Oct. 10-13, 2013

Reminisce, Reconnect and Rediscover UMass Lowell.

See the major changes happening on campus!

NEW IN 2013:
- Open classroom opportunities,
- Oktoberfest, open ice skating at the Tsongas Center, children’s magic show and more!

- Division I Hockey East Champions Home Opener
- Division I Volleyball and Women’s Soccer
- Athletic Alumni Games
- Golden Alumni Luncheon, Class of ’63 or Earlier
- Greek Life Gala
- 15th Annual Jennifer’s 5k Run/Walk
- Celebration of Philanthropy
- Family Day
- Campus Tours
- Student Leader Alumni Reunion

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A Message From
Chancellor Martin T. Meehan ’78

Few people could possibly love UMass Lowell more than I do.

I grew up in this city and was a student on this campus. I left a job in Congress to return to my alma mater and help lead it. I work out in the Rec Center and cheer on our River Hawks at athletic events.

I teach classes in political science and donate to student scholarships.

I teach classes in political science and donate to student scholarships.

But I’m not alone.

Our community, our UMass Lowell family, is like no other. Whether we were here when the campus was called Lowell Tech or ULowell—or one of its other iterations—we share a passion for this gritty and pioneering University.

Wherever I go, people stop me to chat about the exciting things happening here now—or to share vivid memories from days past. Many of the things they mention are included in this issue, much of which is dedicated to the “100 Things We Love About UMass Lowell.”

The list is not peer-reviewed or scientific. Not everything on it is prestigious or enlightening. Each item is uniquely ours, from the quirkiest characters to the most remarkable research.

Please turn the page and read about all of it. And then let us know what we’ve omitted. Because, after all, there are far more than 100 things to love about UMass Lowell.
ERHAPS IT’S A SOUND. A hockey puck slapping against plexiglass, the steady beat of a drum major, a trolley whistle. Or maybe it’s a scent. Hot pizza, blooming lilacs, fresh-roasted coffee. Or it’s a glimpse of a whiteboard, a bright blue sweatshirt, a car decal.

Something triggers a memory. And suddenly you’re right back at UMass Lowell.

Sure, the University has changed since it opened its doors in 1894. But its soul remains the same. Whether we were Chiefs or River Hawks—or had no mascot at all—our hearts are connected to this plucky University along the banks of the Merrimack River. Our campus, like the city it’s in, has always been identified with invention and innovation. And the same can be said for its students. Its alumni carry that resourceful approach out into the world.

They also carry some pretty fantastic memories.

There’s a lot to love about UMass Lowell, after all, and as we move into a brand new school year, we’ve devoted much of this issue to describing 100 of them.

And now, in no particular order ….

DISCLAIMER: There are certainly more than 100 things to love about UMass Lowell. And so this list—created with the help of alumni, students, faculty and staff—is in no way comprehensive. We’d love to hear your favorites, and would be happy to share them in later issues. Email Editor Sarah McAdams Corbett at Sarah_Corbett@uml.edu.
Ah, yes, the tunnels—those popular subterranean passageways on North Campus that for decades have been the route of choice between buildings on cold, snowy or rainy days. And those exposed steam heat pipes kept them warm. Very warm. Hot. Former residents of Essex and Smith halls remember that the tunnels allowed them to “dress down” en route to class when the weather outside was frightful. The tunnels (all 2,900 feet of them) are still there but the steam pipes are, thankfully, now enclosed.

Our real-life avian mascots.

High above the University—perched atop 18-story Fox Hall—lives our real-life avian mascot. Two endangered Peregrine falcons selected Fox Hall’s roof for their love nest, and thanks to help from the University and the U.S. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, their romance has flourished with the birth of several offspring. First discovered by accident in 2007 by facilities workers attempting to hang a banner, the falcons protected their eggs by taking turns swooping in to attack the workers. Over the years, University and state personnel have worked on their relationship with the birds—the fastest on earth, capable of diving 200 m.p.h. for a tasty robin or pigeon—and now band chicks for monitoring and use a falcon nanny-cam to monitor their behavior 24/7. In 2009, when none of their eggs survived, officials presented the couple with a foster chick who’d been abandoned in Lawrence. Two healthy chicks were born recently—making a falcon family of 15 and one adopted son—and the happy couple shows no signs of slowing up.

Our underworld.

No. 99

Our return on investment in a UMass Lowell education is solid. A new study by PayScale, which compared alumni earnings to the price of earning a bachelor’s degree, ranked the University 10th among U.S. public colleges—and 50th among all universities. And this summer, Forbes named us the 10th best value among all public colleges in the U.S.

No. 5

WE GIVE GOOD ROI.

The way(s) we were.

Scattered pictures of the smiles we left behind; smiles we gave to one another for the way we were.


No. 11

The way(s) we were.

The Ranchero.

Grilled chicken, melted cheese, bacon, tomato, lettuce, onion, chipotle ranch dressing. What could go wrong? Thanks, Southwick.

No. 87

The Ranchero.

Our Baseball Research Center uses serious science (and really cool equipment) to make sure the bats and balls used in America’s pastime follow the rules, too. Featured on Discovery Channel and PBS, the center’s client list includes Major League Baseball, the NCAA, the National Federation of State High School Associations and Little League Baseball. High-profile cases like the 2000 “juiced-ball” controversy have been settled here (the finding was that nothing was wrong with the ball) and our research on the aluminum vs. wood debate was featured in scientific papers. The lab team employs extensive knowledge, scientific principles and an array of equipment like three high-speed air cannons to mimic the effects of the bat hitting a ball. Better up.

No. 60

OUR GRANT SWAG.

No. 50

Our faculty land heft and potentially life-changing research grants. In areas spanning global warming to breast cancer, from homeland security forensics to Alzheimer’s, our researchers are winning millions of dollars in grants. But it’s not just faculty earning the support of organizations like the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Army. Student researchers are also racking up the awards, like the $90,000 prize a group of engineering and chemistry students recently won from the EPA to help them expand their innovative study on non-toxic and biodegradable alternatives to cleaning agents found in millions of household products.

No. 13

Rowdy the River Hawk.

Our UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center.

No. 67

The Ranchero.
Well, it’s official: As of July 1, the River Hawks are members of the Division I America East Conference. The benefits of competing at the highest level of collegiate sports are many—not least among them increased visibility and buzz and better student retention. Yes, Division I athletics cost more money, but they also attract more revenue in everything from ticket sales to scholarships to tuition income from increased enrollment. “Being in Division I will make us more attractive to students outside Massachusetts, and that’s part of our strategic plan,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan, explaining that universities are often characterized by the athletic company they keep. (Incidentally, in America East we’ll keep company with research universities more similar in size and academic scope than those in the Division II Northeast-10 Conference.) Naturally it won’t be easy in the early years. “It’s tough to get through the Big Ten or the ACC to win anything,” says Athletic Director Dana Skinner. “But, you know what? We have more similar in size and academic scope than those in the Division II Northeast-10 Conference.) Naturally it won’t be easy in the early years. “It’s tough to get through the Big Ten or the ACC to win anything,” says Athletic Director Dana Skinner. “But, you know what? You could have a moment. This an opportunity to dream.” Of course, dreams won’t be enough. Here’s how we’re preparing:

DANA SKINNER, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: “It’s certainly been an exhilarating time. Our department has had two months to complete facility upgrades, hire 15 new employees and create office space for each one, finalize Division I schedules and travel arrangements, better develop fundraising initiatives, rebrand uniforms and athletic venues and develop a promotional calendar to introduce Division I athletics to the campus and surrounding communities. Our action plan could be seen by some as frightening. That said, it’s a transformational moment for the athletic program and every component of the University is impacted. The response by everyone in the campus community has been impressive.”

BOB BRADLEY, PROJECT MANAGER: “Outside, we undertook two major projects this summer: installing new turf in both the field hockey and soccer/lacrosse playing areas. The early stages saw the group installing new drainage and a high-flow irrigation system—a requirement for Division I field hockey. The system consists of six high-volume sprinkler heads that dampen the field before the start of each game and also at halftime to provide the optimal—slick and fast—playing conditions. Fans will quickly notice the color of the new field. Blue turf is a common medium for field hockey play in Europe, with many top teams using it as their surface. In addition to the bold look, the color also makes the ball easier to see as it moves around the field. A similar process is in place for the new soccer/lacrosse fields, though they will feature the more traditional green turf. Each facility will also feature upgraded LED scoreboards.”

SHANNON HLECHUK ’98, FIELD HOCKEY HEAD COACH: “My student-athletes are excited. They accomplished so much in Division II—multiple conference championships, national championships—so they are ready for a new challenge. As soon as the announcement was made that we were elevating, they committed themselves to training like Division I athletes. For me, there will much more of an emphasis on both national and international recruiting, which means I’ll be traveling quite a bit more in order to see prospective student-athletes during our non-traditional season and during the summer.”

KRISTI STAKS, ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, COMPLIANCE: “I am in charge of monitoring and enforcing all of the NCAA and America East regulations. This includes education for coaches, staff, boosters, outside departments and all fans. Basically, I am in charge of making sure everyone plays by the rules. The NCAA and America East requirements are much more complex and detailed at the Division I level. I have been involved with a campus-wide education program for all offices involved—including admissions, financial aid, registrars and housing. The coaches have also been receiving bi-weekly educational sessions to make sure they understand the new regulations that will affect them.”

SCOTT DONELLY, ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS: “I’m working on many of the marketing, promotions and social media efforts—such as Rowdy’s ‘Welcome to America East’ video. We’ve been collaborating with University Relations on our Division I rollout, with a focus on the Sept. 2 kick-off event when field hockey hosted Northwestern. I’m also working closely with the Division of Student Affairs to expand our Mission: All In student rewards program as we enter America East. The goal is to create the same atmosphere and excitement that we’ve developed at home hockey games at all of our athletic venues.”

TED PRESTLY, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT: “It takes a lot of resources to be successful in Division I and I’m spending most of my time trying to raise them. The bar is being raised in every area—from scholarships for student-athletes, to facilities and equipment, to the expanded coaching staff required to thrive at this level. Thankfully, our alumni and friends are extremely excited about our move, and their generosity has made an immediate, positive impact on UMass Lowell athletics.”

We’re DI. (Now What?)
A LLEN  H OUSE.  

The oldest building on campus—and the only one listed on the National Register of Historic Places—Allen House is named for Lowellian Charles Allen, a prominent businessman, United States Congressman, Assistant Secretary of the United States Navy under President McKinley and the first civilian governor of Puerto Rico. Allen—who bought the place in 1890 and called it “Terraces”—added a music room and art gallery before his death in 1934 resulted in sale of the property to the Grey Nuns of the Cross. Acquired by the University in 1957, the building was used for dormitory and classroom space, and will house the Office of the Chancellor until University Crossing is completed in 2014. Some of Charles Allen’s art collection is still on display, thanks to a loan from the Whistler House Museum of Art.

M arty M eeahan.  

UMass Lowell delivers a positive economic impact on the region of $490 million a year, according to the UMass Donahue Institute.  

R ecently, for instance, we elevated two departments to school status and changed the name of the School of Health and Environment to the College of Health Sciences. The Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology is now known as the School of Criminology and Justice Studies and the Department of Nursing has changed to the School of Nursing. “These changes reflect the increasing complexity of these units and are expected to raise the profile of each school’s programs and research among prospective students, faculty, partners and funders,” says Provost Ahmed Abdelal.

A rno M inkkinen.  

He could teach anywhere on the globe, but this world-renowned photographer says there’s no place he’d rather be than UMass Lowell. Prof. Minkkinen uses self-portraits and unmanipulated images of his human figure in natural and urban scenes. No Photoshop, no assistants. His major collections include the MoMA in New York, the Centre Pompidou and Musée d’Art Moderne in Paris and the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. Minkkinen will show 70 works in the 44th Rencontres d’Arles in France (the same town, he says, where “Van Gogh and Gauguin threw knives and tables at each other.”) In addition to photography, Minkkinen has recently become a writer, with a preview of his autobiographical film “The Rain House” recently showing at Lincoln Center. Also, he’s got an app: Minkkinen was one of several artists invited by Louis Vuitton to create an “amble” through a particular world city: he created a tour of New York’s Chelsea neighborhood.

S U M M E R  2 0 1 3  U M A S S  L O W E L L  M A G A Z I N E  98
Swing, Batter Batter!

Smack dab in the middle of UMass Lowell’s East Campus is a stunning baseball stadium with old-school looks but all the modern conveniences. LeLacheur Park, built in 1998 by the City of Lowell, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and UMass Lowell, is home to the Lowell Spinners, the Class A affiliate of the Red Sox. It’s also where the UMass Lowell River Hawks baseball team—elevated this summer to Division I—plays. With seating for almost 5,000, the park has spectacular views of the Merrimack River and offers great family entertainment throughout the baseball season. The park also hosts youth baseball camps and concerts. The ballpark held its first concert in 2008 when Celtic punk band Dropkick Murphys played there with The Mighty Mighty Bosstones. You can practically hear the crack of the bat from the Campus Recreation Center across the street and the residence halls next door to the park. Hot dog anyone?

No.

Billy Riley.
The colorful ex-hockey coach led the Lowell Chiefs (later to become the River Hawks) to 363 victories over 22 years and three Division II national championships. His teams won the titles in 1979, 1981 and 1982 before the program made the jump to Division I in 1983 and joined Hockey East when that league was formed the following year. Riley was hired in 1969, at age 23, to be Lowell Tech’s athletic trainer, a physical education instructor and, incidentally, coach of the fledgling hockey team, which had gone 11-16-1 over the previous two years. Billy Riley stories abound. One classic took place around Thanksgiving in a game against Merrimack, a team that was Riley’s nemesis. To unnerve the Merrimack goalie, the team manager mailed a series of pictures of a turkey to him with his picture superimposed on the bird. Riley then dispatched the manager to buy a live turkey and when the Merrimack team skated onto the ice, the turkey was tied to the visitors’ goal net. The plot failed. The game ended in a 3-3 tie.

No.

We’re invested in educating the community.

Take Science Express—a national initiative launched by a team that includes two Graduate School of Education professors, David Lustick and Jill Lohmeier. The project aims to determine whether advertising space on subway platforms and trains is an effective way to educate the public about climate change. It’s a great idea, according to the National Science Foundation, which awarded the team $2.2 million.

No.

We make top-notch learning accessible and affordable.

Our Division of Online and Continuing Education—which had more than 20,000 enrollments in 2012—offers one of the largest public online and continuing education programs in New England. Students can take classes online or on campus—or a combination of both—in areas such as information technology, engineering technology, liberal arts, psychology, criminal justice, management, education, science and health care. The division—which offers graduate and undergraduate courses, degrees and certificates for busy professionals—has won every major national award for excellence in programs and teaching. Most recently, the online master’s degree in information technology and bachelor’s in psychology were ranked among the best in the nation by TheBestSchools.org.

No.

We’re working to educate the community.

No.

We’re working to educate the community.

No. 23

Ours was the nation’s first public music education school.

No. 49

RIVER HAWKS’ DIVISION 1 HOCKEY.

It was the turnaround of the century. River Hawks’ Division I hockey coach Norm Bazin ’94, ’98 helmed a team that went from five victories to 28—and from last in the league to third in the nation—in just two seasons. Snagging the team’s first-ever Hockey East championship, and a trip to the Frozen Four in Pittsburgh, the feat earned Bazin the Coach of the Year award for the second straight year.

No. 31

The Tsongas Center.

Since the University acquired the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell in 2010, it’s transformed the facility into a premier venue for sports and entertainment in the region. The Sage Bank Pavilion, a state-of-the-art scoreboard, V.I.P. suites, an energy efficient ice floor and dasher board system, a catering kitchen, revamped concessions and a newly-completed hockey performance center have breathed new life into the building. Last year, Venues Today named the arena No. 13 in its Top Stops rankings.

No. 28

The smart faculty and smart students. Sure. But smart classrooms? Absolutely. Every single classroom at UMass Lowell is outfitted with a high-tech teaching podium, computer, digital document camera, DVD/VCR player, laptop and network connections, integrated sound and a system that controls all audio and video from the lectern. Teaching technology in certain lecture halls also includes an interactive LCD touchscreen that acts like an electronic writing tablet to save, share and print class notes and lecture-capture, which allows students to access presentations later from any computer or mobile device. A handy “clicker” system in some classrooms allows faculty to ensure that students are keeping up with the material being presented. Students use handheld devices to answer questions throughout the lesson, letting the professor know when to go over facts and concepts again. Now that’s smart!

No. 9

Our 17 eateries (an ode).

From Oodles of Noodles in Hawk’s Nest-East and Red Mango fro-yo at University Suites, from Starbucks to Einstein’s to F’Real Milkshakes, foods of every shape and taste await.

No. 79

Photo credit: Rukes.com

ONE WORD: PLASTICS.

Plastics are often called the most versatile materials on Earth. UMass Lowell has the only accredited undergraduate plastics engineering program in the U.S. It’s also home to a celebrated research-oriented graduate program, the National Plastics Museum and the Plastics Hall of Fame.

No. 66
**Mary Jo Leahey’s Symphonic Band Camp**

The week-long music-immersion program affords student-musicians in grades 8-12 from across the U.S. the chance to hone their skills—under the tutelage of UMass Lowell faculty, alumni and students—while sampling an early taste of college life. The camp, which accepts roughly 115 students per session, just finished its 17th summer. Leahey ’37, its founder and inspiration, died in 2011 at the age of 95.

Coburn Hall, built in 1897 in the Beaux Arts style with $25,000 from the City of Lowell, features New Hampshire granite steps, custom oak paneling, brass light fixtures and copper gutters with carved lions’ heads. The building was named for Frank F. Coburn, former Lowell High School headmaster and first principal of the University’s predecessor institution, the Lowell Normal School. The first class of 108 students—105 women and 3 men—arrived at Coburn Hall mostly via a trolley that ran along Broadway until 1930.

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**WLI/WJUL/WUML:** More than 60 years on, still kicking out more jams than Smucker’s.

**Jim Stone.** He seldom went far afield to recruit his ballplayers. “Stoney” drew his talent mostly from nearby Merrimack Valley high schools. But that was all he needed. Soft-spoken and modest, he nonetheless played the “tough love” card with his young athletes and they loved him back. Coach Stone retired 10 years ago after compiling 801 wins in his 37 years at the helm of the University’s baseball program, during which he also took the team to the College World Series twice. He was New England Division II coach of the year and Northeast Region coach of the year multiple times and was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. “I’ve had a good run,” he said with characteristic understatement when, in 2003, he stepped down from the job he began when Lyndon Johnson was president.

**Our arch treasure.**

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Domo arigato, Mr. Roboto.

We have a state-of-the-art robotics testing center, state-of-the-art robots—and state-of-the-art robotics students. And on June 6, a team of the latter—called the Rover Hawks—beat out 10 other universities to win a NASA competition in which they simulated driving a semi-autonomous vehicle on Mars. The rover was shipped to the Johnson Space Center in Houston but was controlled by the team from UMass Lowell’s New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation (NERVE) Center. Students used a commercial 4G wireless network with a several-second delay that simulated the problem communicating with other planets. The rover negotiated a series of obstacles while performing a variety of tasks, including traversing slopes, sand and gravel pits, picking up specific rock samples and placing them on the rover’s onboard container and driving over rocks of specified size. “We totally rocked it,” says team leader James Dalphond, a Ph.D. candidate in computer science.

Take Lori Weeden. Between semesters, the geology lecturer flies her students to the Grand Canyon to further their study of “Sedimentation and Stratigraphy” (“Sed and Strat”) on her husband’s frequent-flyer miles.

Our View.

A glittering river bouncing over rocks and around bends. Historic red brick buildings framed by a deep blue sky. Mountain ranges to the north. A small-city landscape of steeples, mansard roofs and the crenelated towers of public and cultural buildings. UMass Lowell, set in and throughout the historic City of Lowell, is sprinkled with stunning vistas. Some of the views—as those from atop 18-story Fox Hall—are dramatic and sweeping, taking in miles of the Merrimack River and mountain ranges in New Hampshire. Others—as you walk from North to South campus and turn a corner to come upon a graceful 19th century gatehouse, jutting out over the Pawtucket Falls—are small but impressive. There are also small green areas around campus with clusters of benches, landscaping and trees.

No. 37

NCAA

Our Playahs.
The River Hawks have won 16 NCAA championships in school history.

No. 41

The Clinical Lab Sciences/Medical Technology program has received perfect accreditation scores since 1993.

No. 65

WE GO THE EXTRA MILE— GIVE OR TAKE 2,600.

No. 92

Domo arigato, Mr. Roboto.

We have a state-of-the-art robotics testing center, state-of-the-art robots—and state-of-the-art robotics students. And on June 6, a team of the latter—called the Rover Hawks—beat out 10 other universities to win a NASA competition in which they simulated driving a semi-autonomous vehicle on Mars. The rover was shipped to the Johnson Space Center in Houston but was controlled by the team from UMass Lowell’s New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation (NERVE) Center. Students used a commercial 4G wireless network with a several-second delay that simulated the problem communicating with other planets. The rover negotiated a series of obstacles while performing a variety of tasks, including traversing slopes, sand and gravel pits, picking up specific rock samples and placing them on the rover’s onboard container and driving over rocks of specified size. “We totally rocked it,” says team leader James Dalphond, a Ph.D. candidate in computer science.

Take Lori Weeden. Between semesters, the geology lecturer flies her students to the Grand Canyon to further their study of “Sedimentation and Stratigraphy” (“Sed and Strat”) on her husband’s frequent-flyer miles.

Our View.

A glittering river bouncing over rocks and around bends. Historic red brick buildings framed by a deep blue sky. Mountain ranges to the north. A small-city landscape of steeples, mansard roofs and the crenelated towers of public and cultural buildings. UMass Lowell, set in and throughout the historic City of Lowell, is sprinkled with stunning vistas. Some of the views—as those from atop 18-story Fox Hall—are dramatic and sweeping, taking in miles of the Merrimack River and mountain ranges in New Hampshire. Others—as you walk from North to South campus and turn a corner to come upon a graceful 19th century gatehouse, jutting out over the Pawtucket Falls—are small but impressive. There are also small green areas around campus with clusters of benches, landscaping and trees.
UMass Lowell graduated 3,169 students on May 18—setting a record for the sixth consecutive year. Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis, who returned to his hometown to deliver the keynote address at the undergraduate commencement ceremony, spoke about his role in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings. He told students that his leadership during that time was the result of lessons he’s learned throughout his life.

“You have had exceptional instructors during your time here at UMass Lowell, and I guarantee you that at some point in your lives, probably when you are completely not expecting it, you will hearken back to some pearl of wisdom that was imparted to you during one of your classes here,” said Davis, who was Lowell police superintendent for 12 years.

The new grads were enrolled here during a time of unprecedented growth. New programs and faculty were introduced, a construction boom changed the campus landscape and plans were unveiled to move all athletic teams up to Division I. Many students feel like they played a part in the changes, whether they signed the steel beam that sits atop the $80 million Mark and Elissa Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center, attended a concert by a national headliner like Drake at the Tsongas Center or cheered on the River Hawks men’s ice hockey team.

The graduates share an optimism that is tempered by no-nonsense practicality. They want to make a difference while also making a living. They see enormous societal challenges—the economy, climate change—and they feel ready to tackle them. They are already leaning in to the future, whether they’re starting careers, launching businesses or pursuing advanced degrees. Here are some parting words from representatives of our Class of 2013.—JG

I grew so much while I was here. I’m like a different person. Once I got involved on campus, everything started to change.”
—Rudy Baez, business

“I am optimistic. I am ready for the next phase. Whatever the world has to offer, I can handle it.”
—Michael Boyer, community health

“Your class helped jumpstart the transformation on campus. The administration has listened to our ideas and used our feedback.”
—Ryan Mastroik, English

“I have learned how to problem solve and manage my work, time and daily life.”
—Savannah Marrison, music education and psychology

“I lived in a quad. I was so scared; I didn’t know my roommates. But those three girls are my best friends now; they’re my sisters.”
—Yahaira Campeano, psychology and sociology

To watch Ed Davis’ speech and the rest of Commencement exercises, visit uml.edu/Commencement/Videos.
To view photos from the ceremony, visit web.uml.edu/gallery/Commencement and to view photos from Commencement Eve, visit uml.edu/gallery/CommencementEve.
Tully Forum.
Among those who knew it when, the mention of the Tully Forum elicits a slow shake of the head and a wry smile. Home to the Chiefs of Lowell for nearly two decades (until they moved into Tsongas Arena in 1998), the North Billerica hockey rink was described in its early days as gritty and blue-collar. That was kind. Built in 1964, Tully at one time had no hot water for showers and no heat (players’ long underwear literally froze in the locker room). There was a chain-link fence instead of glass behind the net.

With a 185-by-85-foot ice surface, the rink was renowned for its tiny neutral zone. It had seats for about 3,200 fans but more than 4,200 tickets were sold for the Division II ECAC tournament that the Chiefs hosted in 1983. Despite all its quirks, it was where the Chiefs won 168, lost 111 and tied 20 games in front of wildly enthusiastic, raucous, chilly fans.

Our Sense of Humor.
Like that of Civil and Environmental Engineering Chair Cliff Braun, who took it very well recently when graduating students left a thoughtful present in his office.

No. 48
We learn by doing. Thanks to our partnerships with hundreds of employers around the world, we offer countless co-ops and internships in all disciplines—at everything from Fortune 500 companies to start-ups, from nonprofits to research think-tanks. The result? Our students are way ahead of the game when they graduate.

No. 33
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Like that of Civil and Environmental Engineering Chair Cliff Braun, who took it very well recently when graduating students left a thoughtful present in his office.

No. 98
OUR WICKED SMART FACULTY: 93 percent have the highest degree available in their fields.

No. 54
OUR VETS (and vets’ services) rock.
The University is home to 1,200 student veterans ranging in age from 19 to 61. Most have served our country through active duty and three-quarters of them have a G.P.A. of 3.0. G.I. Jobs magazine has designated the campus “military friendly” for the past three years.

No. 89
These Rifles Aren’t Guns.
In 1893, General John Joseph (“Blackjack”) Pershing founded the Pershing Rifles, a group dedicated to advancing camaraderie among all military branches of the ROTC. Squadron N-12 of the National Society of Pershing Rifles served as an elite drill team from 1962 to 1974 at Lowell Technological Institute. Pershing Rifle alumni recently committed to raising $250,000 to provide financial aid to student veterans, ROTC candidates and dependents of disabled veterans. Visit www.uml.edu/givenow to contribute.
O'LEY RE LIBRARY.

Built in the 1970s in the Brutalist style (yes, that's a real thing), O'Leary received an interior face-lift last year. Now a hub for 21st century learning, the library features bright and airy spaces for collaboration, quiet study and computing.

No. 20

Bernie Shapiro '86.

Some folks just stand out. Bernie Shapiro (along with his wife, Yana—this is a package deal) is a campus classic. Bernie is beloved by the thousands who took his math classes, including Rob Manning '84, for whom the business school is named. Bernie was captain of the lacrosse team at UMass Lowell during his senior year. After joining the faculty in 1962, he chaired the University's Athletic Committee (1971-86) and served for years as the faculty representative to the Board of Trustees. In May, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Yana worked until recently as a part-time administrator in the Continuing Education department. The Shapiros still live in Lowell and support current students with an endowed scholarship.
The river that runs through it.

The 2009 student Commencement speaker, Abbey Denaro, fittingly compared our students’ journey with that of our watery neighbor: “The Merrimack River is a principal symbol and life-force of the University. It is deep, wide and clear; it is powerful, enduring and brilliant. But farther down the river you can see the strong rapids with trees and rocks in its way, interfering with its path. The Merrimack continues on this journey, from calm and unobstructed to occluded and strained, until it reaches its final destination into the open and free Atlantic.”

No. 7

OUR GRADS RULE THE SCHOOLS.

Educating teachers is an art that runs deep at UMass Lowell; when Lowell Normal School was founded in 1894, the school of education was at its core. Finding a product of the program isn’t much of a challenge. The Graduate School of Education began producing those with master’s and doctoral degrees in 1987 and 26 years later, our alumni are overseeing districts and classrooms across the region. At last count, more than 50 superintendents and principals in the area are grads.

No. 95

Our fancy fitness factory.

There are many rooms at the Rec Center, but none for excuses. The 65,000-square-foot facility on East Campus offers something for everyone: a two-floor fitness center with the latest work-out equipment; basketball, racquetball and squash courts; an indoor running track; multipurpose studios for fitness classes; locker rooms with showers and saunas; and space to chill with friends over ping pong. Closer to South Campus? A similar, brand-new fitness center was built in the new residence hall Riverview Suites this summer.
Our building boom.

Six new buildings have opened in the past year. The latest? The 148,000-square-foot residence hall University Suites, located just steps from the Tsongas Center and LeLacheur Park on East Campus. Featuring 88 four- and six-bed suites, study areas and an outdoor courtyard, University Suites is also home to a café open to the public. Next up: The $95 million University Crossing, a stunning student engagement center that will open next year.
Our innovative teaching.
Take Javier Horta, who teaches physiological and organic chemistry in the College of Health Sciences. Believing classroom time offers students precious opportunities to apply the concepts they are learning, he tried a new approach in a lab class last fall. Using what is becoming known as the “flipped” classroom method, he recorded his lectures and posted them online for students to view as homework, freeing up class time for discussions and hands-on assignments. “Students come into the classroom to have an experience, rather than just absorb data,” he says, adding that the approach was highly successful.

我们的创新教学。
像Javier Horta教授，他在健康科学学院教授生理学和有机化学。他认为课堂时间提供了学生宝贵的机会来应用他们正在学习的概念，因此他在去年秋天尝试了一种新方法。通过被人们熟知的“翻转”课堂方法，他录制了他的课程并在线发布，让学生在做作业时可以自由使用课堂时间进行讨论和实践。他说这种方法非常成功。

The Outdoor Adventure Program.
Skiing, surfing, biking, rock climbing, kayaking, skydiving, hiking, white-water rafting, ice climbing, backpacking in the Grand Canyon. It’s all available to students. And if they’re still bored, they can choose from more than 120 other clubs and organizations.

户外冒险项目。
滑雪、冲浪、骑自行车、攀岩、皮划艇、跳伞、远足、白水皮划艇、攀冰，以及在大峡谷背包旅行。这些都在学生能够选择的范围内。如果他们仍然感到无聊，他们可以选择超过120个其他俱乐部和组织。
H e was 9 years old when his family moved from the Azores—an autonomous region of Portugal spread across nine volcanic islands in the North Atlantic—to California’s San Joaquin Valley. It was a hard life, but the family was together and there was food enough on the table. Then, in 1971, he fell ill, with leukemía—through his son, by then 13, wouldn’t learn this until later. Helio returned to the Azores, where he died the following year.

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An Immigrant’s Story: ‘Leveling the Playing Field’ for Those Who Came After

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

At the time that he died, Luis Pedroso says today, “there was a revolution going on in Portugal [a military coup, which would successfully replace the governing dictatorship with a democracy], and my mother didn’t think it was a good idea to go back. So we came east instead, to Lowell, where she had connections with some cousins of my father.”

Once in Lowell, Luis’ mother, Amelia, now a widow with four children, took a job in a shoe factory on Market Street, where her older sister also went to work. Luis and his twin sister and younger brother meanwhile were enrolled at the Rogers School, then later at Lowell High—though by this time Luis was working as well. He graduated in 1980.

College wasn’t an option; his mother’s destiny was to factory wages being barely enough to support their family of five. So he went to work: first for Honeymell, in a job that lasted a year; then for Lowell Pyes, where he toiled three months in a teller’s cage before deciding there had to be something better.

From there, the future took shape quickly. In 1981, at the age of 21, he found work with Manufactur

Luis Pedroso moves through downtown Lowell on July 26, during the 27th Lowell Folk Festival, a celebration of ethnic music, art and food from countries all over the world, including his native Portugal. Pedroso is responsible, in part, for the creation of the University’s new Staub-Pedroso Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture.

GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

The early ones came over as refugees, after the volcano on Faial Island [in 1957]. They were also very poor. It was hard for them. Like with most early immigrants, the playing field is not level.

In 2003, he founded his next start-up, Acputronics, in Chelmsford, a contract manufacturing business like Qualitronics. As he had years before, he started small, in this case, with his brother and two sisters. Ten years later, now with 80 employees, the company continues to grow.

As the years have passed and his fortunes have improved, his commitment to his heritage has also grown. In 2002, he was named as the largest contrib-
tor—at $300,200—to an endowed chair in Portuguese studies at UMass Dartmouth, the first such chair in the University’s history. Named to honor his parents, the Helio and Amelia Pedroso/UMass-American Founda-
tion Endowed Chair brings scholars from all over the world to the University.

He made the gift, he said at the time, because “I wanted to give something long lasting to the country that has been so good to my family and me.”

He has been giving ever since. In his continued support of UMass Dartmouth, and Middlesex Com-
munity College, in his presidency of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (of which he is a founding member), in the role he has played in the creation of the Portuguese-American Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to Lowell High School graduates of Portuguese descent—he has shown repeatedly the Portuguese food, music and literature, attended by thousands of people.

In 2008, he was the recipient of two more local honors: the Lowell High School Parish in Lowell and of the Holy Ghost Society and Portuguese com munity. A m em ber of St. Anthony’s Parish in Lowell and of the Holy Ghost Society and a supporter of the Senior Center for Portuguese Elders, he made clear from the start that his business successes were not about to set him apart.

“Coming here from Portugal, from the Azores, has been a struggle for many thousands of people,” he says. “Many grew up poor, as farmers, under a dicatorship; their education is often low. Some of the constancy of his immigrant heritage, “I’m a promoter of all things Portuguese,” he says simply. “It is not an easy life for them. I try to do what I can.”

His efforts have gone unnoticed—either here or in his native land. Six years ago, in recognition of all he had done on behalf of his fellow countrymen, he was the recipient of one of Portugal’s highest awards the covered Medal of the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator, an order of knighthood bestowed by that country’s king. In 2009, he was the recipient of two more local honors: the Lowell High School Distinguished Alumna Award and the George L. Duncun Award of Excellence.

And now, in the latest iteration of his outreach, his efforts have come to UMass Lowell.

In late March of this year, at a reception at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center that featured Paraguayan midfielder Helio Pedroso, his partner and his mother, whom he’d brought with him from his former job, he founded

Luis Pedroso, who was honored posthumously at last year’s UMass Lowell Distinguished Alumni Awards, is shown with his son, Helio Pedroso, and his partner, Rui, at his award ceremony. His son, Luis Pedroso, has been a supporter of the Senior Center for Portuguese Elders, and a recipient of the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center’s Distinguished Alumni Award. Pedroso’s efforts have come to UMass Lowell.

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We love to be the underdog.

It’s the moment you know you hold the winning cards but have yet to play the hand. The band you just know will be huge one day, and you know them now. The restaurant you know is going to be hot, and you were there first. And in June 2013, when Business Insider named UMass Lowell the Most Underrated College in America, we already knew. Measuring our grads’ average mid-career salary, Business Insider applied a tangible, practical standard to its rankings. In the end, they’re saying what we’ve been saying for a long time.

Desh Deshpande, whose commitment to sustainable change is generating a laboratory for leaders on campus. Deshpande, an international venture capitalist, visionary and philanthropist, whose work has fed millions of children and brought health care to millions more in his native India, was named in 2013 by President Obama as co-chair of the President’s advisory board on innovation strategy. He is also the founder and inspiration behind UMass Lowell’s three-year-old Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Created on the strength of Deshpande’s conviction that "If you pose a problem to an innovative mind it will come up with a solution," the Center provides students and faculty with the opportunity to develop remedies to some of the region’s—and the world’s—most intractable problems.

It does this through several channels. One of these, the Merrimack Valley Sandbox, combines the resources of UMass Lowell, Middlesex Community College, Merrimack College, Northern Essex Community College and other regional partner institutions—more than 30 in all—to encourage, mentor and in some cases subsidize the development of entrepreneurial leaders, together with the ventures they pursue. A second initiative, the DifferenceMaker program, brings together small groups of student-entrepreneurs, who then combine talents to develop the solutions to a range of problems, both on campus and in the wider world.

Our diversity.

How boring would it be if we were all the same? Really boring, if you ask UMass Lowell. Enrollment of students in underrepresented minority groups has increased 90 percent over the last five years. The graduating class of 2013 included students from 79 countries. The Office of Multicultural Affairs lists 31 student clubs and organizations, including the African Student Collaboration, Disable the Label, International Student Organization, Society of Women Engineers, Pride Alliance and the Latin American Student Organization. The result: a more vibrant campus life, enhanced learning experiences and better preparation for the global economy.

No. 24

Our suite life.

Nearly 1,000 students will benefit from two state-of-the-art housing additions this fall. University Suites on East Campus features four- and six-person suites, each equipped with common space, kitchenettes and bathrooms. The $54 million building is also home to the Haven’s Best Cafe and Red Mango, a national frozen yogurt chain. Riverview Suites, on South Campus, offers apartment living for upper-class students. It boasts four- and six-person apartments with full kitchens, living areas and bathrooms; the building also houses a fully-equipped fitness center.

No. 12

We’ve got apps.

Dude, where’s my bus? RoadsterRoutes can tell you. Launched in January, the app (created by the Web Services team in University Relations) notifies users exactly where the University’s shuttles are in real time. And let’s just say that students are psyched. Roadster was one of the 10 most visited pages on the UMass Lowell website this spring with 40,000 visits and 70,000 page views.

No. 47

No. 17

Suppa’s.

No. 83

Steve McCarthy.

Our 2012-2013 University Professor, the plastics engineering faculty member—and co-founder of the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center—has been inspiring students at UMass Lowell for more than three decades. And he works hard for the money: McCarthy is responsible for about $9 million in research grants and $33 million in intellectual property donations. We love him with or without his ‘stache.

No. 3

Our close ties with brilliant thinkers—

like Desh Deshpande, whose commitment to sustainable change is generating a laboratory for leaders on campus.
We shoot for the Moon.

And sometimes we get to touch it. Thanks to the efforts of physics Prof. Supriya Chakrabarti, students in earth sciences and physics had a chance to examine up-close a set of lunar rocks loaned by NASA’s Johnson Space Center during two special geology seminars held in April. “How many students can say they have held in their hands something that most people of the world can only see from afar or imagine?” asks Chakrabarti. “Add to that an explanation that these pieces of the Moon have not changed in 4.5 billion years—the implications are profound.” (Side note: Sometimes we also literally shoot the moon—with a Canon SLR. University Relations staffer Edwin Aguirre and his wife, Imelda Joson, took this gorgeous photo during the “Super Moon” rising on June 23.)

We take care of our students. Massages, ice cream sundaes, group fitness classes, arts and crafts and a kindness wall (pictured above)—we offer all of these things during exam periods to help students relieve stress.

Our artists-in-residence.

Every year, the University’s Center for Arts and Ideas brings a handful of top artists to campus to present their work, teach master classes and meet with students. The spring 2013 artist was celebrated filmmaker and animator Martha Colburn, best known for her animation films created through puppetry, collage and paint-on-glass techniques. Shown above, center, Colburn guided students through making their own experimental films during her visit.

We’re affordable and we make millions.

AffordableCollegesOnline.org recently ranked us No.10 for Public Colleges Whose Grads Make Millions.
Like Bauer Performance Sports and its CEO, Kevin Davis ’91

By Geoffrey Douglas

The Company We Keep—roughly 70 percent of NHL pros today lace up Bauer skates. For the UMass Lowell River Hawks, the company is by far the No.1 source of equipment—skates, sticks, masks and pads—and has been for years.

Kevin Davis ’91 has gone about things a little differently. Drawn originally to the University of Lowell for its College of Engineering—it was one of the only schools in the U.S. with a nuclear reactor and Davis had hopes of being a nuclear engineer—once he rethought his options, he switched his major to accounting. He graduated in 1991.

For a while, he followed the accountant’s route with a job at Ernst and Young—during which he earned his CPA. But the field, he discovered, served as “a great foray into other things,” and before long he was with Gillette in Boston. Following that came a stint with Boston Scientific, which led in turn to several years’ involvement with the medical devices field.

In 2002, he was working for a company called Pathway Medical when the call came from a recruiter, Bauer Performance Sports, the hockey-equipment company, was looking for a controller. And with that, came the end of Davis’ winding path.

Bauer is a name known to anyone who’s ever played hockey. It had made its name, in 1933, as the first company to manufacture a hockey skate with the boot and the blade permanently attached. Its fame widened in the 1960s with the much-publicized endorsement of hockey legend Bobby Hull. All this, together with the financial might of parent company Nike, which had purchased it in 1995, had put the Bauer brand squarely at the top of its field.

In 2002, the year Davis joined Bauer as controller, its sales revenues, he says, were $220 million. Two years later, he was elevated to chief financial officer, and two years after that to COO. Then, in 2008, Nike sold its stake in Bauer to a private-equity firm, Kohlberg and Co., for $200 million. Kohlberg not only retained Davis’ services but appointed him CEO.

“I was very fortunate they took a risk on me,” he would say later. “It was a risk well taken. By 2010, Bauer’s sales had risen to $272 million, and they’ve been climbing over since—with a huge spike, to $387 million, last year. And in the meantime, says Davis, the company’s profits have tripled.

Much of this growth has come through untraditional sources. Until not long after Davis took over, Bauer had been known almost entirely for its skates and hockey equipment—it controls roughly 52 percent of that market today. But lately the picture has been widening. In June of 2010, Bauer’s parent company acquired Maverick Sports, a New York-based manufacturer of lacrosse equipment. This was followed two years later by the acquisition of Cascade Helmets, a maker of lacrosse helmets, also headquartered in New York State.

“Lacrosse is the fastest-growing team sport in North America. The game itself is similar to hockey in concept, as is the technology. So we see it as a natural fit,” Davis says.

Earlier this year, the company announced news of yet another acquisition: Combat Sports, a leading designer of composite baseball and softball bats, hockey sticks and lacrosse shafts.

As its business focus widens, the company’s fortunes continue to rise. In the spring of 2011, Bauer went public, with an opening price of $17.50 per share on the Toronto Stock Exchange. As of June, the price was hovering around $11.

Mr. Davis has helped guide (Bauer) to the most successful financial position in its history, including record financial results for the past two years,” BusinessWeek reported in its executive profile last year.

Given its growth-path and string of recent successes, Bauer is often mentioned these days as a takeover target itself. Davis, of course, hasn’t much to say about such rumors. For the foreseeable future, he says, “We just plan to leverage our efforts across all the sports we’re part of, and try to be No. 1 anywhere we compete.”
Our Inspirational Students—Like Edwyn Shoemaker

By Geoffrey Douglas

You may have passed by him on the street—or someone just like him. He was lying asleep against a building, or over a heating grate. Or in the rear seat of that abandoned junker at the corner you keep wishing the city would haul away. If it was a cold night in winter, you may not have seen him at all; he’d have broken into the boarded-up building down the block, where he was lying on the floor under a ratty blanket, grateful to be out of the wind.

“you got to be able to scale walls,” he says today. “That’s an important thing to know if you’re living on the street.”

His name is Edwyn Shoemaker and he’s a senior at UMass Lowell. His father was a coke dealer who got busted in Canada; he hasn’t seen him in years.

As a child, he lived with his mother, until both their lives were overtaken by her troubles with drugs and booze. That was when the state stepped in and took him away. He was 9 years old.

There were foster homes. Twelve in the first two weeks. Then six weeks in a shelter, followed by four years in a residential program in Plymouth. They had classes there: “Nothing you’d call school, really, just these lessons they’d give you to get you past the MCAS. If it wasn’t your year for the MCAS, you wouldn’t have to go.”

Things got complicated after that. There were more foster homes. One on the Cape, a second one in Wareham: “with this really nice lady, but she overtook by her troubles with drugs and booze. That was when she said I shouldn’t stay.” There was a year in the Elizabeth Islands at a “school for struggling boys.” A year in the foster home, he says—“But they didn’t want me in the school. They said they had enough troublemakers already, so they just sent a tutor around for a while, then let me graduate.” He had never attended a class.

At 18 he “aged out” of the system. There would be no more foster homes or shelters, and the streets were the only other thing he knew. It was time for a choice, and he knew it:

“I was getting in trouble, going in the wrong direction. I had to take control of my life. Otherwise there were only two futures—I’d end up either dead or in jail. College was the one ticket out.”

In 2008 he enrolled at Middlesex Community College. But now with no home and no fallback—working up to make ends meeting, taking his showers at the UMass Lowell rec center ($15 a month), sleeping on park benches—he struggled badly, falling behind in his courses, nearly flunking out.

A kindly adviser took note, and offered a route to help: the TRIO program, a federally funded support service for low-income students. “That was the difference,” he says today, “I don’t think I could have made it without it. They advise you, encourage you, support you every step of the way. They just won’t let you fail.”

For the first time in his life, Edwyn Shoemaker learned what it was to thrive. He finished MCC in the spring of 2010, was chosen as a fellow in that school’s most esteemed program—the Paul Sullivan Leadership Institute—at a close-of-year reception. UMass Chancellor Martha Pollack was in the audience that day:

“He came up to me after, and asked me what I wanted to major in. I told him, ‘political science.’ He asked what colleges I was applying to. I told him [a few names]. He said he thought I should come to UMass Lowell.”

Which brings us to today. Shoemaker is indeed a political science major, one semester away from his UMass Lowell degree. He is also a member of the University’s International Relations Club, through which—as a participant in student model of the UN and Arab League—he has traveled for debates to Boston, Washington, Vancouver and Toronto and met fellow students from as far away as Taiwan. “It’s changed my life,” he says, “It opened my eyes to the world.”

But for all his wider eyes and far-flung travels, the world that most compels him is still the one closest to home. As an intern in Washington, D.C., this summer, with other former foster children, for the Coalition on Adoption Institute, he helped draft policy proposals to increase the awareness among Congress of the needs of homeless kids. And this fall, as a student at UMass Lowell, he is working as a research assistant for a program on the implementation of U.S. counterterrorism policy, and helping manage the government’s response to multiple terrorist incidents, including the Sept. 11 attacks.

We take care of our students, part two.

In 2012, we met an average of 92 percent of a student’s demonstrated financial need.
OUR URBAN DIGS. We are lucky. Some urban campuses are lost in cascades of asphalt and cinderblock. Not us. We thrive on the banks of the Mighty Merrimack, which once fueled Lowell’s historic Industrial Revolution. Jack Kerouac was born here, as was Bette Davis. We have baseball on the river with future Red Sox, the largest free folk festival in the country and artists filling live-work spaces. We are cobblestone and red brick, strong and quaint at once. We’re full of great food and old worlds, a grand splash of vibrant diversity, history everywhere. We’re central to all of New England, yet a world unto ourselves.

Lowell is a place to learn, a place you’ll love.

This year, our team placed sixth at the North American concrete canoe competition, finishing near the top among 23 counterparts from institutions across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Held by the American Society of Civil Engineers, the contest challenges student teams to design, build and race canoes made entirely of concrete. UMass Lowell was the only university from New England and one of only two from the Northeast to reach the nationals, earning the right to compete after beating out schools from across the region and Canada, including perennial top national finishers, at regionals in April.

The 20-person UMass Lowell team competed with the canoe the students named “Mowesett,” a Native American word meaning “shaped like an arrowhead” and the origin of the name “Massachusetts.” The watercraft measures 19 feet 8 inches long, 26 inches across at its widest point and 13 inches deep. Weighing in at 132 pounds, it was molded from lightweight concrete and reinforced with fiberglass mesh.

WE’RE WELL-ENDEDOWED.

As the Boston Business Journal recently reported, we have the fastest growing endowment among public universities in Massachusetts. We recently reached a milestone of more than $65 million in endowment funds, which support student scholarships, academic programs and faculty development. In the last five years, the number of endowments has grown by 72 percent—putting our growth ahead of a couple of little-known schools called Harvard and MIT.

No. 26
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No. 43
We know what you’re thinking.

We are a research university, and the Center for Public Opinion is just one of the ways we flex our cross-disciplinary muscle. The Center polls on political and public opinion trends, and it all enhances our students’ experiences. Thanks to the rigor and integrity with which we conduct our polls, the results are widely reported and respected.

Our world is flat.

We have partnerships with nearly 100 universities in more than 40 countries on six continents. (Here we come, Antarctica!) Between team taught courses, student exchanges and research partnerships, we’re building bridges and advancing the public good. And we’re not doing all the traveling. A growing number of international students are making UMass Lowell their destination, thanks to programs that make it easier to transfer here from their home universities. Most recently, we’ve forged such agreements with eight universities in China and India.

No. 14
Our University Professors.

The highest distinction bestowed on a UMass Lowell faculty member, the title recognizes exemplary contributions to teaching, research and service. Our most recently named University Professor is Laura Punnett, at right, of the Department of Work Environment, which she helped found. An internationally respected leader in public health and ergonomics, Punnett is one of the top researchers internationally in the epidemiology of work-related musculoskeletal disorders. She leads the Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace, a research center funded with more than $9 million to date. Previous recipients of the three-year appointment are: biology Prof. Susan Brauman, work environment Prof. Kenneth Geiser, Chair of the Physics and Applied Physics Department Robert Giles, Graduate School of Education Prof. Regina Panasuk and plastics engineering Prof. Stephen McCarthy.

No. 75
THIS YEAR, OUR TEAM PLACED SIXTH AT THE NORTH AMERICAN CONCRETE CANOE COMPETITION, FINISHING NEAR THE TOP AMONG 23 CONTESTANTS FROM INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND PUERTO RICO. HELD BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, THE COMPETITION CHALLENGES STUDENT TEAMS TO DESIGN, BUILD AND RACE CANOES MADE ENTIRELY OF CONCRETE. UMASS LOWELL WAS THE ONLY UNIVERSITY FROM NEW ENGLAND AND ONE OF ONLY TWO FROM THE NORTHEAST TO REACH THE NATIONALS, EARNING THE RIGHT TO COMPETE AFTER BEATING OUT SCHOOLS FROM ACROSS THE REGION AND CANADA, INCLUDING PERENNIAL TOP NATIONAL FINISHERS, AT REGIONALS IN APRIL.

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We Band Together in Tough Times.

Take the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. Even before we learned that several members of our community suffered serious injuries as a result of the tragedy, there was an outpouring of compassion and inquiries from students, alumni, faculty and staff—all of whom wondered one thing: How can I help? Here’s just a sampling of how our UMass Lowell family pitched in:

We helped at the finish line. Steve Ficeli ’03, a first lieutenant and executive officer of the 106th Transportation Company in the Army National Guard, was planning only to walk the 26.2 miles of the Boston Marathon on April 15. Only making that trek dressed in fatigues and boots and carrying a backpack filled with 40 pounds of equipment—water and Gatorade, a blanket, first aid and trauma kits, spare clothing, extra boots—in an effort to help. But Ficeli and 15 other guardsmen under his command marched to a route set apart as part of Tough Ruck 2013, which honors fallen soldiers.

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We comforted the community. The marathon tragedy left everyone in the area feeling anxious and scared, including a Boston College student who took to the Internet to thank alums and B.C. Police Officer Katrina (Brown) Thompson ’96 for making her feel better. Thompson joined the student and her friends for dinner to talk to them shortly after the bombings:

“While she ate [Officer Thompson] asked us how our weekend was going, what we had done during the lockdown and what our plans were for study abroad. Understandably the conversation revolved around the bombings and successful capture of the suspects, but Officer Thompson kept it lighthearted.

“Things got heavier when Officer Thompson told us that she had joined the BCPO as recently as July 2012. She had transitioned from the MIT campus police force, where she knew Officer Sean Collier [who was shot and killed by the Boston Marathon bombing suspects during their attempted escape] and had worked with him for years. She talked about how hard the loss was for everyone in Boston, and how the BCPO was especially cut up by the death of one of their own in the line of duty.

“Before she left, Officer Thompson offered a parting remark that stuck with me: Don’t be afraid to talk to us. We’re all struggling with this as much as you are. We’re here if you need anything. Her farewell almost brought me to tears.

We created a scholarship fund. The day after the marathon, we created the UMass Lowell Boston Marathon Scholarship Fund—which benefits any member of the University community, including their families and alumni, who was affected by the tragedy and wants to pursue an education here. We hope that will include Jeff Baum, who lost part of both of his legs at the marathon.

In those following, the father of the 27-year-old—a former student here, who had been dating on his girlfriend as she ran her first Boston Marathon—told The New York Times that Baum plans to “put off his student loans and go back to school at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.” We plan to help him.

To contribute to the fund, visit and ask a given.

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We designed a T-shirt. Graphic design alum and Medford native Kevin Zwirble ’04—who now lives and works as a graphic designer in the Baltimore area—created a T-shirt (at right) to help the victims of the marathon tragedy. By selling it on the website link to the People, he raised more than $5,000—every penny of which went to the One Fund Boston. “Words cannot describe how I feel,” he says. “I’m glad that in some small way we can help those affected by the bombings. One City. One Heart.”

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Alumni Take Florida

Alumni and friends gathered all over the country for game-watches to support the River Hawks as they competed in the Frozen Four for the first time ever. Thank you for all of your alumni support.

1. Florida Alumni Network members Keith Carney ’00 and his family join Erik Brown ’58 at Boston’s in Delray Beach, Fla., to watch the River Hawks compete in the Frozen Four.


3. Restaurants all over Massachusetts celebrate and embrace the UMass Lowell alumni community as they cheer on the River Hawks.


5. Members of the Upstate New York Alumni Network watch the UMass Lowell River Hawks compete at the Frozen Four.

6. Alumni, students and friends from the Washington, D.C., Alumni Network gather at the Public Bar to cheer on the River Hawks.

Frozen Four Game Watches Nationwide!

1. Enjoying an alumni reception at 50 Oceans at Boston’s on the Beach in Delray, are, from left, AnnMarie Clark ’74, world-renowned author Andre Dubus III and Justin ’69 and Edwin Quimby ’69.

2. Alumni gather to march in the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Naples. From left, Doug ’64 and Carol Stagnaro, Dick ’62 and Carol Daunks, Lorraine and Gerry Lydon ’66.

3. Alumni and friends gather at the annual Ft. Myers Red Sox barbecue and baseball game.

4. UMass Lowell baseball player Jacob O’Keeffe and his girlfriend, Chelsea, enjoy a family barbecue in Boca Raton hosted by UMass Lowell alumni and friends in honor of the River Hawks baseball team.

5. From left, Chancellor Marty Meehan ’78, Ellen Murphy Meehan, Prof. Andre Dubus III, Maurice and Arnold Lerner and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney enjoy a reception hosted by the Lerners at their home in Naples.

6. Alumni and friends gather at the home of Maurice and Arnold Lerner in Naples. From left, Roy ’57 and Ruth ’57 Zabierek, Tom ’63 and Karen McIntyre, Valerie McCann, Fred ’63 and Kathy Lerner.
ALUMNI EVENTS

40th & 50th Reunion Weekend


6. Gathering for the fourth annual Student Leader Reunion Night at the River Hawks Hockey game are, from left, Matthew Clemens ’12, Koffi Selom Egbe ’12 and Sade Jean-Jacques ’11.


8. Chi Kappa Phi alumni gathered for a pre-game reception at the Tsongas Center before the River Hawks took on the Boston University Terriers.

9. Alumni Margaret Bota ’03 presents at an Alumni Showcase for students, friends and alumni of the Black Alumni Network.

10. Alumni, students and friends gathered at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell for the second annual Sigma Phi Omega Chi Sullivan ’98 Memorial 5K Race/Walk in April. From left: Alumni Director Heather Maker, ’06, ’08, Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, Skip Kemper, ’67, Director of Veterans Services Janine West and Adam Hope ’93.

11. Alumni gather the Center for Productivity Enhancement Reunion to honor the late Prof. Pat Krolak. From left, Frank Drake ’67, Rich Miner ’60, ’87, Ross Miller ’88, Chuck Konis ’85, ’80, ’90 and Mark Miller ’91.

Classes of 1964 and 1974: Help make your reunion fantastic!
To volunteer before or during the event, email alumni@.uml.edu or call 978-934-3140.
1. University Alumni Award recipients were recognized for their leadership, commitment, and significant contributions in their professional fields by Chancellor Marty Meehan ’78 and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney ’75, ’92, together in the center. From left, Graduate School of Education: George Tzapakas ’77, superintendent, Lowell Public Schools (retired); Manning School of Business: Mark Forzani ’78, senior vice president and partner, Tower Investments (retired); College of Fine Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences: George Membrino ’52, owner and founder, GEM Consulting; College of Sciences: Kimberly Sawyer ’89, deputy laboratories director and executive vice president, mission support, Sandia National Laboratories; Recent Alumni Award: Danielle McFadden ’07, president and CEO, Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce; School of Health & Environment: Bruce Andulak ’82, nurse anesthetist, Carolinas Medical Center; and Francis College of Engineering: Jeffrey Cosiol ’67, principal project director, Kling Stubbins (retired).

2. Renowned author Andre Dubus III, center, with honorary degree recipients at the sixth annual Commencement Eve “Honoring Excellence” gala. From left, Bernard Shaps ’76, ’78 (Honorary), Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney ’75, ’92, Mark Forzani ’78, ’88, and Elias 13 (Honorary).

3. Members of the 2011-2012 Board of Trustees (top row, left to right): John Lynch ’83, Edward McGrady ’55, Dr. May Futrell, and David Duggan. Front row (left to right): Dr. Nancy Donahue ’78 (President), Riby Vedula, and Chancellor Martin T. Meehan ’78.

4. Our annual Commencement Eve Celebration recognizes and honors the accomplishments of our outstanding graduating students, alumni, and community leaders. Each year, the celebration recognizes scholarship funds for our students. With the generous support of alumni and friends of the University, again, we have achieved a record-breaking year in fundraising through this events. Thank you.

For information about this event, please visit http://alumni.uml.edu/commencement eve.


1959
Bruce Hoad recently published "Old Country Stores of New Hampshire" in which he tries to capture the essence of those quaint establishments that he describes as "disappearing…They're going," he says. "We're losing this heritage and legacy." Bruce, who teaches history at Plymouth State University, has produced more than 40 titles.

Laurence F. Brundrett '74, '99—a research fellow at the center of 40 years have 27-year-old nurse at the home and the other a luxury car administrator. "They're going," he says. "We're losing this heritage and legacy." Bruce, who teaches history at Plymouth State University, has produced more than 40 titles.

1978
..."My roommate at Eames Hall, a student of textile engineering because his father owned textile mills, had a slight alteration with a friend of mine from Marblehead who came for a weekend visit. We came back from a weekend of partying to find he had taken his closet full of suits and sports jackets and moved down the hall to room with an Indian student from Bombay. Only my single-room corner jacket remained.

Bob Kriegel, my good friend of nearly 60 years, moved in and introduced me to his pal Roy Zuckerberg, who also became a lifelong friend.

Nicole Zana is director of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at Ariad Health and is a clinical professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

John O'Shaughnessy has published his second novel, "encounters," about the opportunity to speak with someone local and love. John and his wife, Sandy, co-founded Good Mourning Ministry, a Catholic bereavement organization in the Detroit area. John spent 30 years in the business world before becoming a certified grief counselor. John and Sandy have four children and live in Plymouth, Mich.

1979
John Murphy, a member of the University's Athletic Hall of Fame, recently scored the San Francisco Giants' AT&T ballpark during a swing through California time country. John is director of purchasing for Vehla Corporation, a pharmaceutical/animal health company based in Fort Worth, Texas. He and wife, Pam, live in St. Louis. John's baseball achievements at Lowell State included a .455 batting average in 1973, which earned him the American Big Ten Award as the nation's number one hitter among Division I players while leading his team to the nation among collegiate baseball.

"Lowell Tech drew students from all over the world due to its specialties in textiles, plastics and for those it fit, it fit well. "Duke" Snyder, after being drawn out of Pennsylvania, went on to win a national championship with the Giants. "Yes, times were a little different."

"..."Al Holin and Joe Chiffet, two former football players from Fitchburg, often shared in the Dinty Moore beef stew dinners, cooked on my hot plate in the dorm. Winnie Mazzera from Jersey City split her time between preparing to box in the Golden Gloves, with the help of the ROTC boxing sergeant, and playing the guitar with his roommate, budding cartoonist Jack Lamb, leaving little time for studying. Another colorful Jersey boy, Joe Tancredi, would come back to the dorms nightly to brag about his exploits with the girls from Lowell. All were gone by sophomore year.

"Surely, a bright lad from Lowell, stayed Dave spent some time at a bar owned by Manny Bellow. The rumor was the bar was primarily inhabited by beautiful women and jockeys, who occasionally helped Manny win a race. I went to Suffolk Downs with Dave and his mother and bet five bucks while watching one of Manny's picks set a course record in the mud.

"The prettiest girls in Lowell were the Larkin sisters, dated at the time by Joe Liston, a former Lowell football player who had the most wonderful infectious laugh and his pal Jimmy Dean. Also from Lowell, who was the star fullback for the Boston University football team. Another classmate who was student head of the ROTC was unable to marry a third sister, the gift of his dreams, because she was Catholic and he was Protestant.

"Yes, times were a little different."

Continued on P. 52
WE MAY BE ON SIX CONTINENTS, but our presence in Lowell seems to be lacking. Suzanne Lane Conrad ‘81 says she’s been living in the Hawkeye State for 16 years and still hasn’t run across any UMass Lowell graduates there.

Lawrence Beckett has been named vice president of municipal banking at Bank of America’s Danvers branch where he is now responsible for business development and municipal relationship management in Essex, community, Middlesex and Worcester counties.

Ken Kaiser and George Popp ‘84 once again played their annual marathon for the Dana Farber Breast Cancer Research Fund. They teed off at 4:45 a.m. and played until dusk except for a two-hour period when violent thunderstorms closed the course. (See 1994 class note.)

William McL ‘81, the former mayor of Methuen, has been named town manager of Southwick, N.H. He earned an M.M.A. here.

1984 Joseph Alphonso has been working in the mayor’s offices of towns in the Twin Cities of Village Bank in Auburn. The founder and CEO of Community Builders, Inc., is a graduate student in civil engineering from the University of Lowell and an M.B.A. from Boston University.

David Bectt has assembled a team of professional consulting engineers and has ventured into a multi-disciplinary firm that he wishes to be known as Greater Lowell Engineering Associates. It’s cooperative, he says, not a business. All the principals are UMass Lowell graduates. Doug has a degree in civil engineering.

Robert Andersen retired in 2012 after working 37 years as a ground and missile system technician at Raytheon Corp. He and his wife, who also worked for Raytheon, say they love to travel in their motor home and cruise in their Corvette. Bob says that he just bought a new boat and is looking forward to fishing with friends. His sons thank the University for helping him achieve his goals.

James Kennedy is co-owner of My Town Sports, a sports equipment business in Littleton. The business and his hall of fame induction at the American Cancer Society’s next year’s auction. (See 1992 class note.)

Sandra Brooks, chief engineer at Nitsch Engineering, has increased her company’s work in the company to the principal track for the revived comedy series, “How I Met Your Mother.”

Tania Tijoux, reviews for the Philadelphia Inquirer, has been awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree by Lincoln University of Pennsylvania in recognition of her “outstanding contributions to higher education as one of the most dedicated and committed humanitarian.” A graduate of Lincoln, Tijoux earned a master’s degree in chemistry here and later transferred to Ohio State University.

Daniel Loring and Kathryn O’Hearn were married on August 24, 2012.

Joshua Alston and Lisa Conroy were married in September and have bought a home in Lindstrom, Minnesota.

1983 Fredy Pereira has been named head coach of the women’s hockey team at the University of Connecticut. For the past two seasons, he has been assistant coach at Ohio State University. He was an assistant with the UMass Lowell team from 2001 to 2009 and, during that time, formed a base of operations.

Tara Ichinose and Denzel Davenport married on September 28, 2013.

1982 Ward Hake ‘93 Hits Just the Right Note at Fox

Ward Hake ’93, who lives and works in Los Angeles, is vice president of music at 20th Century Fox. At 44, he oversees the music of 36 primetime shows, on several networks, from Sons of Anarchy and Homeland to Glee and The Simpsons.

On this day, Ward Hake’s job entwines work on a soundtrack for the revived comedy series, “How I Met Your Mother,” and, in his office, there is trick to keeping bands from killing themselves.

He will deal with people who are musicians, those who are fans, and those who don’t know who The Mamas and The Papas were. He says, “It was a valuable lesson: just because you quickly get to do it doesn’t mean it’s for you.”

His interest in the guitar deepened. He got good. He played with a band, discovering “the one thing I’ve always had to work as hard to be decent at.” After years of playing violin, piano and voice, “guitar seemed easy.”

He was three or four years too late,” says Hake. “I was maybe not quite as good as I had thought.”

He packed everything, drove to Santa Monica, Calif. “I was essentially starting over with no job, no friends or family,” says Hake. He landed with the morning sun, then fired off resumés as the day went on.

Eventually he had a job at Fox in New York and drove to Santa Monica, Calif. “I was essentially starting over with no job, no friends or family,” says Hake. He landed with the morning sun, then fired off resumés as the day went on.

“He was a no-B.S. teacher,” he says. “He really told it like it was. He was hard on a realist, and I know now he was right.”

His training at UMass helped him land an internship at Hit & Run, the company that handled publications for Phil Collins and Genesis.

When the day ended, Hake sold instruments. The jobs weren’t out there.

He landed a position at Warner Chappell, producing demos in house. He also worked with his own band, Nylon Kissed, which was good enough to open for Moby Cray and gain industry buzz. Then all the affords with the latest wave of deal-pop from Primary Spans and ‘N Sync.

“Within a couple weeks, I knew, wow, this isn’t for me,” he says. “It was a valuable lesson: just because you quickly get to do it doesn’t mean it’s for you.”

It was the guitar that Hake turned to when he couldn’t do it anymore. “I’d partied a lot, way you are in the real world,” says Hake.

Ward Hake ’93

Continued on P. 55
The Puerto-Rican Conga Sensation

Yahuba Garcia-Torres has been rocking the national music scene for the past seven years as a member of the Ryan Montbleau Band (which headlined at Boardinghouse Park on Aug. 2). Yahuba—who sings and plays congas, timbales, bongo and glockenspiel—has toured, recorded and played with musicians like Martin Sexton, Dave Matthews, ALO, Jack Johnson and Los Lobos.

He says UMass Lowell gave him his musical foundation. “Durgin Hall is a special place to me,” says Yahuba, who was an English and music performance major. “I discovered a lot about my musical self in that building and spent countless hours practicing in there. The recording facilities in the building were also an extra special feature that allowed us to record and capture a lot of great moments in our musical development. I still dig up those old recordings from time to time and listen to who I was back then.”

He also remembers a University trip to the Metropolitan Museum in New York City.

“I spent the day with Dr. Ogaspian, who was one of the most feared and demanding teachers in the Music Department,” he says. “I got to see a side of him that day that not many other students got to see. He gave me and my friend a personal tour of the musical instrument wing of the museum that was worthy of several courses in the museum. At the museum, we had a few hours left before getting on the bus, so he took us to some of New York’s most famous churches to show us their pipe organs, as he happened to be one of the world’s leading experts on pipe organs. I’ll never forget it.”

Nicole (Page) Lamoy was named in September 2012, three months after graduating from Salem State with a master’s degree in social work.

Heather Leonard has been appointed principal of the Bancroft Elementary School in Reading after having been assistant principal of the Newbury Elementary School, Heath; earned a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction here.

Joe Parker ’34 ’38 is a doctoral student at Nova Southeastern University, majoring in information systems/information security. He earned both a bachelor’s degree and an M.B.A. at UMass Lowell.

2005

Matt Grinold was married in August of 2010 with a reception held at Farmhouse Park. This past December he became the father of Mackett and Catherine Grinold.

2006

Henry Ndiawula has a daughter, Florence, who is a junior at the University.

Jason Torres married Tera Rich. (See 2004 class note.)

The transition of moving from home to campus was easy with athletics, she says. “I loved my time at UMass Lowell. The soccer team was really special. I still follow the River Hawks and try to see games when I can. I’m so proud they’re Division I.”

Any Way the Wind Blows (She Is There To Ask Why)

Tornado and flash flood warnings are popping up like a meteorological game of whack-a-mole. Lowell has one, and then it’s gone. Minutes later, the warning is reissued. Most of the region is experiencing similar weather, torrents of rain cascading from clouded skies. On Boston’s WXFT, meteorologist Kevin Lermier is keeping track of the frenzied changes.

Dr. Sarah Weblewski ’05 is at home. WXFT-TV’s weekend meteorologist and environmental reporter has worked a stretch of 11 consecutive days, but not this one.

“My husband was saying, ‘today’s the day you should be at work,’” she says with a chuckle by phone from her home outside of Boston. Not that she minds hanging with the couple’s 18-month-old son, Kellen.

The weather on this summer day takes her back to why she loves forecasting.

It was UMass Lowell, she insists, that gave her the tools to transition from dream to reality. The University was also where the Connecticut native formed lifelong friendships with teammates on the women’s soccer squad.

Weblewski, who captained the soccer team her senior year, is one of the University’s several visible meteorologists. Others include Shari Swift ’07, who also works at WXFT and earned her master’s in atmospheric and environmental science here. Danielle Niles ’06 was soccer team captain after Weblewski and she shared an apartment before graduation. Niles is NECN’s weekday morning meteorologist.

When she finished college, Weblewski already had a job at WRW, where she would serve as weather producer and weekend morning meteorologist until 2010. Before joining WXFT, she created and prepared graphics as a weather producer on WRW at Nantucket.

Weblewski’s road to UMass Lowell began on a high school playing field in her hometown, Marlborough, Conn. She had already been accepted to Penn State and Rutgers when the UMass Lowell coach visited.

“The coach had come to look at the goalkeeper, but I ended up having a pretty good game,” recalls Weblewski. “She approached me and talked to me, and ever since then, it was all UMass Lowell. It may have been a total fluke, but it was the best one of my life.”

When she visited Lowell’s campus, “they didn’t show me the athletics. People were friendly, and I knew I could find myself and fit in there. And I just fell in love.”

She was especially smitten with the Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department, which had always been an interest in weather.

“I never had any idea of being on TV. I just wanted to be a forecaster,” she says. “Since I was 12, I had always been interested, and had taken extra math and science classes in high school to prepare.”

The transition of moving from home to campus was easy with athletics, she says. “I loved my time at UMass Lowell. The soccer team was really special. I still follow the River Hawks and try to see games when I can. I’m so proud they’re Division I.”

Continued on P. 58
It’s not bragging; he’s just stating the facts. When you’ve run the gauntlet of Tornado Alley in 100 mph winds while being pelted with huge hail stones—which occasionally claim a windshield—any other automotive travel doesn’t seem so difficult.

Hamel, who earned his undergraduate degree in computer science in 1991, then returned to earn his master’s in atmospheric science 13 years later, is a top-notch tornado chaser. He chases part-time, during time off from his full-time job at the Chelmsford office of AECOM, where he specializes in air dispersion modeling and emissions variability.

And he has just returned from Oklahoma, where historic tornadoic activity has left him excited and stunned. On the day he spoke to this magazine, noted tornado chaser Tim Samaras was buried in Littleton, Colo., with his son, Paul. They died with meteorologist Carl Young when a massive tornado shifted direction and killed them near Oklahoma City. Samaras was known as one of the stars of the Discovery Channel’s “Storm Chasers.”

“Last Friday is a good example of how erratic these things can be,” says Hamel over a coffee in AECOM’s cafeteria. “I knew that one day it was going to happen to someone like Tim, but I never thought it would be someone like Tim, so experienced and smart.”

Originally from Salem, N.H., Hamel, 45, had “no idea whatsoever” he’d ever be doing such a thing.

“I chose UMass Lowell—then the University of Lowell—because it was a tech school with a good reputation for computer science, it was local and I was able to commute for a couple of years,” he says. “While I was at Salem High School, I’d visit with a field trip and really liked it.”

Once he decided into computer science, he found it “challenging—a lot of people were doing computer science at the time. The core classes were killers.” But he caught on and there were jobs. After graduation, Hamel worked for Bull, Cambridge Tech Partners and others. “In high tech back then, if you managed to survive at the company, the company often didn’t survive,” he notes.

Meanwhile, he’d always had an interest in weather, huddling with his sister on the family’s porch to watch thunderstorms. And while working as a high-tech consultant, he traveled frequently, often to the Midwest.

“The thunderstorms there were so much bigger and more dramatic than anything here. I got more and more interested,” he says. And less interested in 80-hour work weeks.

In 2001, he took a tornado-chasing tour. “We only saw one super cell,” he says. “It was kind of a dud.” But he did talk at length to David Gold and Roger Hill, owners of Silver Lining Tours.

He nursed his meteorological passion by returning to UMass Lowell, first as a part-timer taking night courses. “Then I realized it would have taken me forever to get through. So I went full-time during 2003 and 2004,” says Hamel, adding that he also got married during that time, and now has two daughters, 5 and 7.

Leading a 10-day tour, he notes, he can rack up 5,000 miles. He’s a regular on TV and radio when major storms whip and whirl across the Midwest. “I guess I’m sort of a big fish in a small pond around here,” he says.

He also was asked to join the 11-member advisory board for UMass Lowell’s Earth, Environment and Atmospheric Sciences master’s program.

“IT’S FUNNY BEING BACK. CHANGE DIDN’T ALWAYS COME FAST HERE,” says Hamel. “Now, with the Meehan years, it’s pretty amazing and exciting.”

THE TORNADO CHASER

BY DAVID PERRY

“The tornado chaser”

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2007

Mark Bourgeois and Jessica Wright '05 were married in January. (See 2005 class note.)

Bethany Evans and William Boncza '07 are engaged and an October wedding is planned. Bethany is a police officer in Groton and Bill is with the Department of Homeland Security in Boston. Both received their bachelor's degrees in 2007 and Bill earned a master's in 2008.

Thomas Donigan and Danielle Turner '06 were married in May.

Jennifer (Wardell) Himmels was superintendent of Whistler public schools on July 1. She was previously interim superintendent of the Dighton-Rhode Island Regional School District and assistant superintendent there from 2008 to 2012. Jennifer has three degrees from UMass Lowell and a master's degree in literacy and information science from Simmons College.

His time at UMass Lowell helped him put his struggles behind him, he says: “I took advantage of any opportunity afforded me as far as teacher assistants, office hours and the Centers for Learning—and spent tons of hours in libraries as well. I learned so much, from all of them, about how to really learn. It all came together for me there.”

Previously the young adult and reference librarian in Methuen and Sisseton, Struzziero is now executive director of the Westboro Public Library and Museum. He is also founder and publisher of an online film-review site, The Big Brown Chair (thebigbrownchair.com), which has received accolades from several independent film organizations, filmmakers and theaters in Greater Boston. He also writes a movie column for the Sisseton Monitor.

“I’ve always loved film—loved talking about film, sharing my opinions, writing,” he says.

“It’s been over two years now building up The Big Brown Chair, and we’re a staff of 11 and getting coverage all over the state. The plan is to see how far we can go with this.”—GS

2008

Stacie Harper is seeking a spot on the Lowell City Council in the election on Nov. 5. The director of Community Teamwork’s Merrimack Valley Small Business Center, Stacie is a member of the Lowell Green Restaurants Program, the Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board and the advisory committee for the Center for Women and Work at UMass Lowell. She is also on the board of trustees for the Lowell Development and Financial Corporation and is a member in the Big Brother Big Sister program. Stacie received a degree from the Regional Economic and Social Development graduate program.

2011

Courtney L. Anderson is pursuing a doctorate in molecular pharmacology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Andrew Mendenhall, a public accountant with McGladrey LLP of Charlston, and Amanda Ferley ’12 have announced their engagement with a fall wedding planned. Amanda is with American Renal Associates of Beverly.

Constance Schere is a graduate student in environmental policy at SciencesPo Paris.

Amanda is seeking a position in environmental policy at SciencesPo Paris.

Derek Mitchell is seeking a spot on the Lowell City Council in the election on Nov. 5. He is the Lowell site director for the International Institute of New England. He previously worked at the United Teen Equity Center in Lowell as chief innovation officer for nearly seven years. Derek received a master’s degree in regional planning and economic development and an undergraduate degree in philosophy from Brown.

2012

Andrew Ferley and Andrea Mendenhall ‘11 have announced their engagement. (See 2011 class note.)

Janielle Martin married Kirk Mordkoff at St. Michael’s Church in Lowell in January, a month after starting a new job at Lowell General Hospital.

The Farmer

Just over a year ago, Lydia Sisson ’12 launched Mill City Groves “with the goal of empowering Lowell residents to create a safe, healthy food system through access and education,” says the alum of the Economic and Social Development of Regions program. Sisson, who received an undergraduate degree from Vassar, oversees three community gardens and provides more than 80 gardeners with growing space, supervision and access to tools and training. This year, Mill City’s Urban Community Farm opened as an educational and market-driven operation, with retail sales in the Lowell farmer’s market and a traveling market bus that visits neighborhoods. Sisson entered UMass Lowell after successfully running her own farm because, she says, “I felt detached from social justice issues. UMass Lowell gave me the professional transition, the time to create a project around food justice and the community connections to make it happen.”—SS
What do you want your legacy to be? Leave your legacy at UMass Lowell and make a lasting impact by contributing a special kind of gift. Legacy gifts to UMass Lowell include: bequests, life-income gifts, retirement plans, life insurance policies and other estate intentions.

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UMass Lowell Office of Gift Planning
Phone: 877-775-1992
Email: ogp@uml.edu

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**Nina Coppens: ‘Mentor, Leader and Friend’**

Nina Coppens, former dean of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, died on April 18 after a long struggle with brain cancer. She was 62.

With graduate degrees in nursing and a doctorate in psychology, Nina began her UMass Lowell career as a Nursing Department faculty member. She later moved to the Psychology Department, which she chaired for many years, before being named dean of PAHSS.

Praised by those who knew her as a mentor, leader and friend, her zest for life encompassed a variety of things and activities ranging from tulips, butterflies and movies to her dog and painting with watercolor.

Typical of the many tributes from former students is one from Tamar Cloud who said, "She was my adviser when I was a grad student. Such a beautiful and warm woman. She will be missed but I thank God I had an opportunity to be led by her."

Nina served on the boards of many academic and community organizations, including Lowell’s Angkor Dance Troupe. The Troupe’s dance program received the National Coming Up Taller Award at the White House by the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. In recognition of her volunteer service, Nina was awarded the Angkor Dance Troupe’s Community Leadership Award.

Nina was also a passionate champion of the University’s new academic building on the South Campus—The Health and Social Sciences Building—where a garden has been planted in her name.

"Nina was known by everyone as a mentor, leader and friend," says Chancellor Marty Meehan. "Her dedication to UMass Lowell is evident by the decades she spent shaping the lives of hundreds of students and we are proud of and grateful for her commitment to the University family."

As a parting gift to medical science and education, Nina donated her brain to Massachusetts General Hospital in hopes of furthering research toward a cure for brain cancer.

The Dean Nina Coppens endowed Scholarship Fund was established to honor Nina’s contributions to the University and the fields of developmental and health psychology. The Fund will support research and community co-ops for juniors and seniors in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Get information at www.uml.edu/givenow. — JMD

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- Alumni communications
- Alumni advisory groups
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- Student mentoring
- Fundraising
- University outreach
- Regional program assistance

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For more information, call 978-934-3140, email Alumni_Office@uml.edu or visit www.uml.edu/alumni.

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**Deceased**

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**Class of 2021**

Class of 2021: The blue and gold class of 2021 is invited to submit their class history for publication. Please submit by December 31, 2020, to umbass@uml.edu.
Soon after basketball was invented in 1891, the female students at UMass Lowell predecessor Lowell Normal School played the sport in the gymnasium that once occupied the third floor of Coburn Hall. The uniforms of full bloomers, long-sleeved blouses and wool stockings were actually a respite from the corsets, floor-length dresses and high collars dictated by the times. Attire isn’t the only thing that’s changed: Women’s basketball rules in the late 19th century forbade players from leaving their assigned areas, snatching the ball, holding the ball for more than three seconds or dribbling it more than three times. It was believed that these adaptations to men’s rules would help women avoid “nervous fatigue.”
Now...

Since it began about 115 years ago, women’s basketball at UMass Lowell has evolved from a way to gently let off steam in gym class to an aggressive, competitive and fast-paced Division I sport. Bianca Simmons, center, who graduated in May, starts her pro career this season, as a guard for the Indias de Mayaguez in Puerto Rico. While here, Simmons led all Division II scorers with 28.2 points per game and drove the River Hawks to their best season in 10 years. Simmons, who was named to the NCAA DII 1st Team, was tabbed to participate in the 2013 WNBA College Combine at the Women’s Final Four in New Orleans.