"This is so far out of my comfort zone," says junior Maddie Scott of her spring semester study-abroad trip to Perth, Australia. In addition to scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef, she has traveled around both Australia and New Zealand by herself. "This trip has changed me as a person," says Scott, an England native who now calls Vineyard Haven, Mass., home. "I am exactly on the opposite side of the planet from my family and friends. I'm taking classes that I have no prior knowledge of and I’ve forced myself to try new things even when I’ve been really scared. It makes you realize that the world isn’t actually as big and unattainable as it seems."
A message from Chancellor Jacqueline F. Moloney ’75, ’92

You may have noticed some changes when you picked up this issue of the magazine. For starters, it has a new name—a nod to the wonderful sense of community “UML” conveys (and if you’ve ever heard the chanting at one of our hockey games, you know what I’m talking about). We’ve also freshened up the look and feel of the magazine with a more environmentally friendly paper stock and a cleaner, more modern design.

We believe it’s important to innovate even when (especially when) readers tell us they are satisfied. Complacency is not what leaders do, and that is especially true today. Consumers and citizens are demanding more from their leaders—including transparency, social responsibility and a greater commitment to ethics—but feel they are getting less.

UMass Lowell is hard at work to create the next generation of leaders. After all, the university has a legacy of preparing its students to lead. Our alumni have established themselves as leaders in all fields and they embody the values of this university: integrity, innovation and inclusion.

Our university is helping students build the leadership skills they need to do the same—whether in startups or corporations, in their communities or in the public sector. They are acquiring the knowledge, skills and discipline to tackle some of the biggest challenges facing our world, from the high cost of health care to providing clean water in developing countries.

Throughout this issue you will see examples of the many ways in which the members of our community—alumni, students, faculty, staff and partners—are making a difference in a changing world. Welcome to our leadership issue.

Sincerely,

Jacquie Moloney ’75, ’92
Governor Charlie Baker and the Massachusetts Life Science Center gave $5 million to UMass Lowell in February so it can build new research and teaching labs in biomedical engineering. The university’s goal? Help make Massachusetts the nation’s leader in medical devices.

TRENDING

ONE OF THESE GUYS HANGS OUT ON CAMPUS
That would be human rights leader John Prendergast, left, who works with actor George Clooney and other celebrities to expose crimes and war profiteering around the world. He was UMass Lowell’s 2012 Greeley Scholar for Peace, an honor that annually brings humanitarians and activists to the university to promote conflict resolution locally, nationally and globally. And in February, the New York Times best-selling author returned to campus to talk about the power of social activism.

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So you want to be a CEO...

Scores of CEOs from all walks of industry got their start at UMass Lowell. We asked several to share a book (or two) that every future CEO should read, and how they see the role of CEO evolving in the next 20 years.
ICE KINGS

For the third time in five years, the UMass Lowell hockey team was crowned the Hockey East Tournament champion after a 4-3 victory over Boston College on March 18 at the TD Garden in Boston. At press time, the team was set to pursue its first Division I hockey national championship, one of only five schools to earn a spot in the NCAA tournament in at least five of the last six years. This is the River Hawks’ 13th trip to the national tourney, and their fifth under the direction of Head Coach Norm Bazin—who was named Hockey East Coach of the Year for the third time in six years.


TOUCHING BASE ON (CUBA)

While on a study abroad trip in Cuba in January, a group of Honors College students traveled to Cjamar to see a youth baseball game. During the bus ride, their Cuban translator and tour guide, Ana, told a story about how Ernest Hemingway helped create the first children’s baseball team in Cuba in 1936. Hemingway bought the property his house sits on and allowed the neighborhood kids to play baseball there,” says student Michael Souza. Today, another group of kids plays on that same field.

“They don’t have any funding, but it’s free to play,” he says. “The only catch is that kids have to have good grades to stay in the program. That day in January, UMass Lowell students took the field against the property his house sits on and allowed the neighborhood kids to play baseball there.”

“My father suggested I go to New York City over winter break, but I’ve done the winter break trip, had never been camping in his life, and you think a lot about whether or not you’re going to have to pee,” she said.

“It’s death by a thousand paper cuts,” says student Tyler Cote, an honors student from Clarksburg in Berkshire County, who is double-majoring in criminal justice and political science. “We’re only getting started. Now we’re excited that we can take our time and put together an even better project.”

The Islamic State (also known as ISIS, ISIL, or DAESH) uses social media to find, befriend, convert and isolate young people, then recruit them as members. A group of UMass Lowell students is trying to counteract that.

“We have the tools to do it,” says student Michael Souza. “Baseball is such a great sport, and it’s a common language between Cuba and the U.S.”

Souza says, “I have no doubt that I will remember this moment the most out of all of the things that we did in the two weeks in Cuba.”

Students’ Website Aims to Thwart Terrorist Recruitment

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NEW MPA DEGREE OFFERS UNIQUE TRACK

Danielle Moriarty ’11 works at a nonprofit community arts center in Concord, helping to organize classes and school workshops on everything from ceramics to Bollywood dancing.

She says UMass Lowell’s new Master of Public Administration degree, with its unique track in public humanities and the arts, is preparing her to work at a broad range of arts organizations.

“I had been looking at museum studies programs, but was worried that would be too narrow a niche,” says Moriarty. “This degree is more of an umbrella, bringing together management of cultural organizations with expertise in running nonprofits.”

A handful of private colleges in New England offer master’s degrees in arts administration, museum studies or public humanities. But UMass Lowell’s new M.P.A. in public humanities and the arts combines fundamentals of all three with an internationally recognized degree that will open more doors, says Michael Millner, associate professor of English and coordinator of the arts and humanities track.

The M.P.A. program, which admitted its first cohort of students last fall in a soft launch, also includes two other concentrations: justice administration and human services management.—KW

Avian Artistry

Masterpieces created by hundreds of children from area schools who submitted artwork for the university’s second annual Rowdy’s Art Day spruced up the Tsongas Center in February.

Engineering Student Plumbs Career Options

Kevin Hines is earning a degree in plastics engineering, and when he enters the job market, he’ll have professional experience in a discipline that few of his peers can claim: plumbing.

Hines is a licensed plumber’s apprentice, a trade he studied at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School in Billerica. After graduating second in his class, he decided to pursue engineering at UMass Lowell.

“My father and my aunts attended UMass Lowell, and my grandfather and my cousin got their degrees here,” says Hines, a senior. “They all had good things to say.”

While maintaining a 3.8 GPA, Hines has continued working for the same plumbing and heating business he’s been with since high school. He works weekends, averaging about 10 hours a week.

His plumbing knowledge informs his approach to engineering, and vice versa. “Out on the job, I have cursed many engineers when I see way too many parts,” he says.

A love of math and science attracted him to both fields. There’s also a lot of teamwork and problem-solving in both, two things he likes.

Prospective employers are receptive to his unique background. “When they see my resume, they are intrigued,” he says.

Hines hopes to put his engineering skills to work designing materials for the plumbing and heating industry. But first, he’s planning to get an advanced degree. “He’s already been accepted into the Francis College of Engineering master’s program and plans to return to campus in the fall.”

A recipient of a Barry W. Perry Plastics Engineering Endowment scholarship, Hines says he likes being able to apply the concepts he’s learned to solve problems and fix things.

“I don’t like the idea of not knowing things. I like learning and taking on new things. It keeps things interesting,” he says.—JG

UMASS LOWELL HOSTS TEACHERS FROM 20 COUNTRIES

The School of Education recently hosted 21 high school teachers from around the world for an intensive, six-week Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program. The curriculum gave international teachers opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills and increase knowledge about the United States.

Education professor A.J. Angulo received a $205,508 grant from the U.S. State Department to fund the program. “While the benefits to the university and local school community are immediate, during the six-week program, Angulo’s long-term goal is to build lasting, meaningful relationships around the world—one teacher at a time.”

“The global challenges before us recognize no borders and require international solutions. Whether it is a crisis in public health like Ebola, in the environment or in international politics, isolation is not an option,” says Angulo. “Education is one of our best hopes for organizing the world community to effectively respond to these kinds of challenges.”
3 QUESTIONS for the Zamboni Driver

As operations manager at the Tsongas Center, Paul McGovern is responsible for conditioning the ice for hockey games and practices, ensuring a hard, glass-like surface for the River Hawks. McGovern, who grew up in Tyngsboro playing pond hockey, has been behind the wheel of the Zamboni machines for 16 years. He says he can’t imagine a better job.

Q: WHAT’S MOST CHALLENGING ABOUT DRIVING THE 15,500-POUND ZAMBONI MACHINE?
A: Learning to drive in front of a large crowd might be the hardest part of the job. It takes getting used to.

Q: ARE THERE A LOT OF TALK ABOUT FAST ICE AND SLOW ICE IN HOCKEY? HAVE THE TECHNOQUES FOR MAINTAINING THE ICE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?
A: The teams seem to like a harder surface on the ice nowadays because hockey has evolved. The best part of the job is seeing everyone enjoying themselves and having a good time.

Q: WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT DRIVING THE ZAMBONI?
A: The best part of the job is seeing everyone enjoying themselves and having a good time. I love it. It’s really the best job.

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Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU CALL IN SICK?
A: A few years ago, the machine broke down during a game. There was a crowd of 5,500 people. And I had to get towed off the ice by the Zamboni machine. It was a hard, glass-like surface for the River Hawks. McGovern, who grew up in Tyngsboro playing pond hockey, has been behind the wheel of the Zamboni machines for 16 years. He says he can’t imagine a better job.

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When you have Asperger’s, you can do things that are really, really great—not in spite of having autism, but through it.

Asperger’s Are They

BY KATHARINE WEBSTER

Ever since he can remember, New Michael Ingemi—his father’s “old” Michael—has tried to make people laugh. Now he does it professionally as part of the four-man comedy troupe Asperger’s Are Us.

“I realized early on that I got positive feedback and a positive response from people when I made them laugh through something I did on purpose,” says Ingemi ’18, a chemical engineering major at UMass Lowell, “and a positive response from people when I made them laugh through something I did on purpose.”

Asperger’s Are Us is the first comedy team completely composed of people on the autism spectrum. In fact, they met as North Shore campers; Noah Britton was a counselor. Over the next few summers, they became best friends and comedic soulmates, and when the younger boy moved on to high school, the four decided to form a troupe.

Now they’re riding a wave of success, thanks to a documentary by filmmaker Alex Lehmann. “Asperger’s Are Us” premiered at South by Southwest in Austin, Texas, last March and generated headlines when Netflix snapped up the distribution rights. The troupe, which had previously booked about four shows a year, is booking so many theater dates that Ingemi isn’t sure whether comedy or college will take precedence over the next couple of years. “Comedy is my fallback if engineering doesn’t work out,” he jokes.

Ingemi describes his sense of humor as “very naughty—not in spite of having autism, but through it.” He jokes.

Ingemi writes and co-writes many of the troupe’s sketches, which involve wordplay, dark humor and absurd situations. His influences are “Kids in the Hall” and “Mad TV,” which he says inspired him to form a troupe.

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RAP APP

Huong Nguyen hacked her way into a co-op with a loading cloud networking company. And it all began with an argument over rap music.

Nguyen, a native of Vietnam, hated it when fellow computer science major Cullin Lam played rap in the car as they commuted together to jobs at Profitect, a data analytics company, in Waltham last summer. “I said, ‘Don’t play rap. I don’t understand anything.’ And he said, ‘You can go online and look up the lyrics.’” The conversation ended there, she says, the honors student.

But the idea percolated. When Nguyen, Cullin, and two friends—sophomore Kody Thach and Son Nguyen ’16 (no relation)—learned to enter the Shark Hack at Simmons College last fall, Cullin said, “Let’s make a music player that can look up the lyrics for you,” says Huong Nguyen, a junior.

So at the 24-hour hackathon, the UML team created a rap app connecting Spotify, a music streaming service, with Genius, which displays lyrics, and Urban Dictionary, so listeners can look up slang in real time. The app, Hadu, won an award for best user interface and user experience.

Hackathons are a popular way for students to try out new programming tools, get creative and apply classroom learning to real-life challenges. Son Nguyen and Huong Nguyen were seniors in high school, the four decided to form a troupe.

The troupe hopes to attract audiences that are really, really great—not in spite of having autism, but through it. According to the other members of Asperger’s Are Us. The troupe hopes to attract audiences that are really, really great—not in spite of having autism, but through it. According to the other members of Asperger’s Are Us.

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How Our Research Leads the Way

From our earliest days as a source of brainpower for the Industrial Revolution unfolding in Lowell’s textile mills to the founding of the first plastics engineering department in the country, UMass Lowell has spent 123 years at the edge of what is possible. Here’s just a smattering of what we’re working on these days.

DETECTING CANCERS EARLIER

Professors in science and engineering are tackling some of the deadliest forms of ovarian and breast cancer. NowoodMina Mallicki, the new dean of the Kennedy College of Sciences, has helped develop an inexpensive, accurate and noninvasive test for epithelial ovarian cancer. The test uses laser pulses to break down a tiny blood sample so a spectrometer can detect biomarkers of the disease. “If we can detect the biomarkers early enough, before the cancer has a chance to spread beyond the ovaries, then the patient survival rate could increase [from 40 percent] to 90 to 95 percent,” says Mallicki, whose research is supported by NASA and the National Science Foundation. Meanwhile, Prakriti Ria, an assistant professor of chemical engineering, has a $725,000 National Cancer Institute grant to develop nanoparticles that can better diagnose and treat malignant cells in two of the most intractable breast cancers, HER2+ and Triple-Negative Breast Cancer. The nanoparticles target drugs to the cancerous cells—and also include an imaging component, so doctors can see where the cancer is located.

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?

Project Blue, a collaboration of private, nonprofit research institutes and universities, plans to search for “blue” planets with water or an Earth-like atmosphere around the stars nearest to Earth by designing and launching a compact space telescope. Physics Prof. Supriya Chakrabarti, director of the Lowell Center for Space Science and Technology, is providing technical expertise in the telescope’s design and fabrication.

EARS LARGER DETECTION

Two abnormal proteins—beta-amyloid plaques and tau tangles—build up in the brain years before symptoms of Alzheimer’s show up. Joyita Dutta, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, is developing new tools to detect them. Dutta, director of the university’s Biomedical Imaging and Data Sciences Lab, is using computational methods that combine information from PET and MRI scans to generate high-resolution images of tau tangles and see how they’re distributed and connected. She hopes to measure tau tangle accumulation in small brain structures for earlier diagnosis and treatment of the disease. Her research is supported by a five-year, $603,000 grant from the National Institute on Aging. She is collaborating with Massachusetts General Hospital, where she is an assistant in physics, and Harvard Medical School, where she teaches radiology, on the project.

BAD DYE JOB

Thanks to a $400,000 grant from the Walton Foundation, Chemistry Prof. Yusu Sun is developing a cleaner process for dying textiles. The goal is to reduce the costs of textile manufacturing and bring jobs back to the United States from countries with weaker environmental laws. Traditionally, fabric is immersed in a solution containing dye. While some of the dye bonds with the fabric, a lot remains in the solution and later rinses. That makes it difficult to remove from the wastewater stream. Sun is using nanotechnology to create dyes that respond to magnetic fields. Manufacturers can then use magnets to pull the modified dyes into the fabrics more efficiently—and remove most of the remaining dye from the wastewater.

IN DEFENSE OF LENTILS

Do you have to eat meat to get ripped? Not according to researchers at UMass Lowell. A new study of nearly 3,000 adults led by Kaliyan Mangiaro, assistant professor of nutritional sciences, found that it doesn’t matter what type of protein you eat as long as you eat a lot of it. Published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition in February, the study found that plant-based proteins are as effective as meat in boosting muscle mass and strength.

ECOSONIC PLAYGROUNDS

What’s made out of empty water-cooler bottles and coffee cans, discarded bicycle wheels and PVC pipes—and hippos music? Answer: an Ecossionic Playground made out of mostly recycled materials. Working with senior music education major Tyler MacMillan, Asst. Prof. Elissa Johnson-Gein and visiting lecturer Christopher Loeau have built two demonstration Ecossionic Playgrounds in Durbin Hall. They’re also creating a lesson plan they are pilotting this spring at Lincoln Elementary School in Lowell, where students will design and build their own musical playground structures while learning about STEM concepts such as design, acoustics and sustainable materials.
Changing the World by Caring for It

School of Nursing to Be Named for Susan and Alan Solomont

When Alan Solomont ‘77, ‘94 (H) graduated from Tufts University in 1970 with a degree in political science and urban studies, he wanted “to do something to change the world.”

Considering that he went on to become a senior leader in the national Democratic Party, the U.S. ambassador to Spain from 2009 to 2013 and the current dean of Tufts’ Tufts College of Civic Life, Solomont has surely done his part.

What’s surprising is the path he took to get there. After working for several years as a community organizer in Lowell, Solomont swerved from politics to health care and enrolled at the University of Lowell Nursing Program. The perspective he gained there continues to color his life and work today.

“I had a profoundly important experience at UMass Lowell,” says Solomont. First as a student, and then as a trustee (as chairman of the board), he helped guide the university in its 1991 merger with the UMass system.

Solomont says he learned firsthand “the role that public higher education can play in a life, and this responsibility one might feel to make sure the university can do the same in other lives.”

It’s a responsibility that Solomont and his wife, Susan, take seriously. They have made UMass Lowell one of their most important philanthropic priorities, including a major new gift to endow scholarships for full-time undergraduate students pursuing nursing degrees—a commitment that will change the lives of young men and women just as that educational experience did for Alan.

In recognition of their generosity, UMass Lowell will officially dedicate the Susan and Alan Solomont School of Nursing later this year. “I’ve known Alan since we were both students,” says Chancellor Jacquie Moloney ’75, ’92, “and he has always looked for ways to make a difference in people’s lives. His and Susan’s tremendous support for our School of Nursing is just the latest example of that.”

Lowell is where Solomont’s roots are. His grandfather, a Lithuanian Jew, immigrated here in the early 1900s and found work as a fishmonger. His mother was a nurse at Boston City Hospital, and his father later opened three nursing homes. So when Solomont needed extra cash to support his community organizing work, he took a job as an orderly at the D’Youville Manor nursing home—and that choice changed his life.

“I discovered I really liked caring for people,” says Solomont, who can still name and describe the six elderly men than in his charge. Within a year, he had enrolled in the Lowell Nursing Program and plunged into his studies, mentored by professors like Eleanor Shalhoup, Janice Stecchi, May Futrell and Marilyn Rainsley, an expert on death and dying whom Solomont calls “one of the great teachers of my life.”

After graduating at the top of his class in 1977, he went into business with his father, managing a nursing home in North Andover. By the following decade, he and a partner had built a highly successful and highly regarded network of assisted-care facilities, many in partnership with hospitals like Tufts Medical Center. He also built a simultaneous, separate career as a Democratic fundraiser, working on the presidential campaigns of Michael Dukakis, Bill Clinton, Al Gore, John Kerry and Barack Obama, and served as the DNC’s national finance chair for two years. In 2008, President Obama appointed Solomont his first ambassador to Spain.

Solomont jokes that he’s held “a succession of jobs for which I was totally unprepared.” You could also say that each of his jobs have enabled him to change the world, at least a little, by caring for people.

“He’s sincerely honored that the School of Nursing will carry the name of someone known for his leadership in health care, public service and higher education,” says interim Dean Karen Devineaux Mello ’78. “More than 30 years ago, the Solomonts endowed a family scholarship that has already benefited scores of nursing students. Their most recent gift will do the same and more for a new generation of nursing students.”

That new generation keeps growing. Enrollment at the School of Nursing has more than tripled since Solomont was a student, with 437 students enrolled in the B.S. program, 70 in the M.S. program preparing to be primary-care nurse practitioners (both adult-geronotological and family) and 47 doctoral students. The Rising Diversity to Nursing program helps ensure that more of those students come from diverse backgrounds and provides them with the range of support they need to graduate and go on to work in their communities to reduce disparities in care and improve outcomes.

“What hasn’t changed is the School of Nursing’s commitment to excellence in teaching, research and community engagement—in short, to changing the world by caring for it.”

“There’s nothing that means more to me than having our names on the nursing school,” Solomont says. “This gift is about who I came from, what shaped my life and how I got to where I am today.”

OUR LEGACY, OUR PLACE
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UMASS LOWELL

$96.7 M
Alumni, faculty and staff, family members, parents, corporate and community partners have already donated almost $100 million.

3/4
Less than one year after the campaign’s public launch, we’re more than three-quarters of the way toward our goal of raising $125 million by 2020.

$393K+
Small gifts have a BIG impact. Donations of $100 or less added up to $393,189 last year.

475
Endowed funds for scholarships, faculty research, campus improvements and our Division I athletics program.

OUR LEGACY, OUR PLACE
Our Legacy, Our Place
Our Stories
Thanks to YOU, the numbers continue to add up for Our Legacy, Our Place, UMass Lowell’s first-ever comprehensive fundraising and alumni engagement campaign.

By Beth Brosnan

OUR WORLD

OUR WORLD

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SPRING 2017 21

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With the Haiti Center, Prof. Robert Giles has created a powerful academic engine that's changing lives from Lowell to Haiti.

Last fall, civil engineer Maureen Kelly ‘15, ‘16 was wrapping up her master’s degree and getting ready to enter the job market. Then, on Oct. 4, news broke that a devastating hurricane, Matthew, had hit the island nation of Haiti, claiming the lives of more than 1,200 Haitians and displacing hundreds of thousands more.

Kelly—who had traveled to Haiti for a junior capstone project in 2015—immediately wanted to do something. “I didn’t want to finish school and go straight to work,” says Kelly, who had just been hired as a civil project engineer by TMoran, a New Hampshire engineering firm. “I wanted to finish school and go straight to Haiti.”

This January, with his new employer’s blessing, she spent a week with six other students and faculty members working at the university’s Haiti Development Study Center, conducting research to identify affordable, sustainable solutions to the kinds of life-threatening problems that Haitians face on a daily basis.

“The center is a place where research is a path to critical change,” says HDSC’s founder, Prof. Robert Giles. The chair of the UMass Lowell Physics and Applied Physics Department, Giles first visited the southwestern port city of Les Cayes in 2003, on what was supposed to be a one-time service trip. But the people he met and the conditions he observed kept drawing him back.

“Therapeutic to see my skills to have an impact on a country I care about and that faces so many challenges,” says Giles. In 2013, he launched a two-story facility in Les Cayes, hired a small local staff and launched HDSC to harness the talents of his UMass Lowell students and colleagues—and to move beyond a crisis-management response to chronic health and environmental issues.

“As a researcher, I know you need sustained, hands-on knowledge of your subject to be effective,” Giles says. “You can’t just show up in Haiti and assume that you know the answers. You have to have a presence in the community, and you have to have to understand where it resides.”

Mechanical engineer Mike Stockwell ‘15 has learned this firsthand during his two trips to HESCS “Because their main concern is survival, Haitians don’t always have the luxury to contemplate environmental impacts,” he says. For example, many residents rely on wood charcoal as their primary domestic fuel, even though it contributes to widespread deforestation and erosion. “We can say we have an alternative fuel, biomass briquettes, that will burn hotter and furnish more wood charcoal,” Stockwell says. “But that won’t matter if that fuel isn’t easy and inexpensive to produce.”

During Hurricane Matthew and its aftermath, nearly BASH’s lead engineer, Nicole Belanger, and Maureen Kelly met with the director of a local agricultural organization, and came away with plans to build a biodigester to collect the farm’s pig waste, as well as an assignment to design a low-maintenance septic system. That’s also the goal for BASH (short for Biodigester Aided Solutions in Haiti), a sewage-manage-ment system that converts human or animal waste into fertilizer and methane gas, a good source of energy for cooking and refrigeration. Developed by a team of UML engineering and public health students, BASH earned an honorable mention in the 2016 DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge.

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“Civil engineer Maureen Kelly and two Haitian students test a hand-cranked biomass shredder designed by UMass Lowell students to break down materials, interpreted and helped maintain order. Pierre-Louis [an HDSC student intern] set up our elementary school. “Dayana, Ralph and Sattoya

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The LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD

BY BETH BROSMAN

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We run nonprofit agencies and student newspapers. We oversee Division I athletic teams and Fortune 500 corporations. We’re guiding efforts to find new planets and new ways to ensure success among public school students. Whether we’re in the corner office or on the playing field, in the Club Hub on campus or at the State House in Boston—we, the people of UMass Lowell, are leaders.

FANG ZHANG ’15
Fang Zhang, a Ph.D. student in biochemistry, a student alumni ambassador and president of the Graduate Student Association, says leadership comes down to two fundamental steps: caring for others and putting that care into action. “This university is a very special place for that to happen,” he says. “There is a spirit of caring here from the top down. The faculty, staff and administrators really care about the students, and that’s what gives them the passion for their work. And then the students have the opportunity to excel because there are people out there who wish them to be successful. It gives students, such as myself, who want to be a leader the opportunity to rise.”

SARAVON KHUN-LENG ’99
Saravon Khun Leng ’99, a Cambodian refugee who rose through the ranks at the Lowell Police Department over 14 years to become director of community relations, says leadership is all about building relationships and trust. “In the beginning, being female and a minority, it was tough. I was an outsider,” she says, adding that she’s earned respect by working closely with her colleagues, respecting their expertise and avoiding drama. “People know they can rely on me to get things done. I’m easy to work with, I don’t judge anybody and I always try to think about our mission: what’s good for the department and the community as well.”

KADEEM DAVIS
Kadeem Davis, a finance major from Boston and first-generation college student, started the Black Student Union to bring together groups that were divided by ethnic origin. “I never started an organization before; I was really more of a behind-the-scenes guy,” he says. But he believes that good leadership means stepping outside your comfort zone when you see a need: “I started the Black Student Union to try to unite the black community and give them a voice.” He’s discovered that the group’s members have different goals, and that one of the most important things he does is “make sure everyone gets heard.”

SHANNON HLEBICHUK ’98
After leading the field hockey team to a pair of NCAA Division II national championships, head coach Shannon Hlebichuk ’98 guided the River Hawks to a 2016 America East tournament berth in their second year of Division I eligibility. While her leadership style evolves each year depending on the makeup of the team, one thing that hasn’t changed over her 15-year career is her passion. “Being passionate about the university and having passion for empowering young women to compete at the highest level, both in the classroom and on the field, are the most important attributes as a leader for building a culture of excellence,” she says.

RAJA ABDELAZIZ ’16
Raja Abdelaziz, who double-majored in electrical engineering and computer science, believes that leadership is about inspiring others to make an impact. As president of the Society of Women Engineers chapter at UMass Lowell, she mobilized members to paint a mural at Lowell General Hospital Pediatric Center, build gingerbread houses for Habitat for Humanity, collaborate with Girls, Inc., and the Boys and Girls Club and promote STEM awareness in schoolchildren. “It’s about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it,” says Abdelaziz, who also co-founded a company called invisWear, which makes “smart jewelry” that at the touch of a button sends your location to the police. “A good leader paves the way for others and lets them shine in the success.”
Abimalec Martinez, an English literature major and co-president of the Latin American Student Association, believes in leading as an equal and making sure everyone is heard. “I used to think leadership was being that one person everyone’s going to look up to, and you’re the one leading everyone to success. But now I think it’s being that relatable, humble person who is knowledgeable about certain things, yes, but is also willing to learn more alongside those you’re helping to lead.”

Liz Sweeney ’91
Since becoming Executive Director at Family Services of Merrimack Valley in 2011, Liz Sweeney ’91 has helped the nonprofit more than double its budget to almost $5 million. Sweeney, who’s been with the agency for 24 years, believes in building a team-oriented, family-friendly culture for her 90 employees. “We’re all in this together and everybody helps each other. Nobody’s above shoveling the walkway if you’re the first one here. I also give people a lot of autonomy—I want them to run their programs—because they’re going to do their best work if they feel responsible.”

Francisco Ureña ’10
Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans’ Services Francisco A. Ureña ’10 learned about leadership first as a Boy Scout, then in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served as a tank commander and received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained in combat. Not long after returning from Iraq, he began volunteering while a student at UMass Lowell, eventually working at the Veterans’ Services Office in Lawrence, where he became director. From there, he took over Boston’s office, and now he coordinates services to the state’s 385,000 veterans with city and state officials. “What makes a good leader is passion about the role—in my case, the passion to help other people and see veterans successfully transition into the community,” he says.

Thalia Petsis
Thalia Petsis, a junior business administration major and member of the women’s soccer team, was chosen to represent the America East Conference at the NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum in Baltimore in November. The Toronto native believes leading by example, both on and off the field, has helped her earn the respect of those around her. “Coming into any new situation, no one knows you and what you’re capable of as a leader, so you’re always trying to prove yourself and gain respect,” she says. “That’s something I’ve done here, and something I hope to take into my career in the business world.”

Lisa Dana ’92, ’01
As Superintendent Lisa Dana heads into her 14th year leading the Danvers public schools, her length of service at the helm of one district is among the longest in the state. She oversees a district with more than 3,600 students and 270 teachers across seven schools. “I’ve found that the most important way to improve our schools is to truly listen to people’s ideas and concerns,” she says. “In the end, not everyone may be happy with a decision, but the towns, the school committee and teachers know that it was an inclusive process.”

John-Morgan Bush
John-Morgan Bush, executive director of the UMass Lowell String Project and Youth Orchestra, is an award-winning performer. As founder of Tuxedo Revolt, an arts consultancy and think tank, he works with performers to develop new ways to connect with audiences. He brings that spirit of innovation to his role as a mentor with the DifferenceMaker program. Bush says that experiences are the building block of leadership. “Great leaders never stop learning and always seek out new knowledge in their field,” he says. “That’s what the 21st century demands of us—that we can pivot, redirect and stay relevant.”

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Rep. Jonathan Zlotnik '12 launched his campaign for state representative from his South Campus dorm room and was elected to the Massachusetts legislature six months after graduating with a degree in history. With his upset victory, the young Democrat unseated a first-term incumbent, becoming the youngest lawmaker on Beacon Hill. His Worcester County district includes his hometown of Gardner as well as Ashburnham, Westminster and Winchendon. During his time in office, he says he’s learned that “the most important quality of a leader is an ability to clarify. Usually leadership arises from some kind of issue or conflict. A leader rises from his or her ability to see things clearly, to clarify, to distill a problem and come up with a solution.”

Supriya Chakrabarti, director of the university’s Lowell Center for Space Science and Technology and associate dean of the Kennedy College of Sciences, believes that a leader’s most important trait is the ability to communicate openly, honestly and frequently. “Every day at work, I try to walk the halls and meet with everyone in my team individually,” he says. “I have a strong commitment to listening to teamwork and happily give credit to the team members. Being curious, open-minded to criticism and willing to take chances has helped me find innovative solutions to diverse fields, from terrestrial ecology to astrophysics and exoplanet research.”

Terrie Enis ’90, ’07 rose through the ranks of the physical therapy field—as a physical therapist in 1998 at Emerson Hospital to her current leadership role as director of rehabilitation services and The Dr. Robert C. Cantu Concussion Center in the hospital. She says good leadership boils down to a couple things: “Allow creativity, allow risk and allow failure, but don’t accept failure as the end point. Leaders look to fix things before they are broken. When revenue is positive, staff are engaged and the institution or departments are running on all cylinders, that is the time to look to revamp, refresh and start new programs, processes and develop new ideas. In any industry, especially health care, when you do things for the right reason, everyone wins.”

Jerry Colella ’78 started out at MKS Instruments 35 years ago as a purchasing manager. Today, as CEO and president of the $1.4 billion Andover-based company, he says he owes much of his success to “being humble.” It’s also vital, he says, for leaders to “get work experience first, as it gives you a far deeper appreciation for the material and you can relate to it easier and see where it applies.” And if you plan to go all the way to the top? “Classes in public speaking are also important, as you will be the face of the company to the outside world, and people watch every move and word of the CEO.”

Wuilito Fernandes, a senior forward on the men’s soccer team, became the first player in program history to be drafted when he was selected by FC Dallas in the third round (62nd overall) of the Major League Soccer SuperDraft in January. A native of Praia, Cape Verde, Fernandes capped his remarkable UML career by netting a career-high 11 goals, five assists and 27 points. The senior business major, who helped lead the River Hawks to their first-ever Division I America East regular season title, was named a National Soccer Coaches Association of America First-Team All American and a MAC Hermann Trophy semifinalist (awarded to the top college player in the nation).

He says it was tough not being eligible for NCAA tournament play during the transition, but he’s glad he stuck it out. “I can’t tell you how many times I thought about transferring just because people were saying, ‘you won’t be looked at by professional teams if you play DI at a school that can’t compete beyond the regular season,’” he says. “I thought, ‘If I deserve to go play professionally, I will.’ I’m extremely glad I stayed at UMass Lowell. The entire four-year journey was worth it, and winning the regular season title was a dream come true.”

–EB

OUR WORLD

SUPRIYA CHAKRABARTI

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KICKING IT UP A LEVEL

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–EB
WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

TURNING STUDENTS INTO LEADERS IN AN AGE OF DISTRUST

> BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS
LINDY REED embodies a truth about her generation. She has cultivated all the traditional skills and attitudes of a future leader by participating in the Honors College, Student Government Association and Pre-Law Society. She even won election as UML's student trustee on the UMass board.

She should believe wholeheartedly in the system that she has worked so hard to win a place in. Yet when Reed, a history and English double major, looks at the world—she nurses doubt. “People are cynical,” she says. “When I was running for the Board of Trustees, other students would come up to me and say, ‘You’re not running just to help yourself, are you?’ I got that question a lot.

“It’s gotten to the point where politics, the whole nature of it, is basically a turnoff to me.”

When the U.S. presidential campaign ended in November, Lindy Reed’s belief in the system, on a scale of one to 10, had sunk to “about a two.”

Her whole generation is right there with her. Millennial distrust is rewriting the way UMass Lowell thinks about leaders, leadership and the skills students will need to thrive in the future.

“This generation, when you think about it, had it pretty good for a while—no Vietnam, no Watergate, no civil rights struggles,” says Ralph Jordan, a lecturer who teaches undergraduate courses on leadership and team management.

“The average millennial was only 9 years old when 9/11 happened,” he says. “Then everything kind of came at them at once—economic downturn, climate change, energy, business corruption, threats to public education. Then this election. It’s been a steady pattern. So now they’re seeing, at every level, that their future is being mortgaged. You don’t go to school for 16, 18 years having certain values reinforced, then see them under threat, and not feel betrayed. And they do. And they get it. And they’re mad.”

HOW BAD IS IT?

Millennials harbor skepticism of almost everyone and everything, according to a national poll of U.S. millennials (ages 18-35) co-sponsored by UMass Lowell and social-media platform Odyssey.

Nearly 60 percent told pollsters they believed “You can’t be too careful in dealing with others,” while 70 percent thought most people would take advantage of them if given the chance.

Of the 25 groups and government institutions respondents were asked about in the poll, only five—teachers, universities, the military and police and fire departments—were trusted by more than half. The only nongovernment institution that received the majority’s nod was Google.

Other research confirms the gloomy story. The 2017 Edelman Trust Barometer, released in January, shows faith in CEOs at an all-time low, with 63 percent of survey respondents believing CEOs are “somewhat” or “not at all” credible.

Religious leaders and the news media aren’t faring better, with a December Pew study revealing trust levels of only 53 and 38 percent, respectively.

Millennials reserved their harshest judgment for politicians. Nearly a quarter of respondents in UMass Lowell’s fall poll said they’d rather see a giant meteor strike the Earth than either major party candidate win the White House.

Millennials—the nation’s largest demographic—don’t trust the system, yet they will inherit it. For educators, at UMass Lowell, it has become a puzzle to solve and a challenge in need of response.

WHAT HAPPENED?

History Professor Bob Forrant, honored as this year’s University Professor, has been around long enough to see generations of young people come and go, each responding to the historical moment differently. He sees millennials bowl by a deluge of competing, sometimes contradictory, information.

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UMass Lowell’s DifferenceMaker program helps students make an impact on the world—providing support and funding to student organizations like ENABLE Lowell. The student-run nonprofit designs and fabricates low-cost, 3-D-printed prosthetic devices for children with physical disabilities, providing the devices free of charge, through fundraising and sponsorships.

Fourty or 50 years ago, if you wanted to know what was happening in the world, you had three TV channels to choose from. Three—ABC, NBC, CBS. That was it,” he says. “Now you’ve got Rush Limbaugh, Fox, CNN, PBS, Slate, fake news, a hundred others. How do you figure out what’s fake and what’s real?

The same goes for the institutions Americans were traditionally brought up to trust, says Forrant. “The banks, the mortgage companies, Wall Street, the Catholic Church. And now we’ve got Wall Street, the freaking priests, so much sloppy stuff. It’s become routine,” he says. “Then comes this election. And some student will ask me, ‘So why do I bother to vote when the president with the most votes doesn’t win?’ I don’t have an answer for that.

“When the institutions fail, people just check out. It’s not hard to see why.”

And checking out, he says, has never been easier: “I come into class, and everyone’s buried behind their screens, nobody’s talking to anybody. And you can’t blame them—there’s all that stuff competing for their attention.”

Another outgrowth of social media is that when there is a lie told, a book cooked or a racist comment made, the stock price. And that was an eye-opener for me.”

“When the institutions fail, people just check out. It’s not hard to see why.”

Humberd’s anecdote would sound familiar to Stoughton native Steffan Jackson, a senior majoring in business. Jackson grew up in the Boston area and watched the stock price of a medical-device company outside Boston, she says. “And I remember that, for a lot of us there, a big part of the appeal was that we were doing meaningful work, that we were saving lives. But then you’d go into a meeting and they’re talking about raising the stock price. And that was an eye-opener for me.”

The majority of students, I think, genuinely want to make a difference,” he says. “They see the inequity in the world—they’ve grown up in the recession, some of them have watched their parents lose their homes or retirement accounts. So they care. At the same time, most of them are juggling a lot of things in their lives—jobs, classes, family—and they can tend to feel not included in what’s going on outside of that. So their initial reaction is just to drop out. We need to keep finding ways to make sure they stay connected.”

UMass Lowell is good at that, says Geoff Foster V9, who was an active student organizer while on campus, fighting student fee increases after the state reduced funding to the university.

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UMass Lowell does a great job of supporting student-led groups on campus and creating a safe environment for students to learn,” says Foster, now director of organizing and policy at United Teen Equality Center Inc. in Lowell.

“All across the Commonwealth. Both on campus, and in my role at UTEC, I’ve seen that the best leaders are the young people in the middle of a struggle who refuse to give up.”

“What students are really looking for, in the end, is a sense of personal connection.”

The university is supportive institutionally of youth voices, he says, and “at the end of the day, if we don’t find meaningful ways for students to feel engaged and valued on campus, we run the risk of failing to prepare future leaders to go out and take on bigger issues.”

Foster knows all about taking on bigger issues. After graduating with a B.A. in English, who became a young person with a story. I learned that on campus, and I’ve seen in the eyes of young people from all across the Commonwealth. Both on campus, and in my role at UTEC, I’ve seen that the best leaders are the young people in the middle of a struggle who refuse to give up.”

“My perspective on leadership has broadened since I left UTEC,” he says. “When I left Lowell, but my experiences have only continued to reinforce what I learned as a student: that young people are experts on social and political issues that directly impact them,” he says. “There is nothing more compelling to a policymaker, than a young person with a story. I learned that on campus, and I’ve seen in the eyes of young people from all across the Commonwealth. Both on campus, and in my role at UTEC, I’ve seen that the best leaders are the young people in the middle of a struggle who refuse to give up.”

“Everything is so much more scrutinized today. ‘There’s just so much more access than there ever used to be,” says Manning School of Business Asst. Prof. Beth Humberd, who researches leadership and identity development. “It’s given me a different perspective on what I want to do with my life,” says Jackson, who serves on the Dean’s Leadership Council and hopes to be the CEO of his own company one day.

“It’s that whole idea of doing good while doing well.”

Humberd says. “And it’s a big part, I think, of what students today need to come to terms with that in the end it’s about still using your tools—yeu’re just trying to find that sweet spot between human connection and the bottom line.”

A RECIPE FOR RESTORED FAITH

The challenge is to provide millennials with an avenue to stay involved, says Steve Tello, associate vice chancellor for entrepreneurship.

“The majority of students, I think, genuinely want to make a difference,” he says. “They see the inequity in the world—they’ve grown up in the recession, some of them have watched their parents lose their homes or retirement accounts. So they care. At the same time, most of them are juggling a lot of things in their lives—jobs, classes, family—and they can tend to feel not included in what’s going on outside of that. So their initial reaction is just to drop out. We need to keep finding ways to make sure they stay connected.”

UMass Lowell is good at that, says Geoff Foster V9, who was an active student organizer while on campus, fighting student fee increases after the state reduced funding to the university.

“All across the Commonwealth. Both on campus, and in my role at UTEC, I’ve seen that the best leaders are the young people in the middle of a struggle who refuse to give up.”

“What students are really looking for, in the end, is a sense of personal connection.”

The university is supportive institutionally of youth voices, he says, and “at the end of the day, if we don’t find meaningful ways for students to feel engaged and valued on campus, we run the risk of failing to prepare future leaders to go out and take on bigger issues.”

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Another millennial who has stayed connected is Jonathan Zlotnick ’12, a Worcester County state representative who launched his first campaign from his UMass Lowell dorm room five years ago. He points to what he calls the “transformational era” his generation has witnessed:

“My mother grew up during the Cuban Missile Crisis. I remember her telling me stories about how her teacher suspended homework because of the likelihood of the world ending. During the Cold War, there was a binary view: You had one enemy, it was NATO vs. the Warsaw Pact. Today we live under a different fear, one that is more complex, more nuanced.”

UMass Lowell is adapting rapidly. It begins with some powerful assets, the first of which is its students: diverse, largely middle-class, often first-generation college—there’s not much social entitlement among them. They’ve lived through a difficult decade, and—as Tello has observed—are likely to have taken some hits below the belt.

“They’re gritty, they’re hard-working, they’ve definitely earned their diplomas,” says Jordan, the lecturer in the Manning School. “They’re looking for a better life than their parents, and don’t feel like they’re headed that way. You may not see as many of them demonstrating in the streets as some of their forebears, but it’s hard to demonstrate when you’re working 30, 40 hours a week and carrying a full load of classes. But they’re not going to lie down and go to sleep.”

In the Classroom

Jordan’s leadership class is one of scores of opportunities on campus with the potential to foster or renovate a young person’s faith in the system—or at least in their ability to change it.

Not long ago, Sheila Angelo ’15 was one of those students. She arrived at UMass Lowell as a sophomore, transferring from community college. “I was never much of a student,” she says. “Just kind of your typical college kid, didn’t know what I wanted to do, what direction I wanted to take. I thought maybe I’d be a nurse, or a social worker. I knew I liked helping people, but beyond that I just wasn’t sure.”

She took Jordan’s class in her senior year, and it turned her world around. She says he helped her believe that politics could matter and that she could build a career there. She went on to work as an advance-team member for the Obama White House and a field organizer in Las Vegas.

Sands lost in the primary, but she’s back in the saddle today, getting involved with some local races “because you’ve got to keep pushing ahead.”

Today’s students are signing up in droves for courses like Business Ethics, Social Responsibility & Ethics, the Leadership of Community Engagement, Social Justice, and co-curricular activities with a focus on community service.

The center will expand education in ethics to all business majors. When the center opens in the fall of 2016, it will bring to campus a new master’s degree in Business Ethics and Social Responsibility.

“Traditionally, business ethics was taught in the classroom,” professor Corey Cicchetti, highlighted UMass Lowell’s dedication to integrity, (“It’s impossible to be truly happy if you’re an unethical person,” he told his audience, who thanked him with a standing ovation.)

Leaders on Their Own Terms

Growing up in a millennial who believes his generation and the ones that follow can turn things around.

“Remember that our country was built by those brave few who challenged an unjust institution and authority,” he says. “In many ways, our youth are best prepared to recreate the institutions preparing our next generation of citizens.”

For that to happen, he says, institutions and authority have to be more open to truly listening with young people. First, the youth will find other ways to manifest.

“Today in America, we can’t just provide young people with civic education, we need to provide real and meaningful experiences,” he says. “Young people have opinions, and are rarely asked to share them in real ways. Beyond a seat at the table, young people need to be shown that their opinions have weight, value and impact.

Positioning students in real and meaningful experiences is part of the USAF and UMass Lowell, where learning by doing is a priority across every program. Participating in internships and co-op jobs, heading up student clubs and organizations, captaining sports teams and conducting research, students have in an increasing number of opportunities to take charge and have real-world experience.

As Lindy Reed knows well.

She says she’s always been interested in politics, and her coursework has taught her that “it’s really important to voice your opinion, and not to think that your opinion doesn’t matter.”

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What It Really About is Helping Students Understand That, If They Want To, We Can Help Them Make a Difference in the World.

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“WHAT IT’S REALLY ABOUT IS HELPING STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THAT, IF THEY WANT TO, WE CAN HELP THEM MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the world.”
Bonnie Comley says she was an unlikely mainstay of Broadway, but sometimes passion and fortitude blaze their own trail. Now, the three-time Tony winner wants to give all of us a taste of The Great White Way.

“Bonnie Comley ’81 and her husband, Stewart Lane, are the force behind what some are calling “Netflix for Broadway,” a technological leap for one of entertainment’s most staid institutions.

Functioning like on-demand TV and movie services, BroadwayHD is a subscription service launched in October 2015. It’s a service focused specifically on the epicenter of American theater, New York City. The idea, says Comley, is to “bring Broadway outside its boundaries.” It’s about preserving live theater as well as promoting it. And it’s working.

The Jan. 14 live broadcast of “Holiday Inn,” Comley says, “more than doubled our active subscribers.” (She says licensing agreements preclude her from revealing numbers of subscribers. Subscriptions to BroadwayHD cost $169.99 per year, or $14.99 a month, and individual show rentals cost $7.99.)

Having produced two dozen shows there, Comley knows Broadway well.

“We’ve been working on BroadwayHD for the past year and a half, and we’ve done ‘Les Misérables,’ ‘Billy Elliot,’ ‘Jesus Christ Superstar’—but we haven’t even put a dent in things yet,” she says.

They’ve amassed a library of more than 150 performances, including some from PBS and the BBC.

There has been resistance, she says, from those who say broadcasting Broadway theater dilutes the experience of the production.

“They say we minimize the artistic dimension of the live theater,” Comley says. “We recognize there’s a difference,” she says. “They’re two very different experiences. We compare it to a sporting event. It’s the difference between being in the stadium or being at home watching football. If you can’t get there, get to BroadwayHD.

“We really believe we’re promoting live theater.”

There was a time when Comley had to decide to enter unfamiliar waters to get where she is today. The Bedford native’s decision to attend UMass Lowell was simple, and common at the time—it was nearby, it was affordable and she knew someone who had been there.

She enrolled as a business major.

“What I got out of Lowell was what I put into it,” she says. “It was great. It gave me a real skill set I could grow into and apply.”

Comley has shown her appreciation to the university over the years, and the 350-seat theater on South Campus is named for her and her husband.

“I always looked at being a business major like being a doctor,” she says. “You go for something broader—like medicine or business—and choose your specialty later. And business is the core to everything.”

When she graduated, she entered a desolate work environment.

“People thought the economy was bad in the area in 2008? When I graduated, the prime rate was 21 percent,” she says.

But Comley was hardly afraid of work. In addition to lifeguarding, she taught swim lessons while attending college. Her great-great-grandmother was a mill girl who toiled in Lowell.

“I always worked,” she says. “It’s just what you did. And it’s typical of the Lowell student. It was that way then, and I understand it hasn’t changed. They appreciate their opportunity to be there. They’re anything but entitled. They’ve seen their parents work and know what it takes. And that’s more relevant and maybe more important than ever.”

So when she became the first college graduate in her family, Comley knew there was one thing she had to do: go off to work.

She entered the workforce in 1981, the leading edge of a serious recession. For business majors, it was an especially barren time, she recalls.

She finally landed a job as a teller in a bank. She hated it.

Then came a gig making cold calls as a mutual funds saleswoman. It was a job that was not exactly recession-proof.

“I said to myself, ‘Is this really what I want to do?’” she says. Comley had always been fascinated with entertainment. Showbiz. Movies, TV. But theater?

“It was kind of a fluke,” she says. “I’m one of four kids from a family that didn’t go to the theater. We saw ‘The Nutcracker’ when I was in Girl Scouts, and plays in junior and senior high school. But it wasn’t until we went to New York later and visited the half-price ticket booth for Broadway shows, and saw ‘View from a Bridge’ with Tony Lo Bianco—that’s the one that did it for me.”

Comley enrolled in Emerson College and earned a master’s degree in communication and TV production in 1994.

Along the way, there was a TV production job, a stint as a TV reporter covering nightlife in New York, and when jobs ended, she went out and found another one.

Continued
“There should be other opportunities out there for people who can’t get to New York or see the show on tour. And we came up with BroadwayHD.”

It was during a stint as a script reader that she met Lane, whose producing prowess has since led him to be known as Mr. Broadway. (He has six Tony’s of his own.)

They married in 1997 and with five children lead an idyllic Big Apple existence. An Upper East Side penthouse, and a place in the Hamptons. All the while, covering it or attending it, Comley saw theater as a business. She appreciated the art, but “I was always thinking, this is nuts. Something on the level of Broadway should be seen by more people. Look at it this way. There are 42 Broadway theaters and each year roughly 10 new shows open up. And just this past Jan. 1, seven shows closed. Some at a loss, and in part, she can attribute her work ethic to her time in Bedford and the UMass Lowell classrooms.

“Looking back, I had so much that other people didn’t have,” she says. “I was always rich, but I just didn’t always have money.”

She would go out to see a show, “It’s a 35-city U.S. tour. With 50 states, and a tour going to each city for a few days, not everyone is going to be able to get to it.”

Comley says she and Lane looked at the ancient model and decided; “There should be opportunities out there for people who can’t get to New York or see the show on tour. And we came up with BroadwayHD.”

In comparison to shore tickets,avel to New York, parking, dinner and a sitter, a year’s subscription costs much less than a single night on Broadway. It’s been a lot of work, she says, but worth it. And, in part, she can attribute her work ethic to her time in Bedford and the UMass Lowell classrooms.

“Looking back, I had so much that other people didn’t have,” she says. “I was always rich, but I just didn’t always have money.”

Subscribers to BroadwayHD.com can see hit shows like, clockwise from top right, “Les Misérables,” “Superstar,” “Billy Elliott” and “Les Misérables.”

UMass Lowell is home to the largest population of student veterans—1,200—of any college or university in the state. For too many of them, the choices they face are bleak, says Janine Wert, director of the university’s veteran services.

“They’re older, they have families, many of them have mortgages, their financial responsibilities aren’t equivalent to an 18-year-old coming in as a freshman,” she says. “A spouse gets laid off or there’s an unexpected expense—a $1,000 car repair might as well be a million dollars, because they just don’t have it. So they abandon their academic goals to support their families.”

“That’s just wrong,” says Nancy Stager, executive vice president of human resources and charitable giving at Boston-based Eastern Bank, the largest and oldest mutual bank in the U.S. “These men and women save our nation valiantly, then they come home, get caught between pillar and post, and have to drop out of school. That shouldn’t have to happen.”

It’s happening to far fewer UMass Lowell student veterans than it used to, thanks in part to the $50,000 contribution to the UMass Lowell Office of Veteran Services that Eastern Bank’s charitable foundation announced last summer. The funds, which helped kick-start the university’s new Veterans’ Fund, will provide short-term, zero-interest loans to help assure that these students stay in school.

But even before the gift was announced, at least one UMass Lowell student veteran had seen his life turned around by the bank’s commitment to his cause. David Tetreault, a senior in the Manning School of Business, spent a year in Afghanistan’s Farah Province with the Massachusetts National Guard—and another year, following his return, battling the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder that resulted from an IED explosion he felt he should have seen coming. The bank hired him in January 2016 as a part-time research analyst. He remains there today, though it has not been an easy year: there were incidents in the early months, he says, “that could normally have resulted in a firing.”

But the bank stuck with him, and the patience of his supervisor, Eastern’s Senior Vice President Mike Uretsky, seemed never to falter.

“Mike worked [so hard] to understand the challenges a veteran faces,” says Tetreault, an MBA candidate. “It’s only because of his patience, and Eastern Bank’s support initiatives, that my life today is in a condition that could not have been dreamed of otherwise.”

“It’s been a growing experience from the bank’s perspective as well. “There was a lot to learn from a year working with a student veteran without any family support structure locally,” says Uretsky. “It helped me understand what we as an organization need to be doing to be better prepared, both from an HR and a recruiting [standpoint], to address the needs of the veteran in transition.”

While the Eastern Bank Foundation will donate close to $7 million this year to organizations across the region, its commitment to veterans appears to hold a special place among its charitable priorities. The bank’s participation, with UMass Lowell, in the national EdgeForVets educational program is one example of this; another is its sponsorship of the Massachusetts Fallen Heroes License Plate drive, which raises money for the families of vets. And the bank’s involvement with UMass Lowell veterans didn’t end with last year’s contribution; it continues to offer one-on-one career guidance—resume building, job training and advice in financial literacy and online identity protection—to students in transition.

There’s a collateral advantage to all this, says Uretsky. “Hopefully, we can create an interest on the part of our veterans in a banking or financial-services career, as opposed to what seems the more common default choice—police or firefight—for those coming out of the military.”

The students, of course, are not the only winners in all this. For the bank, there is the prospect of a widening pool of mature, motivated, prospective employees.

“Veterans, formed by the service and sacrifice they make while serving our country, make great employees and great citizens,” says Stager. “So we’re investing in a program that really makes a difference, for us and for them. It’s about so much more than the money.”

By Geoffrey Douglas

One Bank’s Mission: Service, and a Future, to Those Who Have Served

Eastern Bank, Boston-based and the largest and oldest mutual bank in the U.S., is always searching for opportunities to help make the world a better place. For veteran students at UMass Lowell, the bank has found a valuable partner.

The $50,000 contribution to the UMass Lowell Office of Veteran Services has helped make the student veterans’ fund a reality. A zero-interest loan program, the VETS Fund, has already made loans totaling $15,000 to eight student veterans. In addition, there are more than 500 veteran students currently at UMass Lowell, and veteran students are eligible to receive short-term, zero-interest loans of up to $500.

But it’s not just about the loans. Veterans are provided career guidance—resumes building, job training and advice in financial literacy and online identity protection. There will also be workshops on self-confidence and mental health.

For too many of these students, the choices they face are bleak. “We’re working with students who have mortgages, their financial responsibilities aren’t equivalent to an 18-year-old coming in as a freshman,” says Eastern Bank’s Nancy Stager, executive vice president of human resources and charitable giving. “A spouse gets laid off or there’s an unexpected expense—a $1,000 car repair might as well be a million dollars, because they just don’t have it. So they abandon their academic goals to support their families.”

But with the help of Eastern Bank, it’s not just about the money. “It’s been a growing experience from the bank’s perspective as well,” says Eastern’s Mike Uretsky, senior vice president. “There was a lot to learn from a year working with a student veteran without any family support structure locally.”

It helped me understand what we as an organization need to be doing to be better prepared, both from an HR and a recruiting standpoint, to address the needs of the veteran in transition. While the Eastern Bank Foundation will donate close to $7 million this year to organizations across the region, its commitment to veterans appears to hold a special place among charitable priorities. The bank’s participation, with UMass Lowell, in the national EdgeForVets educational program is one example of this; another is its sponsorship of the Massachusetts Fallen Heroes License Plate drive, which raises money for the families of vets. And the bank’s involvement with UMass Lowell veterans didn’t end with last year’s contribution; it continues to offer one-on-one career guidance—resume building, job training and advice in financial literacy and online identity protection—to students in transition.

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The students, of course, are not the only winners in all this. For the bank, there is the prospect of a widening pool of mature, motivated, prospective employees. “Veterans, formed by the service and sacrifice they make while serving our country, make great employees and great citizens,” says Stager. “So we’re investing in a program that really makes a difference, for us and for them. It’s about so much more than the money.”
Lin "arrived in Lowell in the fall of 1983, a first-year graduate student from Taiwan. He knew almost no one, and his English was far from perfect; he had spent the past nine months at another university, in Philadelphia, pursuing a course of study he now realized was not what where his interests lay. In more ways than one, he was starting out blind.

He would not stay there long. For the next five years, from the time he arrived in Lowell as a transfer from Drexel University, he all but lived in the Chemistry Department laboratory—"from 8 a.m. till sometimes 12 at night"—studying the synthesis and properties of liquid crystalline polymer.

By the time he finished his Ph.D. in polymer science and plastics engineering, having been named the university's Outstanding Graduate Student two years before, Lin had acquired, he says, "a tremendous knowledge that would shape my path for life."

There was one more blessing from those years. Jangli Chang, then a recent UMass Lowell graduate with a degree in computer engineering who was working at Honeywell near Lowell, showed up one evening at a Taiwanese student party. The two connected. They would marry a year later, with the first of three children arriving less than two years after that.

Lin's first job, which he began before he'd completed his Ph.D., was as a senior research engineer and project manager at a Fortune 500 company south of Boston. Meanwhile, back in his home country, the family company, Grand Dynasty Industrial, an injection molding firm founded by his father, was suffering through hard times. "It was really in bad shape," Lin says today, "not only from a financial point of view, but from any of an organized management system. My father, every day, was working with the banks to solve the problems."

Lin knew nothing of corporate finance. "I had never seen a balance sheet in my life," he says. But he knew about polymers and he knew injection molding. So, returning to Taiwan in 1993, he began by taking some classes in accounting while he gradually took over the reins at GDI.

The turnaround began immediately. Learning that the injection plastic business in the U.S. was a $2.6 billion industry—larger than the computer industry at the time—he began in his first year to travel back to the states in search of business. It took him 10 months and four separate trips, he remembers, to earn his first client (who remains a client 21 years later), but the customer grew quickly after that. Within a little more than a decade, GDI, whose only market had been domestic prior to Lawrence's involvement, would go from a small, family-run, financially enrolled injection molding shop to an employee-owned, consistently profitable, midsize company drawing 95 percent of its business from Germany, the U.S. and the U.K.

And the company has gone green; a solar-powered lighting and a rainwater harvesting system have reduced the injection capacity and $3.5 million donated to schools and charities. Lin's firm has expressed an interest in returning to Taiwan to take over their father's company to the highest peak in manufacturing, the industry 4.0 standard, in the near term, he says, he will continue on the path to upgrading the company to the highest peak in manufacturing, the industry 4.0 standard, and will train them to take over GDI when I retire."

"I've initiated a program to send a few students to Taiwan University, to an employee-owned, consistently profitable, midsize company drawing 95 percent of its business from Germany, the U.S. and the U.K.

Lin now divides his life between Taiwan and California, where his oldest son, Steven, practices Chinese medicine. His daughter, Catherine, who graduated from U.C. San Diego with a degree in chemistry, is married and living in Seattle, while his youngest son, David, is a second-year civil engineering student at U.C. Berkeley. Though all three kids have a background in science, none has expressed an interest in returning to Taiwan to take over their father's business. So Lin is pursuing the next-best course.

"I've initiated a program to send a few students to Taiwan University, and will train them to take over GDI when I retire."

In the near term, he says, he will continue on the path to upgrading the company to the highest peak in manufacturing, the industry 4.0 standard, which "will mean that our ability and technology will be ahead of all the rest of the companies on Taiwan. Even most of those in the world."

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RISE AND SHINE

While the UMass Lowell men’s hockey team has long been an established Division I power, elevating the rest of the River Hawks athletics program to the DI ranks hasn’t been easy. Thanks to some early success stories during their four-year NCAA reclassification period, there’s reason for optimism as they become full-fledged members of America East.

> BY ED BRENNEN
“Y
ning with the baton handed to her by Meehan two years ago. “She understood from the
for a number of years,” says Skinner, who credits Chancellor Jacquie Moloney for run-
“We've gotten good at checking things off the list, and we've got to continue do that
schools meet Division I standards.
facilities upgrades and staffing hires to increases in scholarship dollars and academic
pains have been worth it.
mates agree: The growing
coaches and student-ath-
2017-18, administrators,
America East beginning in
full-fledged members of
reclassification period draws
To a close and 14 of the uni-
reclassification period that ends this June. So coach Christian Figueroa ’07 and his
players were awakened from their dream season a few games early.
"I think I cried for a week after that," Figueroa admits more than a month later, still
playing out the postseason possibilities in his mind. "I'm confident we could have won
the conference tournament and been a two, three or four overall seed in the NCAA
tournament with home games all the way to the Final Four. It's not easy to do—there
are a lot of great teams out there—but I think we would have had a good chance. We
would have been a fun team to watch in the tournament."

Of course, Figueroa and the rest of the UML athletics program knew the ground
rules when the university announced it was joining Division I America East amid a flurry
of blue, red and white confetti in the Tsongas Center foyer on Valentine's Day 2013.
"This is about where we've been and where we're going as an institution," former
Chancellor Marty Meehan told the thriving that day. "We belong in America East."
department is launching this summer in conjunction with the Division I move. “If you look at any successful Division I program, it's owned by the entire campus,” Skinner says. “We're going to encourage everybody—our alumni, our students, all of us—to rise up and accept the challenge.”

Alum John Kennedy ’70, a longtime supporter of the athletic program whose name adorns the Kennedy Family Court at the Tsongas Center, sees Division I success feeding the university’s overall growth. “Dana Skinner and his staff have done an incredible job creating world-class facilities, which are going to attract better athletes, which in turn will make the university more accessible for other students,” says Kennedy, who remembers cheering on Lowell Tech’s Division III teams during his college days. Now he turns on ESPN at home in Naples, Fla., and sees his alma mater’s first-round NCAA hockey tournament score scrolling across the bottom of the screen: UMass Lowell 5, Cornell 0.

“You can’t get exposure like that if you’re not a Division I program,” says Kennedy, who looks forward to all of the River Hawk teams following in the hockey team’s path. “I think over time we will become a dominant force in America East, which will really put us in the forefront of New England sports programs. And you can’t buy that kind of publicity. As students have come to embrace hockey, they’ll come to embrace basketball and the other sports, and will take that as a legacy when they leave the university.”

Another important element of the Division I move is revenue sharing, in which the university will be able to start participating next year. In 2014, the NCAA generated a record $959 million in net revenue, thanks largely to the Division I “March Madness” men’s basketball tournament. The NCAA distributions accounts for 60 percent of that revenue back to Division I conferences and member institutions each year, primarily for student-athlete support. Skinner says the university will be eligible for a small slice of the revenue in 2017-18, with gradual increases over three-year intervals. As a former basketball player himself, Skinner would like nothing more than to see the River Hawks one day win the America East tournament and get the name “UMass Lowell” on millions of March Madness brackets across the country. “Absolutely,” he says. “It’s one of the reasons you make a move like this.”

Indeed, leveraging athletic success at the Division I level to help build the university’s national reputation is another key motivation for the move. “I think increasing visibility is why most schools choose to move up,” says Gary Gardner, who has coached men’s and women’s cross-country and track and field at UML for 14 years. He’s already noticed changes on campus over the past few years. “When I started here, you were more apt to see students wearing a B.C. or B.U. sweatshirt around campus than a UMass Lowell sweatshirt. Now, so many more students have on some kind of River Hawks gear.”

Thalia Petas, a junior from Toronto who plays on the women’s soccer team, sees the university’s reputation had already spread north of the border thanks to the hockey team. She sees the other sports’ move to Division I only amplifying the River Hawk brand, particularly with potential student-athlete recruits. “I think when our basketball team plays a team like Indiana or Michigan, it’s good publicitywise. I think getting national coverage like that helps to recruit top athletes,” says Petas, a midfielder who transferred to UMass Lowell in 2014 from the University of North Dakota, another school that recently transitioned to Division I.
The university had to make upgrades to the wiring, lighting and infrastructure. ‘So he had that vision from the beginning. He saw athletics and the growth of this school going hand-in-hand,’ Harring says. When Harring used to bring baseball recruits in for campus visits, he never gave walking tours. ‘I didn’t feel like there was a lot to show off,’ he says. ‘Now we take walking tours and they can’t believe what they saw. Then you throw in the baseball facility we’re blessed to have at L. adaptive Center, I call it the renaissance of UMass Lowell.’

While that renaissance has certainly made it easier for coaches in all sports to recruit student-athletes, there was still that prickle of postseason eligibility the past four years. How do you convince an 18-year-old student-athlete to join a fledgling Division I program that will provide more sports in the future—online streaming on ESPN3, says men’s basketball coach Pat Delaney. ‘It has that immediate impact. That ESPN brand brings a lot of positive attention for coaches, it also check up-to-date line charts, game contests and polls during timeouts and free throws. ‘Our recruits love it,’ he says. ‘They stay up till 3 a.m. watching our games. They love it.’

GONE TO THE DOGS

Five years ago, Katie Robinson ’16 says she “wanted a dog, but didn’t know anything about them.” She visited the Lowell Humane Society and met Molly, a six-year-old pit bull rescued from the streets of Lowell. ‘She had been a breeding dog, and when she couldn’t have puppies any longer, her owners just opened the door and let her go,’ says Robinson. ‘The Humane Society said she lived on the street for a year before they could get her.’

Molly was   adopted by Katie’s mom, Molly. Now, she responds to hand gestures and words on signs, and loves being around people, Robinson says. Molly is now certified as a therapy dog and visits hospice care, nursing homes and schools to help people destress, heal and laugh.

So far, Robinson has been able to compete in the event during the fall season. ‘I think it’s important for kids to be able to compete in the event during the four-year reclassification,’ Robinson says. ‘It keeps everyone’s head in the game.’

‘She has literally changed the direction of my life,’ says Robinson, who has now earned a degree in nursing, in progress toward an MPA in hopes of opening a dog-related business—.”

THE RENAISSANCE

Baseball coach Ken Harring, now in his 13th year at the university, will never forget his first conver-
When Sylvia Contover ’86, ‘92 turned 50, she gave up ice cream. If she lived to turn 100, she said at the time, she would start eating it again. On Jan. 31, the university held her to her word, throwing an ice cream social in O’Leary Library in her honor. “It was worth the wait,” she said, mouthful of chocolate. Read more about Contover on Page 55.

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1978

Energy Is His Business

For 15 years of General Electric—Tom Curley’s first place of employment after graduating from the University of Lowell in 1978 with a bachelor of science in industrial technology—he received a call from a former boss who had moved on to Caterpillar. He knew Curley’s managerial strengths and wanted him to run the hydraulics business for the construction machinery giant, a group he described as better able to spell hydraulics, “TM,” Curley recalled. “He said, ‘Tom, you don’t have to know how to spell cut. Read you in how to fix the business. You’ll figure out how to fix hydraulics.’”

Curley, who wound up as general manager of Caterpillar’s hydraulic business before becoming president of energy business at Rolls-Royce from 1999-2008, shared the anecdote during a guest lecture that fall in the Manning School of Business. Besides the importance of contacts and networking, the story highlighted Curley’s willingness to stretch himself in challenging roles to grow professionally over the course of his 40-year career in the energy sector—a key lesson he passed on to the undergraduates.

“I’ve been fortunate to work for and run some pretty cool businesses,” said Curley, “but it started here at this university.”

Curley, who made the guest lectures on global business and entrepreneurship at the Manning School for the past three semesters, “enjoy hearing the story of the student. It helps keep you current, and I kind of see me and my two kids in the audience.”

“Tapsir—who graduated with a master’s degree in civil engineering from ULowell and went on to receive a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Leeds in Britain—is also known for spearheading a nationwide program called the Malaysia Higher Education Blueprint 2011-2025, which is aimed at transforming education policies.

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1985

ALUMNA HELPED STUDENTS ‘GEAR UP’

By Katharine Webster

Today Lowell doesn’t look like the same place where Colleen Winn ’85 grew up. And UMass Lowell isn’t the same university from which she graduated with a B.A. in English. But Winn sees the backdrop similarities in the surface changes: Lowell is still a city of immigrants who want better lives for their children and UMass Lowell is still the university that helps many of those children succeed, just like it helped her.

Today Winn serves as a bridge between past and present, city and university. As director of the state and federal/Gear Up and TRIO programs for Lowell, she helps low-income, first-generation middle and high school students prepare for college. “I’m working with students because my parents fomented not only this love of helping others, but also the idea of education being a cornerstone for greater opportunities,” she says.

Winn worked in retail and pharmacy management while earning an M.A. in English at Fitcher University, with dreams of being a reporter. But she found herself helping the sales clerks who worked for her at Brooks Pharmacy in Lawrence—mostly young Puerto Rican women—apply to college. She thought, “I’m good at that” and went back to Fitcher for a second master’s in education with a concentration in guidance counseling.

A lifelong learner, Winn is now pursuing her doctorate in education, with a focus on the achievement gap. Research shows that the students she serves today face tougher challenges than her generation did, including poverty, trauma, language and cultural barriers, and the high cost of college, she says.

Julie Luhn, ’10 is one example. Luhn’s mother got little schooling after her family fled the killing fields of Cambodia and spent 15 years in a Thai refugee camp. In the United States, she struggled to learn English and find work. Starting at age 12, Luhn had to babysit her younger siblings while her parents worked second shift. Still, she persevered in her schoolwork, with support from Winn and the Gear Up counselors at Lowell High School.

“Gear Up made me focus on my education, to want to better myself despite my situation at home,” says Luhn.

Luhn took four classes at Middlesex Community College her senior year of high school and then matriculated at UMass Lowell with a generous financial aid package that included scholarships, work-study jobs and campus housing. She’s on track to graduate next year with a criminal justice degree—and she definitely might take over Winn’s job one day. “I want to advocate for Gear Up, or maybe work with young people who are at risk of not going to college or finishing high school,” she says. “You can’t be different than your circumstances. You can be a leader. You can change things.”

Robert G. Cameron (B.S.) retired from teaching in 2010. Cameron’s career has been in aerospace and engineering.

Gregory L. Garofalo (B.S.) has invented a bike rack for UMass Lowell, which he sold to the UMass Lowell Bicycle Committee.

Siti Hamisah Tapsir—who graduated with a master’s degree in civil engineering from ULowell and went on to receive a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Leeds in Britain—is also known for spearheading a nationwide program called the Malaysia Higher Education Blueprint 2011-2025, which is aimed at transforming education policies.

During the wait,” she said through a mouthful of chocolate. Read more about Contover on Page 55.
/former UML slugger Mike Bryant playing Division 2, we were at Alumni Field, or at Hadley Park down past five years ago. “I would have loved to have played there. When we were a point to check out LeLacheur Park the last time he visited campus Sox and New England. “I’ll always be a pilgrim,” says Bryant, who made team, Mike Bryant says he’ll always have a place in his heart for the Red. Everyone around us was crying.” Knowing where I came from, where my career got cut off at the 1980 amateur draft, the business major from Acton cut his college career short to pursue big league dreams that ended after two seasons of the 1980 season. In addition to providing private hitting lessons at the indoor batting cage Kobe has built off the family home, Mike Bryant is also now an associate scout for the Cubs, working as a “third dog” in the Santa Barbara, Calif., area. He’ll be back at Cubs spring training in Mesa, Ariz., and hopes to run into left-hander Jack Leathersich. “I’d love to find myself in the minors. Bryant is a total Type B guy. He understands his place and has head. “Kris is a total athlete. He respects his opponent and knows there are so many people out there who deserve what he’s got.” To cap the storybook year, Kris married his longtime girlfriend in the stands at Wrigley Field with thousands of other delirious Cubs fans, recording the historic last out. That’s a moment that’s going to be re-played forever,” says Mike, who was in the stands at the MLB Home Run Derby in July, Mike Bryant pitched to his son and Deruy Ruiz his third baseman, Kris helped the Chicago Cubs end their 108-year World Series drought in November. “It was a great feeling,” says Bryant, whose son Kris helped the Chicago Cubs end their 108-year World Series drought in November.

“She lives today in Chelmsford, not far from her son, Dean, a retired social worker, who, she says, visits often. She was a member of the Lowell High class of 1936. All three brothers, as well as her sister, served in the military; she spent the war years in Rosie the Riveter mode as product inspector of Lowell’s Atlantic Parachute Company, ensuring that the allies’ parachutes landed safely. During these same years, through a mutual friend, she met her husband, Louis. The war over, they moved to New York, where a son, Dean, was born soon. They remained there 15 years before moving to Greece—a climate they hoped might salve Louis’s emphysema—where they lived for three years in an Athens suburb (Sylvia still lives there).”

For Sylvia Contover, the past week has been a rush of memories. She relished them as she told this story, as if for the first time, as she stood at the University of San Diego, Minor League Player of the Year, NL Rookie of the Year, and now NL MVP. “That’s something that no other player in the history of the game has ever done. Looking at it from a dad’s point of view, there’s a tremendous amount of pride.”

The Cub’s victory parade through the streets of Chicago drew an estimated 5 million people. “Mike Bryant was able to ride along with Kris and share in the moment. It was the most emotionally moving thing I’ve ever experienced,” he says. “The sheer volume of people and the overflowing of emotion, it just stunned me.” While this was the biggest year of Chicago and the Cubs are now his favorite team, Mike Bryant says he’ll always have a place in his heart for the Red Sox and New England. “I always was a pilgrim,” says Bryant, who made a point to check out LeLacheur Park the last time he visited campus five years ago, “I would have loved to have played there. When we were playing Division 2, we were at Alumni Field, or at Hadley Park down past South Campus, or at the old field behind Costello Gym. I played with Mike LaWillie and those guys, and we had so much fun playing ball back then. But nowadays, no one appreciates the game for what it is.”

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“Positivity is what’s kept her alive so long. “Positivity makes everything,” she told a reporter last year. “I don’t want to die and go to heaven. I want to live on earth.” She is a nice-hearted person and椅 she’s had a lot of experience, focusing on contract management as well as the procure- ment of highway advertising. She has served as an overseer of countless road and bridge projects throughout the Commonwealth and has amassed over 10 years of asphalt management experience, focusing on contract review, planning and development. She is an advisory board member for the United Team Equality Center in her native Lowell.

In 1938, she turned 21 (the legal voting age at the time).”

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She lives today in Chelmsford, not far from her son, Dean, a retired social worker, who, she says, visits often. She was a member of the Lowell High class of 1936. All three brothers, as well as her sister, served in the military; she spent the war years in Rosie the Riveter mode as product inspector of Lowell’s Atlantic Parachute Company, ensuring that the allies’ parachutes landed safely. During these same years, through a mutual friend, she met her husband, Louis. The war over, they moved to New York, where a son, Dean, was born soon. They remained there 15 years before moving to Greece—a climate they hoped might salve Louis’s emphysema—where they lived for three years in an Athens suburb (Sylvia still lives there).”

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Running with Joann

On March 10, 1971, Paula and Charlie Coppola made the 24-mile drive from their home in Tewksbury to Boston’s Lying-In Hospital (now Brigham and Women’s) to deliver their twins, Andrea and Joann. “We found out at seven-and-a-half months that we were expecting twins,” says Paula. “This was before ultrasounds, so it was a big, happy surprise!”

It was the worst possible surprise when one of those twins committed suicide 43 years later.

The family was stunned by Joann’s death—there was no warning. “Those who take their life aren’t all on drugs, depressed or sick,” says Andrea. “They can seem like they are happy and normal, but really they’re hollow by loss. Joann’s condition was a callous thing to handle. She was laid back enough not to stress, but also great at making a deadline: If there was a due date on the 15th, it was done by the 10th.”

The twins continued their educational and professional career trajectories together after earning undergraduate and master’s degrees, working for two years at St. Joseph’s Hospital professional career trajectories together after earning undergraduate and master’s degrees, working for two years at St. Joseph’s Hospital, and moved to New Hampshire, where she joined the university as an adjunct professor of physical therapy. Paula and Charlie reached out to a friend from the Veterans Administration, and he suggested the Samaritans.

“We started going to a support group for people like us who’d lost someone they loved to suicide,” says Paula. “There, they found comfort. ‘It’s a club I never wanted to join,’ admits Andrea. “But these people understand in a way nobody else could, and that helped.”

Spurred to do more, Renee and Andrea signed up for the Samaritans 5K Run/Walk for Suicide Prevention. Word spread, and the throngs of friends and family members left hollow by loss joined the race, filling a bus from Tewksbury to Boston. “We raised six thousand dollars the first year,” says Andrea.

Andrea then took on a larger challenge. While she’d run marathons in the past, it had been 15 years since she last ran Boston. She wrote to the Samartians, asking to be considered for one of 14 Boston Marathon numbers issued by the organization each year.

In her application letter, Andrea wrote, “Joann and I talked about running Boston together one day. Now we will.” She got her number.

The day of the race arrived, and Andrea made her way to Hopkinson, with a necklace featuring a small framed photo of Joann around her neck that she wears still, touching it frequently when she relates stories of her sister.

Not only did Andrea complete the race – in 4:26:30—she more than doubled her fundraising goal, from $10,000 to more than $26,000.

“When I finished, I shared the moment silently with Joann,” says Andrea. “We had done it.”

Editor’s note: Visiting Prof. Andrea Coppola Mendes will run her second Boston Marathon in honor of her twin sister, Joann, in April. Help raise suicide awareness by contributing to her campaign for the Samaritans at https://www.crowdrise.com/SamaritansBoston2017/fundraiser/andreamendes.

Joann Coppola (this page, top, and shown with her twin sister, Andrea Coppola Mendes, in inset photo and at their University of Lowell as exercise physiology majors, graduating in 1983.

“We lived together in Concordia Hall, and made lots of friends,” says Andrea, who was a walk-on on the Chieftains women’s cross-country and track and field teams. One of those friends, Steve Twomey ’93, recalls those years with the twins. “The EP program is very demanding,” he says. “It requires teams of people to push each other through. My team included Andrea and Joann, and after more than 20 years in the field, I am still grateful for their friendship.”

While the twins shared many similarities, Twomey remembers differences, too. “I remember jokingly referring to Andrea as ‘Type A Andrea’—she was very driven to the task at hand,” he says. “Jo, on the other hand, always seemed to balance life and bring a calmness to things. She was laid back enough not to stress, but also great at meeting a deadline: If there was a due date on the 15th, it was done by the 10th.”

The twins continued their educational and professional career trajectories together after earning undergraduate and master’s degrees, working for two years at St. Joseph’s Hospital (now University Crossing) before earning doctoral degrees in 2004.

“Joann was in charge—she was my protector,” says Andrea. “She’d say, ‘We’re going to start running’ or ‘We’re going to study for such and such a test now.’”

Marriages followed, and a son, Luke, for Andrea and her husband. Things got busy, careers flourished, time passed, but this family always came back to the table in Tewksbury for birthdays, anniversaries and holidays.

“Joann always referred to wearing a hat and her trademark bright red lipstick with a bouquet of flowers for the table—usually sunflowers, which were her favorites,” says Andrea.

“She lit up a room,” adds Paula. Joann left her marriage after several years and moved to New Hampshire, where she was rehabilitation manager at Golden View Health Care in Meredith. Andrea stayed busy with her family and her own career, including a position with Holy Family Hospital, where she now works part time. She joined the university in 2011 as an adjunct professor of physical therapy; she’s been a visiting professor since 2013. Younger sister Renee became a special education teacher.

“I’m so proud of my girls,” says Charlie. “Each of them chose a profession where they give back and care for people.”

When Joann died, they were on the receiving end of this kindness. Neighbors, friends and most of Tewksbury reached out, hoping to help. The cards were arriving by the hundreds. The phone rang off the hook. Prayers were said. Hugs were offered. Casseroles were dropped off at the house.

“After a while, the mailman asked us what happened,” says Paula. After the wake and funeral, the initial shock wore off, leaving all of the Coppolas struggling to make sense of it. Paula and Charlie reached out to a friend from the Veterans Administration, and he suggested the Samaritans.

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“When I finished, I shared the moment silently with Joann,” says Andrea. “We had done it.”
L ast October, Lane achieved a personal goal: running a marathon in all 50 states. “It was a challenge, an endurance real push of my mental capabilities,” he says. After he crossed the finish line at the Loco Marathon in Newmarket, N.H., he connected with more than 100 family members, friends and fellow runners. Lane is also a “peak-bagger.” He completed the Appalachian Mountain Club’s White Mountain Four Thousand Footer list in 2011 by climbing 48 mountains over 4,000 feet—and he’s already bagged 30 peaks toward the Winter Four Thousand Footer badge.

He often runs or climbs with friends, but he also enjoys being alone. “Some of my favorite hikes are when I don’t see a single person,” he says. “It allows me to get into my own head, away from all the distractions.”

He wasn’t always a runner. Lane got his start in team sports, playing football, baseball and basketball at Matignon High School. He came to the University of Lowell after baseball Coach Jim Stone told him he could try out the university’s track team as a walker, and ended up planting for four years. He cherishes competition, teamwork and all the friends he’s made through sports. “Going out there, trying to do your best, winning and hanging out with great friends is a big part of my life,” he says.

Originally an undecidable liberal arts major, he soon switched to plastics engineering, not only for the job opportunities and good starting salaries, but because “plastics engineers seem to have projects that are more fun.”

While compiling the coursework for his major, he played intramural basketball, tennis and softball. But when school ended, so did most organized sports though he played basketball until age 21, and 23 when he began looking for a new challenge. He decided to “bucket” the Boston Marathon in 1988 and has been hooked on running ever since. “I enjoyed the challenge and the discipline, both physical and mental,” he says.

After running Boston for several years, he moved to Bloomington, Ind., for a job with Cook Medical. He soon found a local running group and began competing in marathons in nearby states. Along the way, Lane met the president of the St. Louis Marathon Club and set his sights on running in every state. “Everywhere I go, I’m doing my running shoes,” he says. His favorite marathon was the Bataan Memorial Death March at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. “It sang with patriotism.”

Lane’s ethic of individual effort and strong teamwork extends to his career. He worked with teams at Cook Medical, millions and startups on devices that help with heart valve repair, pacemaking, vascular access and closure and more. Now he’s head of Ingenes Medical, a consulting firm that helps doctors develop and commercialize new medical devices, and SafePath Medical, where he’s developing innovative suturing technologies.

He’s still on UMass Lowell’s team, too. SafePath operated out of the university’s MD20 medical device incubator before moving to Medfield, where Lane now lives. Lane typically has one at least UMass Lowell intern working for him, and hired engineering manager Brandon Rodriguez ’17 in January as the company’s first full-time employee. Lane chairs for the River Hawk men’s and women’s basketball teams, remains in touch with plastics engineering professors such as Stephen Driscoll, enjoys guest lecturing in biomaterials and medical device design and makes himself available to give career advice to individual students. He’s also supporting baseball Coach Ken Haning’s efforts to build the baseball alumni network.

“I enjoy making connections with people and connecting people with one another,” he says. “With there’s a good team, accomplishments follow.”

The Special Olympics are fine as far as they go,” he says. “But the gym space is never fully used. You can’t do any serious thinking, I know that. But there aren’t many things I’d rather think about.”

“We may try to get some nonprofits involved,” he says. “It’s going to take some endurance, experience. Those athletes deserve better.”

But he also says that the Special Olympics have been a positive experience for him and his family. “It’s been fun.”

Continue on P. 60
Grads Bring Expertise To Rehab Facility

Diane Crutcher '15 loves going to work every day. “The best part of my job is helping those who have sustained lifelong injuries get a second chance at life,” says Crutcher, a graduate of the exercise physiology program and team leader at Project Walk, a spinal cord recovery center in Boston, N.H.

Crutcher is one of three recent graduates who have been hired by Project Walk, a franchise owned by Jacqueline and Larry Arlen. The couple started the rehabilitation center after their daughter Victoria was paralyzed and learned to walk again with help from Project Walk in San Diego.

Derek Abschatz ‘15 works at Project Walk as a recovery specialist, designing customized exercise programs for each client. Courtney Jenkins ‘16 was hired as an aide until she takes the exams to become an assistant specialist.

“I couldn’t be happier with our three trainers who graduated from the UMass Lowell program,” says Jacqueline Arlen. “They are incredibly prepared and have hearts of gold, a big-time requirement, for sure.”

SAVE THE DATE: REUNION 2017!


CLASS NOTES

2010

David W. Koffman ‘10 (B.A.) and Lorendera Caruso Koffman ‘10 (B.B.A.) celebrated their wedding on June 18, 2016 with fellow alumni.

2011

David J. Godin ‘07 (M.S.) was hired in 2015 as a marketing coordination for a small education company that teaches children about designing, building and coding. He also married his longtime girlfriend in 2015.

Juliana A. Huert ‘11 (B.S.), ‘13 (M.A.), works for the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an associate medical officer. She will be developing the first national survey of hospital-based inpatient services.

Derek Mitchell ‘04, M.A. (M.Ed.), is the executive director of the Lawrence Public Library, which is a public/private sector collaboration for the economic development and general improvement of the city of Lawrence. Mitchell served in the Peace Corps in Nicaragua and has led organizations that assist at-risk youth, refugees and immigrants.

Adam R. McNichols ‘04 (B.A.), moved back to the East Coast after purchasing an isle and is expecting his first baby.

Daniel L. Warden ‘13 (B.B.A.) is a longtime girlfriend in 2015.

About designing, building and learning to walk again with help from Project Walk in San Diego.

Derek Abschatz ‘15 works at Project Walk as a recovery specialist, designing customized exercise programs for each client. Courtney Jenkins ‘16 was hired as an aide until she takes the exams to become an assistant specialist.

“I couldn’t be happier with our three trainers who graduated from the UMass Lowell program," says Jacqueline Arlen. “They are incredibly prepared and have hearts of gold, a big-time requirement, for sure.”

SAVE THE DATE: REUNION 2017!


IN MEMORIAM

1980 Peter F. Frangou
1981 James B. Bailey
1982 Martin V. Savo
1983 Keith P. Barden
1984 James A. Poli
1985 John C. Ricks
1986 Ludwig-Gunsio Sarnad
1987 Stephen O. Isaac
1988 Michael Chabuk
1989 Angela C. Prout-Denver
1990 Wilhem S. Guenth
1991 Anna D. Peterson
1992 Joseph D. McElory
1993 John M. Lyons
1994 Michael J. Kahnow
1995 David E. Amy
1996 Brian J. Dand
1997 Barbara S. Vorderh
1998 Thomas E. Roll
1999 Charles M. Zott
1999 Thomas J. O’Deely
2000 Warren J. Luft
2001 Mary T. Demers
2002 Amy P. Peeler
2002 Michael J. Saling
2003 Michael J. Saling
2003 Mary Teresa Tramonto
2012 Jasen Michael Posner
2012 Raymond G. Sera

RETIRED FACULTY/STAFF

2012 Raymond G. Soto
2009 Mary Teresa Tramonto
2008 Michael J. Keating
2007 Kimberly Ann Roberts
2006 Michael J. Keating
2005 Mary Teresa Tramonto
2012 Jasen Michael Posner
2012 Raymond G. Sera

What did you most enjoy about your college experience? Was it the camaraderie? Meeting others with similar interests? You can continue to enjoy these aspects of your college experience by serving on the Young Alumni Council.

The Young Alumni Council helps connect recent grads to the university through programs that interest them. Members have fun while building leadership skills that look great on their résumé.

Alumni aged 21-35 who graduated in the last 10 years are encouraged to apply at: www.uml.edu/youngalumnicouncil.
Homecoming 2016

1. Michelle Lawler ’15, assistant director of alumni engagement, and Daniel Cortely ’86 took over a yearbook during the Homecoming reunion celebration. Lawler was celebrating her 30th Reunion.

2. Greeks like alumni and friends gathered to reconnect and celebrate one another with River Hawk pride at the men’s ice hockey against St. Lawrence during Homecoming weekend. From left: Peter Escones ’15, Cassidy Foley and Kate Devine.

3. Head Track Coach Gary Gardner (left) reconnect and celebrate one another with Greek Life alumni and friends gathered to celebrate all of our retirees at the Retired Faculty and Staff Luncheon during the Celebration of Philanthropy. From left: Martha Hayden ’66, Linda Carpenter ’89 and Nancy Donahue ’13 (H) mingle at the annual Donahue ’13 Circle of Honor (the $5 million fundraising campaign goal of the University of Massachusetts Lowell), celebrating his 30th Reunion. Conley was joined by Kaylee Lima ’18 (far left) and Scott Yarrington ’18.

4. Linda Carpenter ’89 and Nancy Donahue ’13, left in the annual Celebration of Philanthropy, honoring UMass Lowell’s most generous donors. From left: Steve Barlow, President Emeritus Thomas Costello; and Margaret Costello, director of the academic budget.

5. Students enter Hawkeye Way, the pregame carnival of food, drink, music, family and entertainment, before the ice hockey game against Clarkson University. From left: Joe Pendenza ’92, Briannah Larsen ’18, President Emeritus Frank Spinola ’66, Mariam Taha ’18, Mary Jo Jones (front), Bobby McMahon ’05, Scott Lisi ’02 (front), John Sotirakos ’00, Mike Jarvis ’06, and Azar Louh ’00.

6. Former men’s ice hockey players enjoy the 17th annual Hockey Golf Outing at Four Oaks Country Club. From left: Joe Pendenza ’92, Connor Hellebuyck, Michael Fallon ’16 and Assistant Coach Cam Edmiston.

7. Professor Emeritus Thomas Costello and his wife Kaye Robinson ’78 were welcomed into the Circle of Honor (the $5 million fundraising campaign goal of the University of Massachusetts Lowell) celebrating his 30th Reunion. Costello was joined by his daughter, Carol Ogonowski (right), and her granddaughter, Cecilia Ogonowski (left), who joined by Kaylee Lima ’18 (far left) and Scott Yarrington ’18, the recipients of the John Ogonowski Memorial Scholarship Fund established by Theresa in memory of her son, Capt. John A. Ogonowski ’72.

8. Chris Rochette ’96, left of Professor Emeritus Dean Bergeron, celebrated the 50-year anniversary of the Model UN program and the creation of the Dean Bergeron and Joyce Denning Endowment.

9. The Celebration of Scholarship is an opportunity for scholarship recipients to meet the benefactors who make their scholarships possible. From top left: Alex DelTorto ’17, John Kilgo VI ’17, Jeanmerli Gonzalez ’19, Tara Desmarais ’20. From bottom left: William ’16, Kobe Golf ’18, Marcia O’Connor ’80, and Kay Lee ’18.

10. Michael Mazzoni ’11, Michael Reid ’11, Adam Dunbar ’11, ’14 and Jesus Tovar-Covarrubias ’11 celebrate their 5th reunion during Homecoming with Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Mary Connolly, along with other alumni, faculty and staff.

11. The Celebration of Scholarship is an opportunity for scholarship recipients to meet the benefactors who make their scholarships possible. From top left: Alex DelTorto ’17, John Kilgo VI ’17, Jeanmerli Gonzalez ’19, Tara Desmarais ’20. From bottom left: William ’16, Kobe Golf ’18, Marcia O’Connor ’80, and Kay Lee ’18.

12. Alumni and friends gathered for the Sigma Phi Omega Sixth Annual Golf Tournament at the Maritime Valley Golf Club. From left: Tony DeSousa, Tom Hamer ’11, Andy Parker, an attendees guest, Dena Jones (right), Bridby McMillan ’10, Scott Lisi ’02 (front), John Sotirakos ’00, Mike Jarvis ’06, and Azar Louh ’00.


14. Former men’s ice hockey players enjoy the 17th annual Hockey Golf Outing at Four Oaks Country Club. From left: Joe Pendenza ’92, Connor Hellebuyck, Michael Fallon ’16 and Assistant Coach Cam Edmiston.

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18. Former men’s ice hockey players enjoy the 17th annual Hockey Golf Outing at Four Oaks Country Club. From left: Joe Pendenza ’92, Connor Hellebuyck, Michael Fallon ’16 and Assistant Coach Cam Edmiston.

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21. Former men’s ice hockey players enjoy the 17th annual Hockey Golf Outing at Four Oaks Country Club. From left: Joe Pendenza ’92, Connor Hellebuyck, Michael Fallon ’16 and Assistant Coach Cam Edmiston.

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23. Alumni and friends gathered for the Sigma Phi Omega Sixth Annual Golf Tournament at the Maritime Valley Golf Club. From left: Tony DeSousa, Tom Hamer ’11, Andy Parker, an attendees guest, Dena Jones (right), Bridby McMillan ’10, Scott Lisi ’02 (front), John Sotirakos ’00, Mike Jarvis ’06, and Azar Louh ’00.
UML on Campus

ALUMNI EVENTS

YOUNG ALUMNI AND SENIOR MENTORING NIGHT
Tuesday, April 18, 6 p.m. – UMass Lowell Club, Boston
Cocktail
Join us soon-to-be new alumni and welcome them to the next step in the annual alumni gathering. Provide insight about life after graduation and open the door for new connections. 

ALUMNI SHOWCASE – A CAREER IN THE SCIENCES INDUSTRY
Wednesday, April 19, Lunch
Elisabeth Brackett ’94, graduate of the Physics degree program, will discuss her career path into becoming a senior health physicist. Senior internal dosimetrist at MJW Corp. Connect with students and share your own experiences and insights gained from graduating from UMass Lowell.

UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AWARDS
Thursday, April 20, 2:30 p.m. – UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center
$75 per alumni (graduates of 2006-2016) Some of Max’s closest mentors will be recognized during the 2017 University Alumni Awards ceremony, to recognize his distinguished service to the university, his profession and his community. The reception, dinner and awards presentation is one of the university’s signature events, designed to build excitement around giving back to UMass Lowell.

GEORGE DAVID INVITATIONAL MEET
Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. – Cushing Field Complex, 55 per person
Please join us on our honor for seniors from the George David Invitational. Meet and greet following a presentation to our seniors, we will have the future River Hawks 10km race for children 13 and under. The race will be held a few hours before the main running event. Info at: alumni.uml.edu/events/2017.

6th, 50th, AND GOLDEN ALUMNI REUNION
Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. – UMass Lowell
For the Classes of 1957 and 1967 and Golden Alumni, those that have previously celebrated their 50th reunion—wring up those old ties and make some new ones. Enjoy the afternoon watching the Red Sox take on the Angels in Anaheim during a campus tour, and enjoy opportunities to reunite with classmates.

ON THE ROAD: 18TH EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN’S BOWLING EVENT
Sunday, April 23, 10 a.m. – Four Oaks Country Club, Dracut
Alumni and friends participate in this tournament in support of the Sigma Phi Omicron fraternity.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS RECEPTION
Thursday, April 27, 6 p.m. – Larabe, UMass Lowell & Conference Center, Free
Join the winery owned by Cesar Artiselle ’88 and Amy Labello and cheers with River Hawks alumni and guests at the Chardonnay Inn. Enjoy a weekend getaway packed with music, entertainment and fun and festivities.

4. **Networking Night**
   - Tuesday, May 9, 5-8 p.m. – River Hawk Saloon
     - UMass Lowell Alumni
     - Free admission
     - Networking, system updates
     - All the UMass campuses for the greater Lowell Valley and beyond.

5. **Omega Chi Phi Omicron Fraternity Bowling Event**
   - Friday, Sept. 15, 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. – Four Oaks Country Club, Dracut
     - Alumni and friends participate in this tournament in support of the Sigma Phi Omicron fraternity.
     - Fun and more.

6. **Toni**
   - Embodies the same qualities as Toni, valuing service and community. With an inspiring line-up of student presenters, this year’s Toni event is designed to build excitement around giving back to UMass Lowell.
   - **Toni Recognition Day**
     - Tuesday, June 6, UMass Lowell
     - Free admission
     - Educational talks by current students, former classmates.
     - During a campus tour; and enjoy giving back to UMass Lowell.

7. **50th, 60th, and Golden Alumni Reunion**
   - Saturday, June 10, UMass Lowell
   - Free admission
   - Educational talks by current students, former classmates.
   - During a campus tour; and enjoy giving back to UMass Lowell.

8. **48-hour Donor Challenge**
   - April 25 & 26, Online
     - Explore the winery owned by Cesar Artiselle ’88 and Amy Labello and cheers with River Hawks alumni and guests at the Chardonnay Inn.
     - Explore a weekend getaway packed with music, entertainment and fun and festivities.

9. **UML on Campus**
   - Tuesday, April 18, 6 p.m. – UMass Lowell Club, Boston
     - Cocktails
     - Join the winery owned by Cesar Artiselle ’88 and Amy Labello and cheer with River Hawks alumni and guests at the Chardonnay Inn.
     - Enjoy a weekend getaway packed with music, entertainment and fun and festivities.

Events Calendar

For more information or to register for events, go to www.uml.edu/events, call 978-934-3140 or email alumni_office@uml.edu.
Some of UMass Lowell’s most eminent alumni will be recognized during the 19th annual University Alumni Awards for their distinguished service to the university, their profession and their community. This reception, dinner and awards ceremony is one of the university’s premier alumni recognition and achievement events. Join us!

Thursday, April 20, 5:30 p.m.
UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center
alumni.uml.edu/alumniawards2017

HONORING NOTABLE ALUMNI

Kennedy College of Sciences
Francis College of Engineering
College of Health Sciences

A Celebration of Invention and Ingenuity
April 28, 2017
The Tsongas Center 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. High school students and their families, parents, guidance counselors, college students and faculty members, industry partners, alumni and friends—people who want to be inspired by the innovations taking place at UMass Lowell—are invited to attend.

THE HONOREES ARE...

Norm Bazin ’94, ’99
Head Men’s Ice Hockey Coach, UMass Lowell
Graduate School of Education

Lorna Boucher ’86
Chief Marketing Officer, Instinet
Manning School of Business

Robert Bushong ’67
Founder, Bushong Industrials, Inc.
Athletics

James Costos ’85
College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

William C. Geary III ’80
Attorney, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
Francis College of Engineering

Emmanuel Lamour ’05, ’16
Program Manager, Raytheon
Young Alumnus Award

Russell LeClaire ’57, ’74
Vice President of Development, CA Technologies (retired)
Kennedy College of Sciences

Jerry St. Peter ’67
Vice President & Head, Ophthalmic Business, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.
College of Health Sciences

THEN...

Lowell Textile opened its doors in 1897 and, for the next 74 years, offered programs in cotton or wool manufacture, design, or textile chemistry and dyeing. Starting in 1903, vast workrooms like this one for the Cotton Yarn Department were housed in Southwick Hall, giving the growing student body the space and equipment necessary for hands-on experience in textiles. In 1953, President Martin Lydon expanded the curriculum to include programs in plastics, leather, paper and electronics technology, increasing the liberal arts and renamed the school the Lowell Technological Institute. He moved the Institute decisively toward general engineering, setting up a bachelor’s program in 1956. The textile program was closed in 1971.
The College of Engineering's MakerSpace continues to put tech tools in students' hands, enabling them to design, build and manufacture just about anything. Filling the entire ground floor of Falmouth Hall, the 8,500-square-foot MakerSpace feels less like a classroom and more like a high-tech design center, with 14-foot ceilings, dozens of lab benches and worktables, drop-down power and projection capabilities. Its glass-walled bays are equipped with advanced CNC machines, 3-D printers, laser cutters, PCB routers and a range of electronic and carpentry tools. The space is used by budding engineers to business students to those in the art department. But it's also a lure for future engineering students, who flock to campus for summer camps. And last year, dozens of middle- and high-school students—like Lowell High School student Emily Satterfield, shown here—spent six weeks in the MakerSpace, designing and building a robot for the international FIRST Robotics Competition.
HONORING EXCELLENCE
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017

THE TENTH ANNUAL TRIBUTE
to commitment and possibility

COMMENCEMENT EVE CELEBRATION

Join us the evening before Commencement
to celebrate the achievements of the year.
Honorary degree recipients, speakers,
distinguished alumni and talented students
are honored during this special annual event.

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017
5:30 - 9:00 P.M.
UNIVERSITY CROSSING

Tickets are available at:
UML.EDU/COMMENCEMENTEVE