraq for six months.

"It was scary sometimes, but I grew from the experience," she says.

While her main motivation for joining the Air Force was to get to college, the experience, White says, gave her more than a path to education.

"I used to be really shy, but being in the military made me more confident and more disciplined—I learned how to push myself," she says.



Back in Daleville after her four years were up, White researched universities that accept the GI Bill and offer strong information technology programs. UMass Lowell was at the top of the list.

White's newfound confidence has blossomed on campus, where she is secretary of the Student Veterans' Association, for which she helps arrange textbook swaps and mentoring programs for new student veterans. She is also a work-study student in the Office of Veterans' Affairs.

SAFE HAVEN, AND PLENTY OF KLONDIKE BARS

White, like many of the University's other 1,200 student veterans, can often be found hanging out in the Veterans' Affairs office, a relaxing place with comfy couches, mood lighting, snacks and, most importantly, other vets.

In 2011, Chancellor Marty Meehan committed to improving the campus' already "military friendly" moniker by opening a dedicated facility where veterans can get support, study, or just relax.

Janine Wert, director of veterans' services, heads the office, which is staffed with two part-time employees.

Wert's background makes her ideal for the position. She's a self-described "military brat" with a career Navy father, Air Force husband and two children on active duty—and has spent much of her career as a V.A. clinician specializing in PTSD and other combat-related issues.

"Our office helps student veterans work through the complicated V.A. system to manage education benefits, medical coverage and ongoing appointments and services," says Wert.

In fact, Wert is committed to helping student vets anyway she can—by referring them for psychiatric help, directing them to specialists in head injuries or simply providing free frozen meals.

★ HEROES ★ HELPING HEROES

University researchers and their counterparts from the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center announced a collaboration to help troops and save lives.

The partnership—called HEROES, Harnessing Emerging Research Opportunities to Empower Soldiers—will provide the Natick center access to the University's top-notch lab equipment at the new Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center while gathering scientists from both institutions to address the needs of troops. Potential products include flame-retardant camouflage, lighter food-packing materials, redesigned armor for female soldiers, and portable solar-powered battery chargers.

HEROES is supported by U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, who has made improving the lives of men and women in combat a signature priority.

The University will seek commercial applications of the technologies through local business partners.

Continued



Members of the Pershing Rifles Squadron N-12 sign a commitment to raise \$250,000 for a scholarship fund for student veterans.

Wert does more than paperwork, however, as evidenced during the interview for this story when she was contacted by a panicked student vet whose house had burned down.

“We arranged housing on a nearby base, and helped with other emergency services,” Wert says. “We take care of our people.”

The Office also helps veterans financially, by working with private donors to offer “bridge loans” to allow students to continue their classes even if their V.A. benefits are delayed. One such benefactor is the Pershing Rifles Squadron N-12, an elite, award-winning Air Force drill team that operated at the University from 1962-1984. The Pershing Rifles squadron has committed to raise \$250,000 for a fund that helps student veterans continue their studies.

“Our student veterans are especially committed to their studies—they have seen the alternative to education in their deployments,” Wert says.

But the core of her office’s efforts involves social support for this special student population, she adds, citing a recently unveiled Alumni Veterans’ Hall of Fame and Annual Military Ball.

LATASHIA’S INVITATION TO THE BIG DANCE

When President Obama’s inauguration plans were announced, White and 67,000 other active duty and retired military personnel volunteered for 15,000 positions. Several anxious days later, White received an email confirming that she’d been selected for a security spot at one of the inaugural balls.

With support from the Veteran’s Affairs Office, she gathered up a purple gown, some black high-heeled shoes, and a plane ticket to the Capitol.

Unfortunately, the nature of her assignment ruled out the gown.

“I was in charge of making sure people who’d paid for the \$65 event didn’t get into the \$1,200 gala,” she says.

While training and attendance at the event—held at the Washington Convention Center—took most of her time, there was some opportunity for sightseeing.

“I saw the White House from afar, and visited the Lincoln Memorial, The Washington Monument and the Korean War Veterans’ Memorial,” she says.

Her parents were excited for her, she says, but they wonder when she’ll come home.

“Some of the best IT jobs are here, in Massachusetts, so I’m not sure if I will return to Alabama to work after graduation,” she says. “My parents miss me, but I know they’re proud, too.” ■

(MORE) UNIVERSITY MILITARY-FRIENDLY ACTION

- e **PREVENTING BRAIN INJURY IN SOLDIERS:** Prof. Xingwei Wang of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and Profs. Christopher Niezrecki and Julie Chen of the Mechanical Engineering Department recently received a \$30,000 grant from Raytheon Corp. to develop a novel optical pressure-sensor network for evaluating the structural design of soldiers’ helmets.
- e **SUBMILLIMETER WAVE TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY USES RADAR FOR MILITARY AND MEDICAL APPLICATIONS:** a \$23 million grant—one of the largest in University history—will fund research in terahertz-frequency measurement systems that can be used to help identify unknown objects on radar, and help doctors interpret images on medical diagnostic devices.
- e **ADVANCING MONITORING FOR FOOD SAFETY FOR TROOPS:** Assoc. Prof. Sanjeev Manohar collaborated with Triton Systems to develop a food sample preparation and sensor-management process that can quickly detect toxic compounds and other contaminants.
- e **RESEARCHING ADAPTIVE INFRARED IMAGING SYSTEMS:** Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering Assoc. Prof. Xuejun Lu received a \$750,000 from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to develop a new, faster type of electrically switchable plasmonic polarizer to analyze infrared emissions from a target missile. These imaging systems are of great importance for missile defense, space surveillance, remote sensing and other applications.
- e **ANALYZING LIGHT WAVES FOR IMPROVED CHEMICAL PROTECTION FOR SOLDIERS:** The U.S. Army Research Office awarded Prof. James Whitten a \$345,000 grant to investigate better gas filtration systems. By measuring photoluminescence—the process by which certain color wavelengths shine on a material and cause it to emit a different color light—the study identifies effective nanomaterials for a new generation of air filters to protect troops from toxic chemical agents like nerve gas.

Because of You... Students Like Hank Urey '14 Thrive at UMass Lowell

Hank Urey '14, a marketing major and basketball player, is grateful for the donors who made his scholarships and financial aid possible. “It has taken a huge weight off of my shoulders. I can concentrate on being a college student without worrying about finances.”

With an outgoing personality and appreciation for philanthropy, Hank has been a student-caller for two years in the call center at UMass Lowell, where he contacts alumni to ask for support for the University and students like him. His favorite aspects of UMass Lowell are the positive environment and reputable academics, and he believes in the difference alumni, parents and friends can make by giving back.

“Giving to the University is important because it provides opportunities for students who wouldn’t be able to attend college without financial help. It also helps support facilities and academics on campus.”

“Thank you for seeing potential in the University and its students. Because of you, I can succeed.”

—Hank Urey '14

BECAUSE OF *You*... www.uml.edu/givenow



Hank Urey '14, a student who works in the call center at UMass Lowell, contacts alumni to ask for support for the University and students like him.

HONORING

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2013

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Since its inception, this event has raised over \$2.2 million for student scholarships. Look for more detailed information and purchase admission online at www.uml.edu/commencementeve.

Admission to the event is \$125 per person.

Friday, May 17
5-8:30 p.m.
UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center

For more information, contact:
Kathleen Sullivan
Events Manager
978-934-3236
Kathleen_Sullivan@uml.edu



A FAMILY LEGACY: 'YOU CAN DO BETTER'—AND, ONE BY ONE, THEY DID

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS



Leo Montagna '70, '76, right, and his sister, Mary Wagner, and nephew Christian Smialek '98, '00 gather on the factory floor at Lee Plastics in Sterling.



“We’ve got plastic in our veins,” Leo Montagna Sr. said to a reporter shortly after his 81st birthday. He was still at work then, as director of sales, at Lee Plastics in Sterling, the company his son, Leo Jr. (Lowell Tech '70, ULowell '76), had founded 25 years before—having founded his own company, a maker of plastic buttons, 37 years before that. All three of his daughters, as well as his son, knew their way around a molding machine. When he did business with a customer, he told the reporter, he did it as he’d always done it, face to face: “I don’t talk to anybody on the phone, unless it’s God.”

The legacy had been planted more than a lifetime before: with his father, John Montagna, in a 19th-century factory in Leominster, where, Leo would say later, “they made combs and buttons from horn.” Then came his own career, beginning in his teens during the worst years of the Depression, as a floor boy at the DuPont factory in Leominster. By the time he was 20 in 1939, he’d started his own company, Phoenix Plastics in Clinton. It was a time, during and just after the war, when plastic was suddenly in high demand and injection-molding was coming into its own: “But the machines had no timers,” Leo Sr. remembered. “We used an alarm clock to tell us when to open the mold.”

The company flourished. Nearly 40 years passed. And then it was time for the next Montagna: Leo Jr., who started Lee Plastics in 1976. And the father, at a time in life when most fathers ease toward retirement, instead went to work for the son.

Leo Sr. died two years ago. He was 91, and had come to the office almost daily nearly until the end. He’d gotten a little shaky with numbers in his last days, his son says: “and I’d have to check his math sometimes. He didn’t like that much, but he knew why I did it, and he accepted it, I think.”

Lee Plastics is a family business. You couldn’t call it anything else, even with the patriarch no longer around. Leo Jr., as founder and president, heads the operation; his sister, Mary, runs the office and has been running it for years; his

nephew, Christian Smialek '98, '00, Leo Sr.’s grandson, is a project engineer.

Even the company’s history follows the family storyline. When Leo Jr. founded it in 1976, he’d not yet finished the coursework for his master’s degree at ULowell—much as his father, 37 years earlier, was barely three years removed from his first days as a floor boy in Leominster when he opened Phoenix Plastics. It isn’t in a Montagna’s genes, it seems, to work long for anyone else.

“I didn’t want to work for him anymore,” Leo Jr. once joked, referring to his father, when asked why he’d started Lee Plastics as early as he had. “He’d show me something and ask, ‘Do you

“The way I look at it is, I owe this to the University. I don’t keep a tally sheet. Whatever I can give, I think is due.”

get the message?’ I’d say, ‘Yeah, Dad.’ And then he’d say, ‘You can do better.’”

His father helped him buy his first press, a used one that Leo Jr. managed to keep running for more than a decade. That was a long time ago. The company today, a specialist in plastic instrumentation and controls for industry, has 20 injection molding machines, 26 manufacturing employees and somewhere near 50 clients. “I like to think,” says Leo, “that we pick up one or two every year.”

It took him a little while, in the early days, to figure out just where he wanted to go—but once the target was in sight, he never wavered. After he earned his bachelor’s at Lowell Tech in 1970, he went to work, he says, for a company in Worcester, only to find (not for the last time) that “I didn’t want to work for anyone else.” So he returned to the school, this time in pursuit of his master’s. But by thesis-writing time he had his eye on something else:

“Things just happened. I got interested in starting the company. Then I got involved with it, and before I knew it we were starting up operations just as I was trying to finish school. And the thesis, the coursework, just wasn’t getting done.”

It might never have gotten done, he says—and he would not have had his master’s—if a savior hadn’t intervened. It was Plastics Engineering Prof. Nick Schott (today a professor emeritus), who learned of the problem and stepped in.

“One day he came up and said to me, ‘What are you doing? How come you’re still around?’ And I told him. ‘Well,’ he said, ‘Come on up to my office and we’ll get you going.’ And he did. He gave me the help I needed. I’d never have finished without him,” Montagna says.

The Plastics Engineering Department was a unique place, he says.

“That Department was like a family. Really. The opportunities we had, the good times—it was never just ‘Go to class,’ ‘Go to lab,’ ‘Take a test,’ it was always more than that. There was a great feeling fostered there. I think it’s still that way.”

Montagna lives in Princeton today. He is unmarried, and spends, he says, “the biggest part of my time working.”

He spends another chunk of time giving back. Ever since he left ULowell nearly 40 years ago, he has remained faithful in his support: “It began small: 10-, 15-, 20-dollar gifts—in the beginning, that was all I could afford,” he says. “But over time, as I’ve grown more prosperous, the amounts have increased.”

Indeed they have. Montagna’s lifetime gift total (including a recent donation of \$300,000) is close to \$750,000. A large percentage of this, represented by the Lee Plastics Discretionary Endowment Fund, is devoted to the support and improvement of the equipment the Plastics Engineering Department maintains for teaching and research.

Though he understands, he says, as a long-time plastics-company CEO, that “the department’s access to the best equipment is every bit as important as scholarship giving,” and though he knows too that the right equipment “grows more complex and more costly with every year that goes by”—in the end there is something even more fundamental than this underpinning his generosity:

“I wouldn’t be where I am today, in the position I’m in, without UMass Lowell. It just isn’t in the cards. So the way I look at it is, I owe this to the University. I don’t keep a tally sheet. Whatever I can give, I think is due.” ■

REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD:



BUILDING PARTNERS, TEACHING
STUDENTS, SOLVING PROBLEMS—
ON SIX CONTINENTS

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

At the end of the 20th century, higher education was still, in large part, what it had been for centuries before: pedagogy, the linear imparting of knowledge from teacher to student. Then came the Web, and its diffusion of knowledge from the classroom into the ether. Globalization took hold: the world, seemingly overnight, became smaller and infinitely more connected—and in the process, more complex. And in this suddenly recast world, the old ways of educating, the old relationships, are no longer nearly enough.

Some people understand this better than others. The people at UMass Lowell, those tasked with charting its future, understand it very well.

“Universities are ideally positioned to help connect the world,” says University Provost Ahmed Abdelal. “It’s important

that we recognize this, and do our part to forge the connections we can.”

That mission is being met. In the five-plus years of Marty Meehan’s chancellorship, there may be no more defining theme—outside of infrastructure growth—than the creation and fostering of partnerships, many of them international. It was a theme the Chancellor signaled early, in a co-authored piece in the Lowell Sun in June 2008, just two months following his inauguration. “We are part of a global network,” he wrote, “promoting the centrality of public-sector institutions in meeting goals of social responsibility. ... In this new century, we have broadened our focus to build more bridges and forge new partnerships to advance the public good.”

Already by then, the University had begun its outreach—with partnerships in India, Mexico, Israel, Brazil and Indonesia. But they were to be only the beginning.

Continued



Europe
Africa
Asia
Australia
South America

In the fall of 2008, UMass Lowell announced a student-and-research exchange with Queens University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. At about the same time, word came of a research partnership in Ecuador to combat pesticide exposure; an assistive technology program at two more sites in India and a student initiative in Ghana to introduce clinics and study health conditions.

The pace has only quickened since. In the last year alone, UMass Lowell has entered into or expanded at least a dozen more major partnerships—including one that links it, simultaneously, with both a Persian-Gulf university and a multinational corporation; another that forges a tie with an Israeli university to pursue climatology research as well as social and cultural initiatives; and a third that joins forces with a University in Ireland to help speed the development and introduction of new medical devices.

“These are not simply the routine methods of exchanging students and faculty,” says Abdelal. “That’s the old model, the old way of doing things. And it’s still important—it’s critical—but we need to go beyond that where we can; we need to get into some serious collaborative work, in teaching and research, that will make a positive difference, both for us and for the partner country.”

THE THREE-PARTY AGREEMENT the University signed last November, with Raytheon Corp. and Gulf University for Science and Technology, in Kuwait, is an example of this new breed of partnership. Scheduled to take effect as early as this fall, the arrangement will allow students from both universities to work with Raytheon’s Integrated Defense Systems—a presence in Kuwait for more than 20 years—in pursuit of both graduate and undergraduate degrees in business, engineering and the sciences. While offering UMass Lowell students the chance to live abroad and to work with a giant in the defense industry, it will enable the Kuwaiti students—whose government and economy have long been heavily dependent on the oil industry—to expand their focus to include business and engineering.

Joining the University’s existing Israel partnership—an extensive nanotech collaboration and joint graduate program with Shenkar College, formed thanks to the generous support of David Pernick ’41—is a new one in that country. Formalized last year, the partnership links the University with Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Like the Kuwaiti agreement, this will not only involve students and faculty from the two universities in research and exchange programs (in nanotechnology, biotechnology and engineering, among other fields)—it will also seek to address the needs of the host country, in this case through research aimed at improving Israel’s water quality and climate challenges, as well as advancing the cause of Middle East peace.

And a third agreement, this one with the University of Ulster, will join the resources of the two universities—each of which, separately, operates a center that provides aid to medical-device start-ups—to help speed new products along the road from conception to the marketplace. It will also feature faculty and student exchanges, and training programs at both institutions. “This agreement is a tremendous step forward for the global medical-device industry,” says Chancellor Meehan of the new



“WE TAKE THIS ROLE SERIOUSLY—CONNECTING OUR AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE INVOLVED.”

— AHMED ABDELAL

initiative, “in bringing experts on both sides of the Atlantic together to benefit both the U.S. and Northern Ireland.”

But these are only the more touted initiatives. There are others, and they are just as vital and far-reaching. One example: The Manning School of Business is now offering its MBA program to 25 Japanese students per semester, most of them mid-career executives, through online classes available in Japan. Some of these are conducted in Japanese using UMass Lowell curriculum; the more advanced classes, which combine Japanese students with other online MBA students from the U.S. and elsewhere, are taught in English by Manning School faculty.

Other partnerships take the concept of student exchanges to a whole new level. Agreements with at least three universities in China are seeking to establish programs that will make it possible for students to earn degrees both from their home institutions—in Shanghai, Xian and Shaanxi Province—and from

UMass Lowell. Once these programs are fully in place, a typical student will attend her home university for three years, earning a bachelor’s degree there; she will then come for two years to UMass Lowell to earn a master’s. These “dual degree” programs will complement the faculty exchanges already in place.

Dual degrees, student and faculty exchanges, team teaching, shared research, university-business collaborations—UMass Lowell has now finalized agreements, both academic and research, with nearly 100 universities in 40 countries on six continents. All are part of a long-term strategy that is both redefining education and creating partners to address the challenges of tomorrow’s world.

“We take this seriously—connecting our American educational system with the rest of the world, for the benefit of everyone involved,” says Abdelal. “I don’t know of a better way to advance cultural understanding among countries, or to improve international relations.” ■

Editor’s note: Turn the page to read about other ways UMass Lowell is leading the way in addressing the changing face of education.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS UMASS LOWELL?

THE UNIVERSITY HAS PARTNERSHIPS WITH NEARLY 100 TOP UNIVERSITIES IN 40 COUNTRIES ON SIX CONTINENTS—WITH DOZENS MORE PLANNED. FROM TEAM-TAUGHT COURSES TO STUDENT EXCHANGES TO RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS, THESE COLLABORATIONS ARE BUILDING BRIDGES AND ADVANCING THE PUBLIC GOOD. HERE ARE JUST A HANDFUL OF EXAMPLES OF HOW UMASS LOWELL IS CONNECTING THE WORLD:

NORTH AMERICA

Thanks to a collaboration between the University’s Graduate School of Education and the college Cégep Beauce-Appalaches in St. Georges, Quebec, hundreds of students and faculty members at both institutions have taken trips to experience full linguistic and cultural immersion.

SOUTH AMERICA

Teams of mechanical engineering and history students and faculty have made repeated trips to remote villages in Peru—installing solar panels, setting up drip irrigation systems and building radio systems.

EUROPE

As part of a partnership with the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, University faculty and researchers are helping trans-Atlantic entrepreneurs develop medical devices—bringing them from conceptualization to market.

AFRICA

Every year, nursing students and faculty deliver care, supplies and compassion to Ghana, West Africa—spending more than two weeks doing everything from administering first aid and vaccines to delivering iron-enriched baby formula and hygiene products.

ASIA

The University has plans to partner with Plastindia Foundation, India’s largest plastics trade umbrella organization, to help build a world-class university for polymer technology and processing in western India.

AUSTRALIA

In Cairns, Australia, UMass Lowell students are helping to conserve the area’s reefs and rain forests, while studying the principles of biodiversity and conservation biology.



UMass Lowell alumni regional networks are being formed across the globe, allowing alumni to connect with one another according to their location. Internationally, alumni networks exist in Greece, India, South Korea and Taiwan. To learn more about Alumni Regional Networks near you, or to start your own, email Alumni_Office@uml.edu.

UMASS LOWELL SETS THE PACE, AND THE STANDARD, IN ONLINE EDUCATION

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

She was a single mother of two, had just moved to the state to work as a teacher in Plymouth. She would need a graduate degree to move beyond where she was professionally, but, between her children and her job, she says today, “I couldn’t find the time to get to campus.”

The year was 2003. Jessica Huizenga has since earned both her master’s and her doctorate degrees online, from the UMass Lowell Graduate School of Education (GSE), and was named last year as interim school superintendent of the Freetown-Lakeville, Mass., school district. Prior to that, she was principal of the Adams Middle School in Holliston.

But the GSE’s online program has served her far more valuably, she says, than simply as a means to advance her career (or as a solution to a time-management problem). It has altered the way she’s come to view education itself:

“For me personally, the experience expanded [my sense of] the boundaries of the traditional four walls of a classroom, allowing me access to incredible professors, and diverse ideas from students all over the world. I was pushed to problem-solve, create and develop new ideas. It was a life-changing experience for me.”

Online education has changed many more lives than just Huizenga’s. And, in the process, has changed the face of higher education.

UMass Lowell has been a pioneer in this transformation. One of the first programs in the country to fully embrace online enrollment, the University’s Online and Continuing Education Division, launched in 1996 with just seven classes and 87 students—all in IT—today offers more than 900 courses, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, in everything from art history to homeland security. Last year saw more than 20,000 enrollments.

The student’s options are almost limitless. He may choose among 30 different degree and certificate programs, ranging from business and criminal justice to web development; in some cases, these may include courses that “blend” online instruction with classroom reinforcement—meetings with instructors and fellow students—several times a semester, another area



“For me personally, the experience expanded [my sense of] the boundaries of the traditional four walls of a classroom, allowing me access to incredible professors, and diverse ideas from students all over the world. It was a life-changing experience for me.”

— JESSICA HUIZENGA '05, '12

Lisa Aclukewicz, The Harvard Press

“There is one big thing happening that leaves me incredibly hopeful about the future, and that is the budding revolution in global online education. Nothing has more potential to lift more people out of poverty—by providing them an affordable education to get a job or improve in the job they have. Nothing has more potential to unlock a billion more brains to solve the world’s biggest problems.” —Thomas L. Friedman, *The New York Times*, Jan. 27, 2013

in which UMass Lowell has pioneered the way. Many of the elements students have come to expect on campus (such as an average class-size of 25) have been applied to the online program as well.

With enrollment growth has come revenue increases. And they’ve been just as staggering. UMass Online, the online-learning division of the five-campus University—to which UMass Lowell is the largest contributor—reported more than \$65 million of revenue in fiscal 2011, a 16 percent increase from a year before, and more than double the figure from just four years earlier. It was the 10th year in a row of double-digit growth for the division, in both revenue and enrollment.

IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO FIND, ANYWHERE IN THE U.S., A BRICKS-AND-MORTAR UNIVERSITY THAT OFFERS ITS STUDENTS AS MANY OPTIONS for a full online degree, as affordably as UMass Lowell. While more than 62 percent of U.S. colleges do now offer online degree programs, according to a 2013 study, very few manage it as inexpensively; and almost none can claim the same wide menu of courses, certificates and degrees. (A sampling of “elite” colleges, notably the recently formed “edX” consortium of MIT, Harvard and UC-Berkeley, offer their courses free of charge, though the course offerings are typically modest, and do not lead to degrees.)

The program’s founder and original driving force, Jacqueline Moloney, today UMass Lowell’s executive vice chancellor, remembers its beginning years—when there were few models around the country from which to draw guidance—as a “sea change” in the life of the University. “It was the first time,” she says, “we really had an opportunity to create a new model for education.”

For students like Jessica Huizenga, who might be skeptical, initially, about the benefits of online learning—Huizenga had never taken an online class before, and feared she might miss the classroom interaction—the sense of community that develops online can come as a surprise:

“You open up your thinking to others, expose yourself to a greater diversity of ideas. It breaks down the traditional barriers. It expands the boundaries of learning,” she says.

“Our success online is one more example of the leadership role we’ve taken in collaborative education,” says UMass Lowell Provost Ahmed Abdelal. “In exposing our students to the views and perspectives of others from all over the world, we are moving away from the old models, the old routines. This is just the sort of creative vision that will be vital going forward.”

While UMass Lowell is no longer alone in its online vision, the University continues to look ahead. An online bachelor’s in English is planned for the fall, as well as a master’s program in information technology. And as software technology continues to advance, new horizons, like multimedia, are certain to follow.

“UMass Lowell has pioneered innovative learning,” says Huizenga. “It is pursuing a vision to transform teaching into a true 21st century learning experience.” ■

FOR WOULD-BE TEACHERS, A SHORTER PATH TO THE CLASSROOM

As the world changes and new needs arise, new deficiencies also rear their heads. One of these, recently, has shown itself in a wave of concern over the quality of U.S. education in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)—and students’ readiness to compete in an increasingly technological world.

UMass Lowell, once again, is ahead of the curve.

With the Graduate School of Education’s announcement last year of a \$1.6 million award from the state to fund a new initiative to prepare STEM teachers, the University became one of only 29 U.S. universities—and the only one in New England—to offer the program.

Known nationally as UTeach, its approach seems ideally focused: the cohort of freshmen and sophomores who enroll (27 last year), all of them STEM majors, begin with two single-credit courses that put them in local public schools—to provide the earliest possible classroom experience, as well as to cull out those for whom teaching may not be the right fit. Those who remain will then begin education courses while also student-teaching, enabling them to earn STEM teacher certification by graduation.

For at least one math major, Corrine Clifford, the opportunity to leave school as a certified teacher (she hopes to teach high-school math) without having to earn a master’s degree seemed a solution to several problems at once:

“This will save me time and money,” she says. “At the same time, I’ll be getting hands-on experience.” ■



WITH A **SATELLITE CAMPUS** TO OPEN IN HAVERHILL, UMASS LOWELL SPREADS NORTH



With its new Haverhill satellite campus, the University hopes to lure students commuting by train from southern New Hampshire and Maine.

It's a textbook example of a win-win proposition: the coming of a satellite UMass Lowell campus to the city of Haverhill, announced formally early this year.

For the University, which has seen its enrollment grow by close to 50 percent in the past five years, the new Haverhill campus will serve as an effective outlet valve for some of that growth—while also reaching a new cohort of students and enhancing UMass Lowell's visibility. For the University's students, more than 2,000 of whom are from the Haverhill area, the satellite will bring classes almost literally to their doorstep. And for the city of Haverhill, now enjoying a rebirth after decades of stagnant growth (and the loss, 13 years ago, of its only four-year college), the new campus, and the traffic it brings, is certain to provide an economic boost.

"This is an opportunity for us to work with the people in the region," says Pauline Carroll, executive director of academic services, enrollment management and administration for Online and Continuing Education, "as well as to address a whole new audience."

The satellite campus, to be administered by the Division of Online and Continuing Ed, will begin offering classes in the 2013-2014 academic year—from single courses to full-degree programs. Both day and evening classes will be featured, in an effort, Carroll says, to serve the satellite's three main target groups: traditional students, continuing education students and corporate clients. As of late January,

she says, a committee composed of several members of the Continuing Ed Division, the deans and chairs of several of the colleges, as well as Vice Provost for Enrollment John Ting, was continuing to meet with community members to assess needs.

The details of the plan, at least at this writing, are still in the works. The University is exploring options to site the new campus in a location that is convenient to highways and public transportation. Funding for this has been provided in the state's fiscal-year budget.

"UMass Lowell's Haverhill campus is an example of how the UMass system can employ the satellite model to bring access to a UMass education directly into our communities," said University President Robert L. Caret at the announcement in early January. "I commend [Chancellor Meehan] for moving forward on this important project."

There's some clear logic to the move. Northern Essex Community College, already in Haverhill, is a major source of students for UMass Lowell, with as many as 400 graduates a year making the trip south in pursuit of their bachelor's degrees. The opening of the new satellite school, says NECC President Lane Glenn, will be "a wonderful benefit for our graduates, who will no longer need to commute to Lowell" to continue their education.

Part of the credit for the new site belongs with a UMass Lowell alumnus, state Representative Brian Dempsey '99, who was born in Haverhill 46 years ago and still makes his home there. Dempsey, currently chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, was a strong supporter of the idea from the start—"a tremendous opportunity" for the city's downtown, he calls it—and a major force behind its funding. "There's an energy that's happening in downtown Haverhill," Dempsey said last December, just prior to the formal announcement. "This can be a piece of that."

Early reaction from the local community would seem to bear him out. A sampling of merchants interviewed on the subject shortly before Christmas last year—from Sparky's Wings and Things to the Wicked Big Café—were unanimous in their enthusiasm. "The addition of a college crowd would really help our business," said Andrea Puisys of Sparky's Wings, who added that before opening the restaurant in Haverhill, the owners had considered coming to Lowell—but are delighted that Lowell is now coming to them. ■

— GD

"The Haverhill campus is an example of how the UMass system can employ the satellite model to bring access to a UMass education directly into our communities."

— ROBERT L. CARET

TWO CAMPUSES, BONDED BY CARE



UMASS LOWELL AND LOWELL GENERAL SHARE A LONG HISTORY

BY DAVID PERRY

Perhaps the two most powerful locomotives driving the area's economic engine, UMass Lowell and Lowell General Hospital steam forward along parallel tracks.

In recent years, even during economic doldrums, the University and the hospital have thrived together, too, producing a workforce of top health professionals.

Meanwhile, both organizations have expanded their physical presences. While the University has invested in a series of projects that dramatically alter and grow its footprint, Lowell General recently expanded by absorbing Saints Medical Center.

And it is hall marks of success—innovation, experience and cooperation—that make both institutions thrive.

One needn't look further than two administrative stars at the hospital, Amy Hoey '88 and Michelle Davis '12, to see the effectiveness of the synergistic relationship between the two institutions.

The University has long boasted a proud nursing school history. Its Family Health Nursing Program is the oldest in New England, and its master's degree in the Gerontological Nursing Program was the first in the nation. Faculty—including those with ties to Lowell General—offer a collective 400 years of hands-on practice in the health-care industry.

Continued



According to Jacqueline Dowling, interim chair of the University's Nursing Department, there are 450 students in the baccalaureate nursing program, 13 of whom graduated in February, and 65 more slated to earn diplomas in May. She says 65 percent of the school's nursing graduates are employed in the Bay State. (Other recent nursing graduates have taken jobs at places like Duke Medical Center and Maryland Medical Center.)

Lowell General offers a strong group of workplace veterans who serve as adjunct professors, as well as offer a breadth of hands-on experience for student-nurses.

One of the unique offerings to UMass Lowell nursing students, Dowling says, is the Preceptorships in a Role Transition Practicum. The program pairs up 17 seniors with registered nurses for a minimum of 216 hours over a semester. The process goes from shadowing to a reversal of roles—the nurse ends up shadowing the student. The nurses' specialties run the gamut of Lowell General's broad areas: intensive care, medical-surgical, pediatric, maternity, nursery, labor and delivery and float.

"That kind of one-to-one experience with a registered nurse is priceless," says Dowling. "It's amazing to watch the students' growth when they go through this. From the first day to the end, it's just a marvelous experience."

Having Lowell General nurses on faculty, meanwhile, is a huge help to students.

"They really help students transition out into the working world and paint a picture of what that first year is going to be like, post-grad," Dowling says. "Not only are the nurses there experienced at what they do, but they're great teachers for our students."

Hoey could have followed 72 of her high school classmates in Amherst to the local UMass branch, but opted for UMass Lowell's Physical Therapy program. She switched to the "broader" scope of a health education major, graduating in 1988 with a B.S. After three "very fun" years living in Concordia South, and working part-time at Saints Medical center, she went on to Salem State to get her B.S.N.



The best souvenir of her time here is husband Tom Hoey, a 1989 UMass Lowell

graduate, with whom she has two children and recently celebrated 20 years of marriage.

Hoey has been at Lowell General for 16 years, beginning in 1997 as manager of a 21-bed surgical unit. Today, she's senior vice president of patient care services and its chief nursing officer. She played a key role in the merger with Saints, her old employer.

She calls herself a "poster person" for advancement opportunity within Lowell General.

"You find a career path, create opportunities to grow and use them," she says.

When it comes to the hospital's relationship with UMass Lowell, she touts the longevity, consistency and experience Lowell General nurses bring to teaching others and a "seamless" relationship between the two institutions.

"Graduates can pretty much hit the ground running with us," she says. "Our approach is: don't be that nurse trying to show nursing students how much you know. Show them how to learn and grow within the profession in their own right. Give them those tools."

Typically, Hoey says, UMass Lowell nursing students graduate with well-honed critical thinking skills, "perhaps the No. 1 one thing you need to be a nurse."



For Michelle Davis, the urban roots that weave between the University and the hospital proved convenient, too. Davis, Lowell General's vice president of external affairs, graduated last May with a master's degree in health management and policy. The relationship between UMass Lowell and the hospital offered flexibility. (She, too, has a partner who is a UMass Lowell alum. Her husband, Matt Davis, a 2000 criminal justice graduate, is now a firefighter/EMT in North Andover.)

Already armed with undergraduate degrees in aging studies and nursing, with an eight-year stint working at a Nashua nursing home behind her, Davis joined the staff at Lowell General to create its Center for Community Health and Wellness.

She hired UMass Lowell graduates to work in the center and when she thought about earning a graduate degree, "it was a real no-brainer to come here. And it was the perfect program, delivered perfectly for me."

When she started, she was childless. Now, she and her husband have two kids, ages 4 and 1.

"I was able to take a lot of classes right here, in the cafeteria. Some of my professors in the program are adjuncts, people I work with here. There were so many connections between the University and the hospital. There was a perfect work-life balance."

Sometimes, she attended class on campus, other times, she took online classes "at home in my PJs."

It's a "sophisticated" program, she says, and in doing clinical work at the hospital, "you can really feel the synergy between the two places. UMass Lowell really gets it. They offer an opportunity to bridge the academic and real worlds." ■

Alumni Life

Inside...

- 46 EVENTS
- 52 CLASS NOTES
- 59 IN MEMORIAM



Stand-up comic John Pinette '86 took the usual path to comedy: he got a degree in accounting. After a short-lived stint crunching numbers, he went on the road, hitting everywhere from Nick's Comedy Stop in Boston to Caroline's Comedy Hour in Los Angeles—eventually being named Stand-Up Comedian of the Year by the American Comedy Awards in 1999. In addition to opening for acts like Frank Sinatra, Howie Mandel and Ray Charles, Pinette has made numerous television and film appearances—including a guest-starring role in the two-part finale of the Emmy-winning television show *Seinfeld*. He also starred on Broadway in the musical "Hairspray," in the role of Edna Turnblad. "I love to entertain people, and it sure beats being an accountant," he says. "I won't even talk to my accountant. I get 'Nam-like flashbacks from accountants. Some people had to deal with napalm. I had to deal with White-Out."

Credit: Art by Aragen



Fall Festival 2012



1. One of many fraternities and sororities that gather for reunions during Fall Festival, Alpha Omega is pictured here with one of the largest turnouts.
2. Joining the annual athletics reunion at Fall Festival are, from left, Kristin Martell '08, Kendra Ciccone '09 and Jen Valente '10.
3. Enjoying the Golden Alumni Luncheon during Fall Festival is the University's most "golden" alumna, Camille Marquis Lacey '40, shown with Chancellor Marty Meehan '78.
4. O-Pi brothers gather at the annual Fraternity and Sorority Reunion at Fall Festival. Front, from left: William Libby '12, Christopher Ronayne '12, Dan Lynch '83, student Michael Jagger, Richard Lockhart '67, Rick Hoeske '66, Kurt Reardon '05, Rick Noonan '83 and Robert Palmer '08.
5. Student alumni ambassador Rudy Baez '13 and Director of Multicultural Affairs David Jones greet alumni at the annual Leadership Alumni Reunion during Fall Festival.


Save the Date!
 Celebration of Philanthropy
 & Fall Festival
Oct. 10-12, 2013
 Don't miss this fun-filled weekend!
 Get all the details at uml.edu/fallfestival.
 Homecoming • Family Day • Reunions

Go River Hawks!

1. Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92 visits with William and Peggy Hatch during the Vesper Country Club Alumni & Friends Hockey Reception.
2. Gathering for the College of Sciences alumni night at the River Hawks hockey game are, from left, Sue Stemporzewski '74, '79, Prof. Mingdi Yan and Peg Palmer '73 and '77.
3. Paul '51 and Frances Cassidy enjoy the annual Alumni Appreciation Night at the River Hawks men's hockey game.
4. Alumni and friends gather at a River Hawks Hockey game for the University Independent Alumni Association Night.
5. Recent graduates enjoy the annual Alumni Appreciation Night.
6. Veteran alumni were honored before the River Hawks hockey game on Veterans' Appreciation Night.





UMass Lowell Around The World

1. Meeting up at the summer Olympic games in London are, from left Track & Field Coach Gary Gardner, Michael Sullivan '94, Bob Boehm '70, Olympian Ruben Sanca '09, '10, Dawn Boehm '78 and Sandra (Boehm) Sullivan '86.

2. Alumni gather at a dinner in Shanghai with Dean of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Luis M. Falcón, Ph.D.

3. Alumni gather for a reception in Taiwan with UMass Lowell faculty and staff.

4. Alumni enjoy a feast at the Sichuan Court Restaurant at the Hilton Shanghai during the Shanghai Alumni Dinner.

5. Gathering at a conference in Daman, Gujarat, India, are, from left, Assoc. Prof. Ramaswamy Nagarajan '98, '00; Executive Director of Major Gifts Mark Reimer; Hemant Minocha '99; PlastIndia Foundation Director of Operations Sonam Monga; PlastIndia Foundation President Bipin Shah; Prof. Steve Driscoll '66 and Prof. Emeritus Nick Schott.



1. Gathering at the Arizona Alumni Reception at the home of Jim Grant '84 are, from left, Miles Beccia '96, Martha and Michael Koenig '90, Ned Cooper '63, Michael Chen and Julie Sheehy '08.

2. Enjoying the third annual Plastics Engineering Golf Tournament are, from left, Bob Findlen '81, hosts Jim '80 and Deb Dandeneau and Interim Dean of the Francis College of Engineering Jack Wilson at Connecticut National Golf Course.

3. Colorado alumni gather for a pre-game reception at Spanky's Roadhouse in Denver, Colo., before the River Hawks took on the Pioneers.

4. Enjoying the Saratoga Day at the Races bus trip and alumni event are, from left, Virginia Sheehan '62 and horse trainer Richard Violette Jr. '75.

5. Kim '88 and Abe Yap enjoy the California Alumni Luncheon and Tour at the Getty Villa.

6. Aaron Kriss '01, and his daughter, Audrey, enjoy a UMass Lowell alumni reception and cheer on the River hawks men's hockey team as they beat Colorado Springs, Colo.

7. Enjoying the California Alumni Reception at the Red Sox v. Athletics' game in Oakland, Calif., are, from left: Ted '73 and Gail Dudziak.

8. Steve '62 and Carole Kaplan pose with the America's Cup Trophy at the annual California alumni wine reception hosted by Ned '58 and Carole Barrett.



1. Current and past campus radio station members honor the past, present and future of UMass Lowell Underground Radio, which recently celebrated its 60th anniversary.

2. Don LaTorre '59, '07 (H), center, supporter of the LaTorre Family Scholarship Endowment Fund, meets student scholarship recipients. Back row from left: John Huston, Todd Sharpe, Kritika Manohar, Michael Lunderville, Eric Kehoe and Michelle Labonte. Seated, from left, are David Campbell and Tara Antifonario.

3. Chancellor Marty Meehan '78, center, and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92, far right, acknowledge members of the Circle of Distinction at the Celebration of Philanthropy. From left: Barry W. '68 and Janice Perry, Francis '56, '00 (H) and Tonita McKone, John F. Kennedy '70, Charles '66, '04 (H) and Josephine Hoff, John Pulichino '67, Elisa '13 (H) and Mark '81, '13 (H) Saab,

Gail L. and Robert S. Ward '71, '12 (H) and Deb A. and Jim V. '80 Dandeneau. Not pictured: Gururaj '08 (H) and Jaishree Deshpande; Robert J. '84, '11 (H) and Donna M. Manning '85, '91, '11 (H); David Pemick '41, '06 (H); Joy Tong and Roy J. Zuckerberg '58, '99 (H).

4. Josephine and Charles Hoff '66, '04 (H), supporters of the Hoff Scholars Program and the Charles J. Hoff Scholarship Endowment, meet with student scholarship recipients, from left, Brian McGravey, William Teter, Joshua Amaral, Caitlin Pinkham and Agnes Ndiritu.

5. Lawrence Acquanulo Jr '81, center, supporter of the Acquanulo Family Endowed Scholarship Fund and the Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity Plastics Endowed Scholarship Fund, is surrounded by student scholarship recipients, from left: Elizabeth Kender, Suzanne Yeouth, Laura Kender, Alex Lambert, Peter Louwaris, Allison Fidler, Drew Penney and David Van Schalkwijk.

1. Alumni relive the days of rowing on the Merrimack River in support of the men's and women's rowing programs.

2. Former Dean of the College of Sciences Robert Tamarin, far left, and former Dean of the Francis College of Engineering John Ting, far right, were honored for their service. With them, from left, are Chairman of the College of Sciences Advisory Board Dr. James Barry '88, Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92 and Chairman of College of Engineering Advisory Board Richard Pierro '83.

3. Kevin Whitney '96, far left, the keynote speaker at the 40th Anniversary of Nursing Excellence Celebration, visits with Tina Santos '93 and Win Brown, president and CEO of Heywood Hospital in Gardner.

4. President of the Society of the Plastics Industry William Carteaux and Plastics Hall of Famer Jay Gardiner, together in center, visit with, from left Executive Vice

Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92; Chair of the Plastics Engineering Department Robert Malloy '79, '83, '88 (also in the Plastics Hall of Fame) and Interim Dean of the Francis College of Engineering Jack Wilson.

5. Receiving scholarships at the Learning in Retirement Association Scholarship Luncheon (LIRA) are, from left, students Peter Jones, Brianna Manalo and Peter Trearchis, with alumnus Bill Terris '57, chairman of LIRA.

6. Enjoying a reception for medical professionals during a River Hawks hockey game are, from left, Jorge Casal '90, Prof. Jerome Hojnacki, Prof. Emeritus David Eberiel, Mark Eastham '78, Acting Dean of Sciences Mark Hines, Abbey Denaro '09 and students in the Pre-Med Club.

1940

CAMILLE MARQUIS LACEY '40 lives alone at the beach with her cat. She keeps busy making quilts and can still drive a car (a new Scion!). She has two children, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren—and would love to hear from her classmates.

1958

Erik Brown has written a detective novel called "Palm Beach Detective," and it is available on Amazon.com in hard copy or via Kindle. He is in the process of writing a sequel.

1963

SAVE THE DATE

50th Reunion Weekend for the Class of 1963 is upon us! Mark your calendars for May 17-19, 2013. Reach out and reconnect with your classmates. Help us make this the best reunion in a season full of lectures, tours and dinners. Contact us at alumni_office@uml.edu or 978-934-3140.

A group of graduates from LTI Class of 1963—**Dick Cacciopoutti, Jim Hunt, Ron Lafond, Bill Lipchitz, Carolyn Lumenello, Tom McAviney and Roseanne Olszewski**—and MSCL Class of 1963—**Richard Abraham, Warren Austin, Ronald Godfrey, Claire Grant, C. Margaret Inglis Janas, Robert Merrifield, Margaret Mulcahy Orroth and Judith Wilhelmy**—are getting in touch with former classmates to encourage them to attend the upcoming 50th class reunion scheduled for May 17-19, 2013.

1970

Thomas Sullivan retired from the Air Force in 1997 and retired from real estate sales this year.

1973

SAVE THE DATE

40th Reunion Weekend for the Class of 1973 is upon us! Mark your calendars for May 17-19, 2013. Reach out and reconnect with your classmates. Help us make this the best reunion in a season full of lectures, tours and dinners. Contact us at alumni_office@uml.edu or 978-934-3140.

A group of graduates from LSC Class of 1973—**Denise (Guilbeault) Arvidson, Martha (Bassett) Dufresne, Karen Fitzgerald, Linda Kapeckas, Susan (Kondra) Kennedy, Ann Scannell, Ellen (Dolan) Stokinger**—and LTI Class of 1973—**Paul Bessette, Anthony Caputo, Edmond Cheng, Peg Palmer and Paul Simard Jr.**—are getting in touch with former classmates to encourage them to attend the upcoming 40th class reunion scheduled for May 17-19, 2013.

1975

James McGrath retired in 2010 after 21 years as the chief procurement officer for the City of Waltham.

1980

Mary Godwin was named vice president of operations at Clustrix. Previously, she was vice president of operations at Isilon (now EMC Isilon), heading up the company's supply chain and product manufacturing operations. Prior to Isilon, she served as vice president of product and supply chain management at Lucent Technologies (now Alcatel-Lucent) where she developed and implemented product lifecycle strategies to support more than \$3 billion in annual revenue. She has a degree in plastics engineering.

Ronald Russo is preparing for his national launch of 1800GotTicket.com.

1982

Joanne (Ramsey) Plourde was promoted to chief operating officer at Northeast Arc, a nonprofit agency that supports people living with disabilities. Most recently, Joanne served as the day services division director at

Northeast Arc, starting the transportation component, expanding services and taking the lead role in the agency's strategic planning process.

1987

Dave Dunham reached the highest point on the African continent last fall, with friend and fellow alumnus Michael Woodman '88. Dave and Mike spent two weeks in Africa on safari and climbing other peaks prior to heading up to the "Roof of Africa." After four days of climbing, they reached the 19,341-foot summit of Mount Kilimanjaro on Sept. 19.

Paul Dulchinos retired from the U.S. Army in November 2008, and is currently employed by the Defense Contract Management Agency as a program manager. He is also currently enrolled as a second year doctoral student in Johnson & Wales University Ed.D. program in higher education leadership.

1988

Michael Woodman reached the highest point on the African continent earlier this year, with friend and fellow alumnus Dave Dunham '87.

Mike and Dave spent two weeks in Africa on safari and climbing other peaks prior to heading up to the "Roof of Africa." After four days of climbing, they reached the 19,341-foot summit of Mount Kilimanjaro on Sept. 19.

1992

John Hardy is the owner of a virtual assistant business and is hoping to become a partner in a startup company serving the petroleum and real estate industries.

1994

Nichole (Addario) DiModica was named the new executive director of the Saugus Chamber of Commerce. Prior to joining the local chamber as director, Nichole was chief operating officer for Addario Inc. of Lynn. Previously, she was at Dualstar Entertainment Group of California, where she served as vice president, operations and human resources; director/executive director, operations, marketing and publicity; and manager, international operations. She was instrumental in negotiating, publicizing and launching the Mary-Kate and Ashley brand, both nationally and internationally.



1991

Kevin Davis is CEO of Bauer Performance Sports, which has gone from the No. 3 to the No. 1 hockey brand in his time with the company. Previously an accountant at Ernst and Young, Kevin recently told NECN that he got "a great education" at UMass Lowell, and that success comes down to hard work, perseverance and surrounding yourself with great people.

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1962

The Sky's the Limit



When Deepak Bhimani '62, '63 was a little boy outside Mumbai, he longed for a telescope to see the nighttime stars above his home. He couldn't afford one, but the dream survived.

Today, Bhimani's home hosts a full-fledged observatory, giving him—and the hundreds of area students he welcomes—access to the sky's wonders. And while witnessing the atmosphere's beauty from his backyard is convenient, Bhimani is also happy to travel farther afield for the chance to witness and photograph total solar eclipses.



"I've travelled on trips with Sky & Telescope Magazine to many locations, including Antarctica and the Sahara Desert," he says.

His wife, Sandhya, declined an invitation to join him on the Antarctic trip ("too cold for her," he explains, citing the tents they slept in after landing on a frozen lake) but did join him for the trip to the balmy Sahara.

"It started off so well, with a lovely luncheon," he says. "But then, when my wife was crunching sand along with her lunch, and combing more sand from her hair later on, she wasn't so glad to be there."

Bhimani's passion isn't restricted to stargazing—his love of chemistry has resulted in creation of several successful companies that manufacture chemical applications for a variety of uses including textiles, food and oil production.

Bhimani's interest in the wonders of chemicals was borne early—as a young boy, he could often be found in the textile composite mill founded by his grandfather. In fact, both his grandfather and father encouraged young Deepak to pursue a degree in chemical textiles and then bring his

knowledge back to work for them. He investigated the best programs, and came up with three: one in Germany, one in England and the one he chose, at the Lowell Textile Institute.

"I very much enjoyed my time at the University and am grateful for the education I received," he says.

Bhimani's loyalty has translated into ongoing generosity to the University, which he credits for providing him the skills and background necessary to succeed.

"I remember many professors well," he says, citing many by name, and describing a visit by then-president Martin Lydon on a trip the leader made to India.

While Bhimani was completing his undergraduate and graduate degrees—and squeezing in a cross-country road trip with his roommates to the Seattle World's Fair—his family was selling its mills.

And so when he returned to India—three days after John F. Kennedy's assassination ("That was a very, very sad day," he says)—he began planning his own company. Soon thereafter, he opened a firm in Ambernath, India, called Sandeeran Chemical, that produced chemical finishes like flame retardants, softening and wash and wear agents. The company was successful for nearly 15 years, and was sold to pursue business farther away from densely populated major cities.

His new company—called Navdeep Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., founded in 1978 and still operating today with 120 employees—produces fine and specialty chemicals including corrosion inhibitors and others related to oil production.

Bhimani's enthusiasm for both the sky and chemistry remain as strong as ever. He is still active at Navdeep, sits on numerous boards of directors, and chases the sun whenever he can.—SE



► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1971

Apple Exec to Students: 'Get Your Psychological Doors Blown Off'

Love. Power. Money. Respect. How would you rank them?

That's a question that retired high-tech executive Ken Ratcliffe '71 often posed when interviewing job candidates. Ken, a veteran of such corporate powerhouses as Apple and Data General as well as dot-com startups, wasn't so much interested in the candidates' values as their ability to think on their feet.

"I had candidates for executive positions go sideways on that question," he says.

The ability to react quickly to ever-shifting business conditions, combined with drive, resiliency and an uncompromising commitment to ethics were some of the principles that guided Ken's career after he earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Lowell Technological Institute, a predecessor of UMass Lowell. His work took him from the Bay State's Digital Equipment Corp. during the 1970s mini-computer boom, to Paris in the 1980s as a director of finance for Data General to Silicon Valley as corporate controller and vice president of finance for Apple during the Internet run-up of the 90s. He went on to serve as president and chief operating officer of the PC Connection and as CEO of MediaFlex, a startup that flamed out during the tech meltdown.

It was his experience at MediaFlex that led to a professional "trough." He saw the company's value plummet from \$100 million to zero in a week and had to lay off all employees and shutter the firm. The experience was "devastating" but he used it as the inspiration for a novel called "Manhook" about a tech start-up CEO's wild ride through Silicon Valley during the Internet boom.

Ken recently returned to campus for the first time in 40 years as a guest of the Robert J. Manning Speaker Series. In a lively talk in which he quoted Steve Jobs, Winston Churchill, Wayne Gretsky and Sam Kinison, he told students about his experiences, answered their questions and offered guidance on launching careers. An individual's ability to bounce back after a setback is crucial to success, he told the crowd.

"Get your psychological doors blown off. Learn about recovery and the exhilaration of a comeback," he said.

Ken, who grew up in Dracut, earned an MBA from Babson College and is a graduate of Harvard Business School's advanced management program. He and his wife now live on Cape Cod.—KA

1995

Beth Rosenberg, an assistant professor in the Public Health Program at Tufts University School of Medicine, was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U. S. Senate as a board member of the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) in January. The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents.

Beth served on the Science Advisory Board of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell for six years. Since 2005, she has researched the safety systems and health and safety conditions at former nuclear weapons production sites. With her appointment, the majority of CSB members are from UMass Lowell, including chair Prof. Rafael Moure-Eraso and Mark Griffon '92.

"I came [to UMass Lowell] enraged by the idea that people are maimed and killed while trying to make a living. That anger still fuels me," Beth says. "But I treasured my years at the Department of Work Environment, where my professors and classmates were smart and committed to protecting people at work. I developed a network of stellar people that is my work community today."



1994

Mark Katimy was recently hired as vice president of commercial lending at the Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank. His responsibilities include serving the needs of commercial customers in Wilmington and Tewksbury. Mark brings more than 18 years of banking experience.

Lyn (Mosserville) Levasseur '94, '97 married Scott Levasseur on June 30 and moved to a beachfront home in Salisbury.

1995

Kerry Donohoe will run the Boston Marathon as a member of the Dana Farber



Marathon Challenge Team on April 15, 2013.

1997

Annamarie McGillicuddy works at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Columbia, and recently met Governor Deval Patrick.

Joel Garrett was named president of Summit Lubricants, a subsidiary of Quaker located in Batavia, N.Y. For

the past year, Joel was Quaker's director of North America operations. Prior to that, he was the executive vice president of North American operations for the Munich, Germany-based Kluber Lubrication, where he was employed since 1997. Joel is a graduate of the Department of Work Environment and a doctoral candidate.

1998

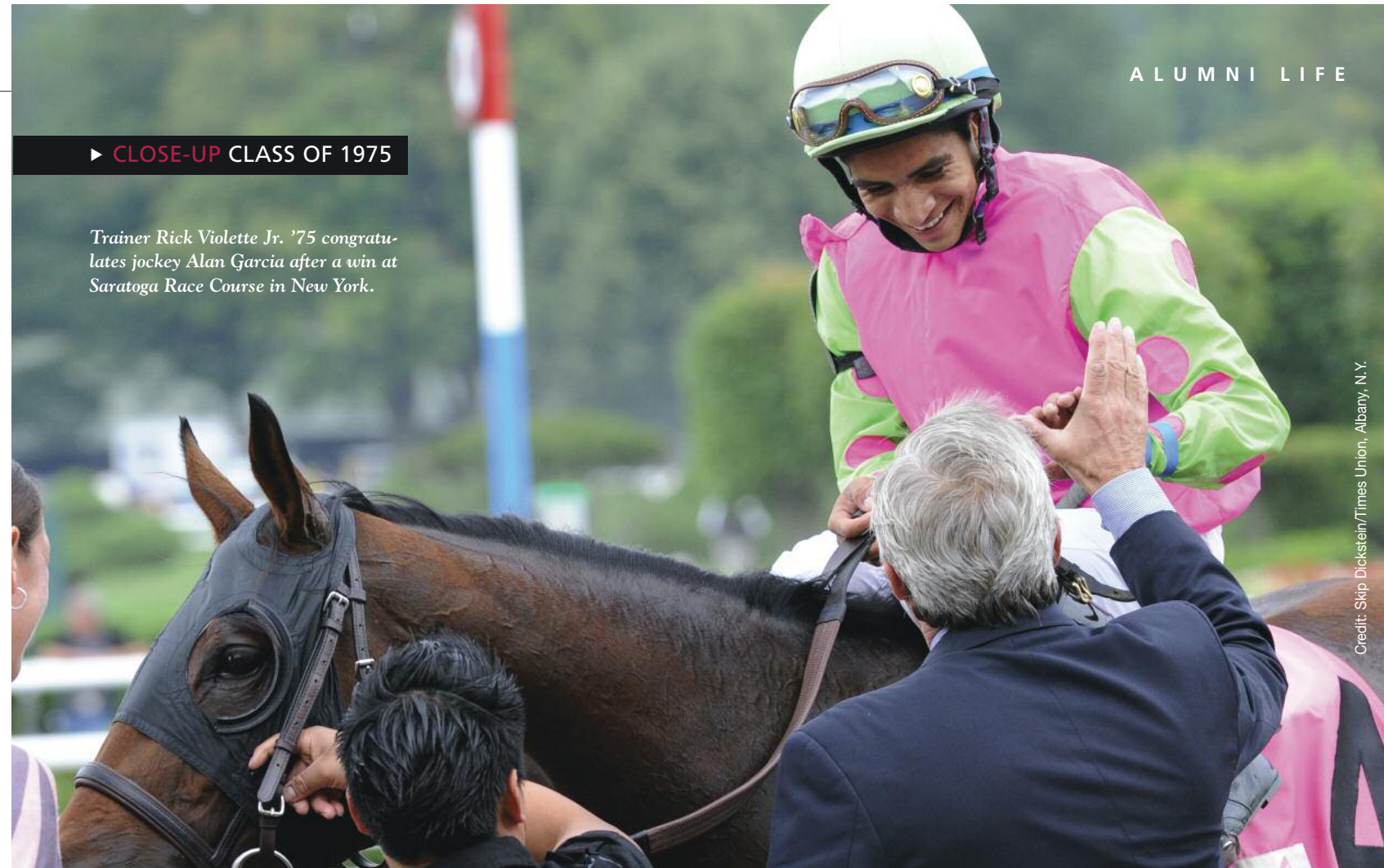
Shelly Leighton Clark, M.M. J.D., has a new CD called "HIM," which features acappella gospel hymns.

John Dubuc was hired as the new director of the city of Amesbury's Municipal Information Systems department. He will oversee a staff of four

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► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1975

Trainer Rick Violette Jr. '75 congratulates jockey Alan Garcia after a win at Saratoga Race Course in New York.



Credit: Skip Dickstein/Times Union, Albany, N.Y.

The Education of a Horseman: Juggling Classes, Mucking Stalls

The bug bit him early, sometime in his 14th year.

"We were driving back from the World's Fair in Montreal, my parents and I, when we stopped at this dude ranch-type place, somewhere in upstate New York. They were offering pony rides for kids. Well, I got on and rode one, half an hour or so. And that was all it took."

Rick Violette Jr. '75 bought his first horse two years later, for \$400, with money earned on his paper route in Lowell. Three years after that, as a sophomore at UMass Lowell, he was juggling his class schedule around the Tuesdays and Thursdays he spent mucking out stalls and galloping horses at Suffolk Downs in Revere. He hasn't looked back since.

"I majored in political science, and once in a while I'd think about being a lawyer," says Rick, "but I always pretty much knew I'd end up doing something with horses. It was just inside me by then."

He got his first trainer's license at Suffolk Downs not long after graduation. Three years later, he moved to Woodbine Race Track in Canada as an assistant to a thoroughbred trainer. He was back in the U.S. two years later, this time as a back-up to trainer David Whitely, whose 3 year old, Coastal, had just defeated Spectacular Bid to win the 1979 Belmont Stakes. By 1983, just 30 years old, Rick had his own stable of horses in New York.

Today, at 59, he is among the top trainers in the U.S., with more than 4,400 races behind him and winnings of \$32 million. In 2012 alone, his



horses won 38 races (out of 178 starts) and earned more than \$2.4 million in purses.

Probably the top prospect among the 50-odd horses he has in his stable today is a 2 year old named Carried Interest, who's won \$82,000 in his only two races, including a second-place finish in September in the vaunted Futurity Stakes at New York's Belmont Park. "This is a horse," says Rick, "who could have a very big 3-year-old year."

You might infer that a political-science degree was a waste of time. Anything but. Just ask the hundreds of riders injured on the track every year, who owe much of their care to his efforts as co-founder of the New York Jockey Injury Compensation Fund; or the grooms, exercise riders, stall muckers and other low-paid—mostly immigrant—backstretch workers whose childcare, language training and family visits via Skype have resulted from his work, over the past 12 years, as president of the National Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.

His success with much of this, he says, can be traced to his days at UMass Lowell, and to the efforts of two faculty members in particular: political science professors Joyce Denning and Dean Bergeron (both today emeritus professors), who understood his goals.

"They went out of their way, both of them, to make sure I got the education I needed, while also having the time to scrub out dirty stalls," Rick says. I've never thanked them properly—and I'm not sure I could find the words to thank them today. But I'll be forever grateful for that."—GD

and is responsible for all technology support services for both the city and the schools, including software, hardware, networks and peripherals. Previously, John worked at the Greater Lowell Technical High School for nine years and was a storage engineer at Sun Microsystems in Burlington before that.

John Souza left Gartner Research after 12 years and started at Microsoft in 2012 as client sales director.

2000

Robert Zappa recently took a position with EMS-Grivory as the new business development manager for industrial/consumer.

2002

Erin Sheehan Caples '02, '04 was named stewardship manager in January 2012 in the UMass Lowell Office of Advancement. Previously, she spent six years in health care administration, focusing on community benefit management, patient advocacy/corporate culture, strategic planning and social media community management. Erin also team teaches the new Social Media Marketing for Business Certificate program at Middlesex Community College, and serves on the Board of Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Erin partnered with fellow Community Social Psychology alumnus **Amy (Stanley) Tobin '10** in 2011 to form LEAP Consulting—providing personal coaching, job search assistance, social media marketing, grant writing and more.

2005

Abram Taber '05, '07 works as both a music educator and performer. Currently playing bass with Boston-based School for Robots (a band that entered the studio to record an album in February), he's also working on a new band called EXH4LER with fellow UMass

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► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1971 AND 1982

They Build Young Lives—500 a Day, Meals Included

Billy Robertson was only 16 when his father died.

Things weren't easy. His mother worked, soldering parts at Western Electric, a job that helped support Billy and his brother and two sisters in their South Lawrence home.

It was about that time that an older neighbor, Steve Kelley, a staffer at the Boys Club, invited Billy to come to the club to play basketball. Billy accepted the invitation and soon became a member. And the 21-year-old Steve became his mentor.

Now, 36 years later, there's still a bond between the two. Steve is associate director and Billy is director of operations at what is now the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence.

The club serves 3,100 youngsters a year—as many as 500 a day—providing meals, sports programs and other activities. Most importantly, it emphasizes character and education.

"We want to develop good kids first, good students second," says Billy. "And then good basketball players or good dancers or whatever—because we know it's most important that they become good people first. And then education is very important for their future."

"Many of our kids weren't going to college 25 years ago. They were

dropping out of high school and getting jobs to help support the family. It's our job to change that."

Adds Steve: "Each thing we do is a tool to get kids headed in the right direction. The same as our parents would have done for us. Our mission is to help every kid who comes through our door to maximize the potential they have as a person and to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens."

"We're empathetic toward the kids. We're not sympathetic. We know they come from tough situations but that can't be an excuse. ... There are those who have called the kids 'throwaways' of society. But we look at them and see doctors and lawyers and engineers."

Steve '71 and Billy '82 both majored in sociology at UMass Lowell (then the University of Lowell). Kelley began working part time at the club soon after he joined in 1966. Five years later he was working full time for a whopping \$4,600 a year. Billy worked full time at the club when he was an undergraduate and has been on the staff ever since.

The 58,000-square-foot club building operates on two floors with most games and physical activities on the first floor and educational ac-



Steve Kelley '71, left, and Billy Robertson '82

tivities upstairs. There are two gyms, a swimming pool, a music room, a fitness center and a cafeteria that serves more than 300 meals a day. On the second floor there's a 25-station computer center, a recording studio and a Learning Center where every day 250 members do homework, work on projects and fill out high school and college applications.

For their work and dedication, Steve and Billy were recognized by the University last fall when they were among 10 individuals honored at the second annual Dream of Perfect Games celebration, which honors athletic excellence as well as individuals or groups who have used the power of sports to improve lives and strengthen communities.

When these two alums refer to their work at the Boys & Girls Club as a "mission," the term couldn't be more appropriate. Their zeal and dedication are palpable.

Looking back recently on his nearly half century at the club, Steve says, "I've never had a bad day since I've been here. I love this place."
—JMcD

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2005



Credit: Emily Antonelli Ray

Serving Up Fresh Food, Laying Down the Law

By day, Benjamin Williams '05 serves up fresh Mediterranean food from a sleek steel kitchen on wheels, set on a hill above Thorndike Street. By night, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, he dishes out classroom knowledge to UMass Lowell students from behind a lectern. Some days, in between, he serves clients as a practicing attorney.

Ben, 34, is a UMass Lowell adjunct professor and the man behind Marko's Mediterranean Grill (291 Summer St., in a parking lot above the Owl Diner), where falafel, kebabs and salads are made to appeal to the schedules, tastes and pocketbooks of folks in a bustling city, including students. Since Marko's opened in July, the gyros have earned rave reviews from customers who sit at picnic tables and can in the winter months take refuge in a wooden shed Williams built.

Ben and his wife, Sara Moore, have a 3-year-old daughter and live in Lowell. He teaches political science at UMass Lowell, where he earned his political science degree. He went on to earn a juris doctorate law degree from New England School of Law in Boston in 2009. He has also taught courses on constitutional and labor law here.

For everything else he has accomplished, Ben is a veteran of food service. He cut his teeth in Italy, building a business, MG&G Restaurants, with partner Marco Mazzocco.

When his father, a career Air Force man, was stationed in Italy, Ben turned a love of his Italian heritage and his mother's Italian cooking into a living.

The Bloomington Heights, Ill., native was well-traveled, thanks to dad's work. But when he told his father he wanted to

immerse himself in Italian food and culture, no one thought much of it.

"You'll never do it," he says his father told him. "You don't know the language."

"Oh, yes I will," Ben said. "Just watch me."

He became the first American to attend Scuola Alberghiera IAL, a culinary school in Aviano, Italy. The school put students in the classroom for a week, followed by a week in the kitchen, then back to the classroom.

"I just jumped in," he says. "Over a three year program, I learned a language and a trade. It was wonderful. They were as intrigued by me as I was by them."

He graduated in 1998, and apprenticed extensively across Northern Italy. Ben and Mazzocco forged a partnership, wrote a business plan and got a contract to open their first location on Aviano Air Force base. Business took off.

Ben returned to the U.S., to continue his education.

He attended college in Illinois before moving to Massachusetts in late 2003.

While they've had stands at other military locations, Lowell is "our real second location," says Ben.

Mazzocco remains in Italy, running the original spot.

For Ben, Lowell is now home.

"After 13 years of operation, we've achieved far more than we ever imagined," he says. "Marko's Grill in Lowell is the result of many years of hard work, and a determination to introduce our food in the states after countless requests." —DP

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1990

From Studios to Studio: Brian Coombes Rocks his B.A.

When Brian Coombes arrived at UMass Lowell in 1986, his progressive rock band Tristan Park was taking off. He'd thought about majoring in music, but "I always saw myself more as a lyricist and poet than as a musician. More of a brooding poet." He took loads of classes in English and business, emerging with a B.A. in 1990.

"On occasion, I'll speak at a high school and am asked about my education," he says. "I always tell them about the liberal arts education I received at UMass Lowell. I read, studied and learned to interpret what I read, and it has served me well."

These days, he's living his dream, working as a musician, engineer and producer at Rocking Horse Studio in Pittsfield, N.H. He also happens to own the place, which he treats as "an extension of my home, "a 200-year-old Colonial. "We want it to be warm and welcoming." His wife, Michelle, also a musician, works as a special education teacher.

Last June, Rocking Horse was named in the "Best of" awards by New Hampshire Magazine. Rocking Horse is Brian's way of fostering a regional music scene, as well.

"Suddenly, you don't have to be Katy Perry to do this right," says Brian.—DP



Credit: P.T. Sullivan



Lowell alum **Jim Connolly**. Abram also maintains an active solo project and collaborates on one-off projects. Abram made his fifth appearance at the annual XFest improvised music festival, presented by Lowell's 119 Gallery, on Feb. 24.

2006

Stacey (Pincus) Kraft bought Flair Brides & Maids in Boston in June 2012. She says her fascination with weddings started when she was just old enough to be a flower girl. After spending two years as a consultant at Flair, the California native bought the busi-

ness the same month she got married herself. She says her secret weapon is her UMass Lowell degree in psychology,



which comes in handy when tackling body issues, defusing bridal disasters and pacifying fussy maids. "We tend to do a little bit of therapy in here," she says.

Luis Jaimes Reatiga recently had a baby boy; he is now 9 months old.

Janet Welby, who earned a master's degree here, received an award at the All State Music Educators Conference for Excellence in General

Music. Janet, who currently teaches in Arlington, wrote her master's thesis on teaching a standards-based music curriculum with limited resources using techniques from around the world. Her thesis research formed the basis of her invited chapter in a new text, "Engaging Musical Practices: A Sourcebook for Middle School General Music." Janet has also been a music education adjunct at UMass Lowell, where she teaches Global Music for the Classroom. She is currently the co-operating teacher for one of the Music Department's student teachers.

Josselyn Paige Wilson was married on Sept. 30, 2011 and had her first child, Jacoby Patrick Wilson, on Dec. 1, 2012.

2008

Joseph Lepordo and Eric Belmonte founded an online software company, LeMonte Software LLC, based out of

New Hampshire. The company's first product is a cloud-based scheduling service at www.heresyourschedule.com.

2010

Ron Gallant moved to Washington, D.C., in 2010 and has worked in the federal human resources community since then. He classifies federal jobs for the VA Central Office.

Amanda L. Kleschinsky recently rescued a lab/shepherd mix puppy from Arkansas.

Zachary Laplante is attending the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, as a member of the Class of 2015.

Nina Nazarian was unanimously chosen by the Tyngsboro Board of Selectmen to fill the seat of assistant town administrator, a role that had been vacant for eight years.

2011

Elizabeth Noke got married.

2012

Samantha Cresta opened her own business.

Thomas Doyle was promoted to manager of quality applications, complaint vigilance for the Johnson & Johnson Consumer sector in October 2012.

Chanthu Phauk is a multimedia sales consultant for MediaOne New England.

Jonathan Zlotnick pulled out a narrow victory over incumbent Republican Rich Bastien in the 2nd Worcester District state representative race, winning big enough in his hometown of Gardner to overcome losses in Ashburnham, Winchendon and Westminster's Precinct 1. Zlotnik, who turned 22 in May, will become the youngest elected representative on Beacon Hill. He pulled in 8,512 votes, compared to Bastien's 8,181, or 51 percent.

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2011

The Mentee Becomes the Mentor

Wendy Sanchez wanted to be a doctor ever since she was a child. But when she received the Tsongas Scholarship to UMass Lowell as a high school senior, she decided to pursue nursing instead. The high achiever who turned hardship into success has no regrets.

"I took my general education courses and shadowed a nurse in the emergency room at Lawrence General Hospital and fell in love with the profession," says Sanchez. "There is nothing better than being a nurse. It never gets old or boring, you never know what is coming and you have to be ready for anything and everything. As a nurse, I am leaving a mark on the world. Nursing is not just a job—it's an adventure."

Sanchez, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing, was born in the Dominican Republic and came to the U.S. when she was 5 years old. She grew up in a loving family but had little money.

Living near downtown Lowell in a run-down apartment, she remembers having no electricity and lighting candles to get her homework done.

"My mother worked multiple jobs at minimum wage to take care of me and my four siblings," says Sanchez. "I remember collecting quarters and walking to Brother's Pizza to buy French fries and soda for dinner."

The hardships she endured had an upside: They instilled in her a determination that she would never live the same way. She knew that a good education was the key to a better life.

"I am very determined and always strive to be successful," she says. "I was the first one in my family to graduate from college."

Today, Sanchez works full time as a registered nurse case manager for United HealthCare Group, giving health advice to elderly people in the Merrimack Valley. She lives on her own and visits her mother daily.

"I live a good life and I wouldn't change it for the world," she says.

When she was a student at the University, Sanchez received support from the Bring Diversity to Nursing (BDN) program, which provides mentoring, stipends, reference materials and technology to help diverse nursing students succeed.



"I will forever be grateful to the BDN program and everything that they did for me," she says. "The services that they have to offer are unlike any others at UMass Lowell."

And now she is already giving back by mentoring other students. In addition to her full-time job, she is working with the BDN program as a minority nurse recruiter, talking to high school students and guidance counselors about what it takes to get into a nursing program and be successful. She brings first-hand knowledge and a sense of empathy and compassion stemming from her childhood days of caring for her younger siblings.

"I love helping others, especially people in my community," she says. "I became like a mother to my younger siblings when I was young and still spend a lot of time guiding them today. I feel that students need somebody to look up to and I think they will be able to relate to me. I was once where they are. If they are determined to better themselves, then I will be there to support them just like UMass Lowell faculty and staff were there for me."—KA

Deceased

CLASS YR	NAME	CLASS YR	NAME	CLASS YR	NAME	CLASS YR	NAME
1935	Ruby A. (Brown) White	1953	Edson S. MacKenzie	1971	Joan M. (Griffin) Boyt	1980	Paul D. Gurney Sr.
1938	Irene M. (Menihane) Lavin	1953	Raymond E. Morin	1971	Anthony C. Primo	1985	Francis X. Harrison
1939	Thelma L. (Bryant) Bennett	1954	Elsie H. Taylor	1973	Joanne Clarke	1985	Donna M. O'Brien
1939	Victor J. Esielionis	1956	Frank J. Hogan Jr.	1974	Robert B. Winkowski	1986	Edward H. Kelley
1940	Mary C. Laganas	1958	Arnold Forsch	1975	Joseph P. Giuffrida	1988	Brian H. Gelinis
1940	Anna I. MacPartlin	1960	Claire Callopy Keratsopoulos	1976	James F. Castles	1988	Edward J. Walsh
1941	Helen V. Keith	1962	Robert E. Werner	1976	Judith A. Graham	1989	France E. Levesque
1944	Bernice M. Stevens	1966	Thomas J. Hedrick	1977	S. George Kokinos	1990	Karin S. Sears
1949	Gerald G. Frohman	1967	Maureen (Regan) Anderson	1978	Armand L. Baptista	1991	Richard A. Tidd
1950	Jerrold N. Finnie	1967	Jacqueline J. Kudron	1978	William E. Cormier	1993	Robert D. Forrest
1950	Peyton C. March	1967	Elizabeth J. (Welt) Wetherbee	1978	Ronald C. Messier	1999	Sunil D. Jain
1950	Nathaniel A. Matlin	1968	Ferdinand J. Diaferio Jr.	1979	Brian A. Frink	2005	Michael D. Dubois
1951	Robert K. Shaughnessy	1970	Thomas H. Byrne	1979	William J. Lasonde		Elkin R. Cano
1953	Everett A. Hilliard Jr.	1970	Ronald H. Paradis	1979	Teri E. Vecchione		Carol Jalbert

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2006

A Hockey Odyssey: Fighting, Writing and Keeping the Dream Alive

Bobby Robins plays hockey for a living. He had two goals last year, to go with 10 assists, in 33 games for the American Hockey League's Providence Bruins—which ranked him 19th on the team in total points. But goals and assists, in the case of Robins, have never been the point.

He is what they call an enforcer—or “fighter” or “tough guy” or “goon”—paid to hit people, to drop his gloves to protect his teammates with his fists. It's a messy, dangerous, inglorious, low-paying job, and technically against the rules (Bobby's 150 minutes in the penalty box last year led the Bruins by a mile)—but it's as much a part of the pro game as the slapshot. It is also, he knows, his only realistic route to a roster spot in the NHL, a dream he's nursed since childhood.

“This is what I'm supposed to be doing,” he wrote last fall on the blog he posts to regularly (bobbyrobins.com). “I have the warrior spirit inside me—it's what I must do, to chase this dream down.”

But the NHL is only one dream. He has another. And it's probably not one you'd expect. He wants to be a writer. He wants it every bit as bad as he wants to be an NHL enforcer, and has wanted it nearly as long. And in his mind at least, the two are a natural fit:

“For me, these are the two truest art forms. There is only truth when you're engaged in hand-to-hand combat, just as there is only truth when your hand writes words on a blank sheet of paper. There's no room for fluff in either one.”

It's not hard to understand, looking back, how this pair of dreams has come to control him. He grew up, the son of a white father and a part-Filipino mother, in a small town in northern Wisconsin—“maybe the only brown person in that part of the state.” He played youth hockey in hand-me-down skates and a green stocking cap under a too-big yellow helmet. He learned to play the guitar, and listened to punk rock, and read books about adolescent angst, and got picked on often—on the ice and off it—for the color of his skin. And then he grew larger and stronger—today he is 6'2” and 220 pounds—and learned to use his fists.

By the spring of 2002 he was in Kearney, Neb., playing for the Tri-City Storm of the USHL, a junior hockey league. There had been some interest from Division 1 colleges, but nothing had panned out. Then somehow, as he puts it, “I got on the UMass Lowell radar.” A phone interview was scheduled with the coach: “If you could have dinner with five people, dead or alive, from any time period,” coach Blaise MacDonald asked the young prospect, “who would they be?”

Continued



“I didn't know what to say. I was 19, I had no idea. ‘Wayne Gretzky, George Washington, Mario Lemieux, President Bush and of course I'd want you there, too.’”

It was good enough. He was at the University by that fall, and on the ice that winter as a freshman River Hawk. By his senior season, he would be team captain and high scorer, with 13 goals and 18 assists. Already a fighter, he also led the team in penalties.

For all that, though, he was looking for more out of college than hockey.

In his sophomore year, he declared as an English major (the only one on the team), broadened his reading habits and began working seriously on his writing. A one-on-one directed-study course with author-professor Andre Dubus may have been as key to his future as anything that happened on the ice.

“He and [former English Department Head] William Roberts showed me how to be honest with my art,” Bobby says. “They helped me find my writing voice. I'll always be grateful for that.”

He graduated cum laude in the spring of 2006.

Life since has not been easy. He signed a contract with the NHL's Ottawa Senators not long after graduation, but was cut from the team after two exhibition games. Then began a roller-coaster ride of minor-league hockey venues, mostly in upstate New York: Binghamton, Elmira, Rochester, Albany, Syracuse. In 2008, he jumped continents, signing with the Belfast Giants in Northern Ireland; a year later he was in Slovenia, with HK Acroni Jesenice of the Austrian Hockey League. Then it was back to the U.S. with the Bakersfield, Calif., Condors, who then traded him to the Chicago Express. At this writing, he's with the Providence Bruins, who've signed him through the 2012-13 season.

Meanwhile, the blog posts continue: about hockey, fighting, his teammates, his writing, his father, his Wisconsin childhood, the lowest moments of an addiction to chewing tobacco during his months in Slovenia: “a lost 28 year-old kid, ashamed and empty, hiding from the world and afraid to fail, in the middle of the Julian Alps.”

But all that's behind him. He's beaten his addiction, and found a home with the Bruins. And though he's no longer in his 20s (“and I know this is my last run”), the two dreams still burn strong.

“I'm on the road now,” he posted from Glen Falls, N.Y., recently. “We forged through a vast snow storm, had a game canceled, and ate giant steaks cooked perfectly rare, and now I'm banging away on the keyboard. ... The snow is piling up outside of my window. We're in town to play the Phantoms tomorrow...” —GD

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2011

The Dating Queen

When Rachel Seeker graduated magna cum laude with a degree in marketing and management two years ago, she didn't know she'd one day be using it to market herself. To men. On national television.



The Littleton resident—who grew up all over the country as the daughter of a Marine—was one of the stars on the VH1 reality show “Making Mr. Right,” which aired in eight episodes in January and February.

In the show, Rachel and two other women pose as matchmakers for a group of 14 men, who aren't let in on a big secret: The matchmakers are actually looking for love themselves. The trio eliminate men through a series of challenges, as they each attempt to mold the perfect man.

“I had worked with the casting company before on other projects and they approached me with the opportunity,” says Rachel, who's worked as a model and also as a consultant at her sister's construction company. “They wanted three very different types of ladies and said I had exactly one of the personalities that the show was looking for.”

Rachel says she got plenty of dating experience while at UMass Lowell—“there were certainly cuties in some of my classes that I went on a date or two with,” she laughs.

Her favorite date spot in the area: LeLacheur Park. “Spinners games, definitely,” she says. “It was a low-pressure, laid-back and fun dating event.”

On the show finale, Rachel ended up with “Mr. Frat Boy” Ryan.

“We had a lot of chemistry and a romantic ending, it was great!” she says.



▶ CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2011



Going Back to Give Back

The small nation of Cambodia has been caught up in the war in Vietnam, invaded, occupied and has suffered a brutal regime under which 20 percent of its population died—all within living memory of one generation. Refugees escaped when they could, including thousands who settled in Lowell.

Cambodia is still one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia. In rural villages, older women care for grandchildren, living in makeshift huts, while their parents work in cities.

Tola N. Sok (front row, center) sees this as a great opportunity to make a difference.

"Ever since I was a kid, I had this vision of going back to help my parents' country in some way," says Sok, who was 8 when his family arrived in Lowell. His experiences along the way—in the U.S. Air Force, as an undergraduate here leading the Cambodian American Student Association and now as a graduate student in the Peace and Conflict Studies program—strengthened his plans for Project Save One Khmer.

"The idea was to raise enough resources and volunteers to build houses in a poor, rural area in Cambodia," says Sok, who launched the project in summer 2012.

More than 30 volunteers converged to help—including college students from the Youth Experience Sharing (YES) program, grad students from the Netherlands, a Buddhist monk and an Air Force staff sergeant. YES gathered an advance team that included the village chiefs, who chose candidates for new houses.

"I decided on building the kind of house I had lived in," says Sok. With a framework of strong poles and palm-leaf thatch for sides and roof, such houses would be roomy and traditional.

"For about \$500, we could provide a house for up to seven people," he says, adding that he hired a head carpenter to oversee construction. "We completed six houses in nine days."—SS

Then...

In the fall of 1975, the Riverside parking lot on North Campus wasn't yet paved—but there was a familiar refrain when it came to finding a spot. As the '76 yearbook lamented: "Students are just going to have to continue to play hide and seek with the parking spaces ... but as you sit in your car cursing everything in sight, just remember you are there with many other students and workers. You can all curse together."



Now...

This five-tier garage—featuring aluminum metal “fins,” terra cotta panels and a glass stair tower—opened on North Campus in September, adding more than 550 parking spaces for students, faculty and staff. Joining it later this year will be the South Campus garage, a 191,000-square-foot structure that will provide 762 additional spots.

