

# UMass Lowell

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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Summer 2011

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*Learning with Purpose*

*A message from*

## **Chancellor Martin T. Meehan '78**

At UMass Lowell, we are building the future every day. We are constructing new buildings, hiring world-class faculty, enrolling more students than ever and breaking fundraising records. We are moving forward and getting noticed.

The steel girders of the Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center are in place and the buzz of workers and heavy equipment means construction is on track for a fall 2012 completion. (Check out progress on the web cam: <http://oxblue.com/pro/open/UML/ETIC.>)

Ground broke this spring for the new Health and Social Sciences Building on South Campus. There, too, workers and machinery are hard at work so that this academic facility will be ready for faculty and students in 2013. All looks quiet at University Crossing, the former St. Joseph's Hospital property the campus purchased this year, but don't be fooled. Exciting plans are being developed for a multi-million dollar renovation that will bring student services and activities, community programs, a centralized and expanded bookstore and student housing and dining to the facility.

Meanwhile, transformation is well under way at the facilities that became part of the campus over the past two years: the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center (the former Doubletree Hotel in Downtown Lowell), the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell (the former Tsongas Arena) and the UMass Lowell Bellegarde Boathouse.

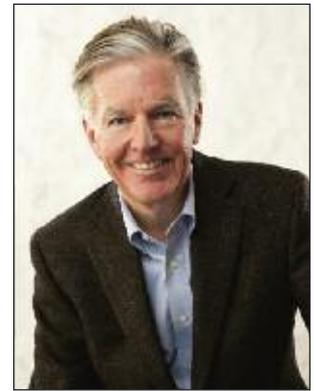
But the progress is not all bricks and mortar. The future was in grand evidence on May 28, when the campus graduated its largest class ever: more than 2,570 students received bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. These graduates will join a force of campus alumni that is now almost 75,000-strong.

One of them is Brian Dempsey '99 — who has risen to become the new chairman of the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee. Read in these pages what he has to say about his education here and the importance of UMass to the state.

Another is Rich Miner, '86, '89, '97, whom you may read about in this magazine. He is currently a partner at Google Ventures and credits UMass Lowell for preparing him for his work as an innovator, entrepreneur and a real "idea man."

You may also read about Paul '64 and Cheryl Vasey Katen '66, who have made the largest gift ever to the UMass Lowell library fund.

As I complete my fourth year on campus, I am enthusiastic about our progress and our prospects. I am grateful for the contributions of everyone in the UMass Lowell community. With your help, we'll keep building a promising future for our students, our state and the globe.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Marty Meehan'.

Marty Meehan '78  
Chancellor

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# UMass Lowell

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2

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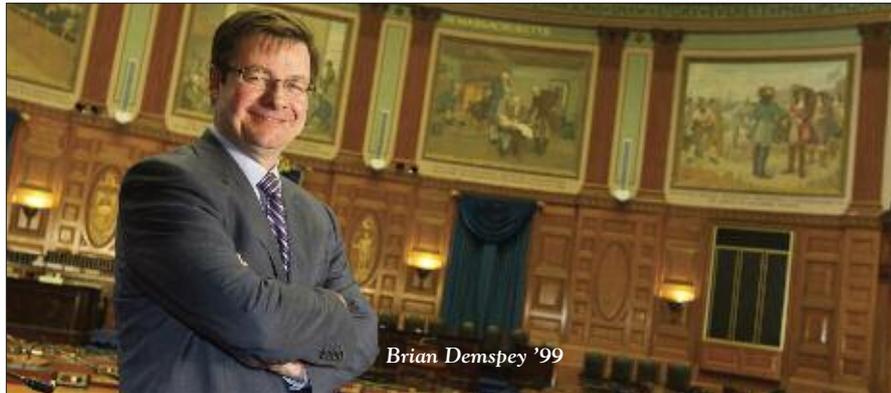


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**Editor's Note**  
Please send comments to Editor Sarah McAdams at Sarah\_McAdams@uml.edu. Submit class notes to: Class Notes Editor, Southwick 250, 1 University Ave., 01854 or online at [www.uml.edu/advancement/classnotes](http://www.uml.edu/advancement/classnotes).

# Campus Life

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*Student skydivers made a thrilling jump over Orange, Mass., in April, as part of an outing with the University's Outdoor Adventure Program.*



## MONSTER QUAKES: ARE WE AT RISK?

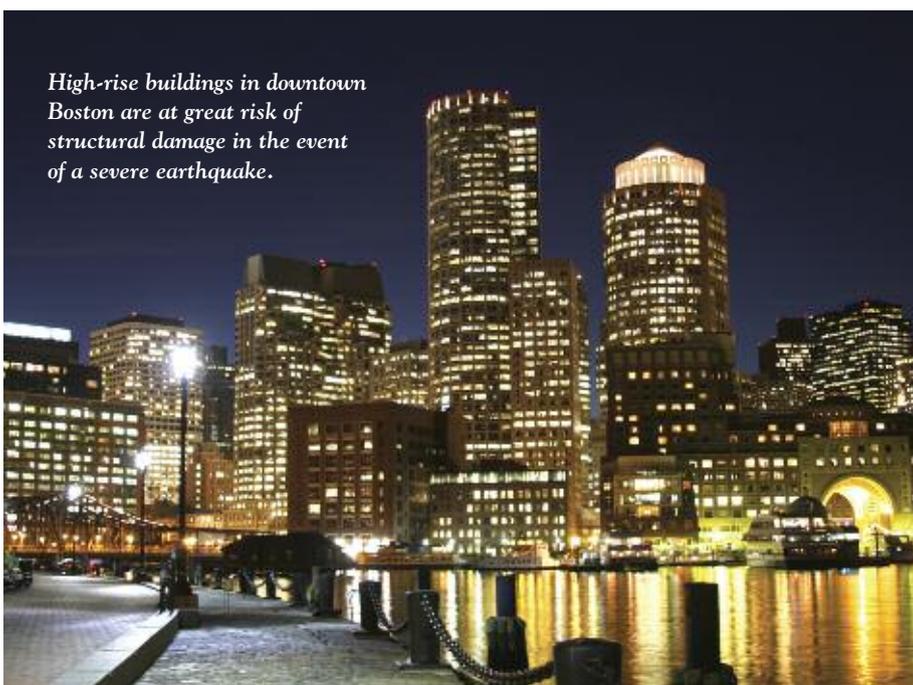
The magnitude 9.0 earthquake that rocked the northeastern coast of Japan on March 11 unleashed deadly tsunami waves that wiped out entire villages. What are the chances of such a devastating earthquake happening right here in New England?

“Nobody knows for sure,” says Prof. Arnold O’Brien of the Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department. “Unlike on the West Coast, earthquakes happen so infrequently here in the Northeast that they are more difficult to predict. Our historical records date back only to the 1600s and they are very sketchy.”

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the last time New England experienced a series of major seismic events was in the 1700s. The region’s most powerful temblor to date took place on Nov. 18, 1755, in the Cape Ann region east of Newbury. In Boston, chimneys were leveled or heavily damaged, and stone fences were knocked down. New springs formed, and old springs dried up. Ground cracks were reported in Scituate, Pembroke and Lancaster, and the shaking was felt from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Chesapeake Bay in Maryland.

Today there is a fault zone — called the Clinton–Newbury Fault — that runs about a mile south of UMass Lowell’s North Campus close to Route 110 in Lowell, and continues through Drum Hill and Westford, O’Brien says. It’s an ancient “suture” that was created during the Paleozoic era about 250 million to 450 million years ago, he says, when an island mass collided with the North American tectonic plate and was dragged underneath it.

Compared to the San Andreas Fault in western North America, which is the most heavily studied and monitored fault on the continent and where ground movement is



*High-rise buildings in downtown Boston are at great risk of structural damage in the event of a severe earthquake.*

so evident, the Clinton–Newbury Fault is not very well investigated. However, O’Brien says there has not been any significant seismic activity in the Clinton–Newbury Fault and he doesn’t expect any in the foreseeable future.

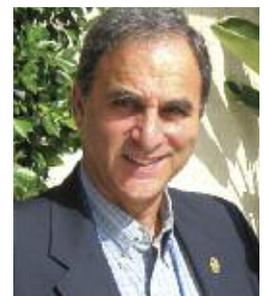
That’s a good thing — because according to civil engineering Asst. Prof. Tzu-Yang Yu, “Here in New England, new buildings need only to meet the minimum level of seismic resistance in their design. This is based largely on the site’s characteristics and the seismic history of the region.”

A severe earthquake here would create “unimaginable” devastation, Yu says: “Buildings 10 stories or higher that were built to the current standard would be subject to considerable structural damage. Walls would crack and the buildings would sink or tilt, though not necessarily collapse.”

### UNIVERSITY NUCLEAR ENERGY EXPERT IN DEMAND

As reporters, elected officials and pundits scrambled to understand what was happening at the damaged nuclear power plants in Japan, many of them turned to UMass Lowell’s Gil Brown. The nuclear engineering professor was interviewed by media outlets from across the country, including Time magazine and the Washington Post.

“We need to demystify the nuclear power process and be cautious” about making sweeping statements, says Brown. “The situation is a moving target — it’s the middle of the storm — and too soon to draw conclusions about lessons learned.”



*Gil Brown*

He points out, however, that the Japanese plants survived an earthquake far beyond their designed limits. The reactors shut down power production exactly as they should, bringing the core temperatures down dramatically. But the tsunami waves overtopped the 20-foot seawall, damaging the emergency generator system that would be used to circulate cooling water over the still-hot fuel rods.

“The Japanese are doing what they can to contain the radioactivity, using the emergency procedures that are known and rehearsed,” says Brown. Calling the technique “bleed and feed,” he draws the analogy of a tea kettle on a heat source: As heat builds up, steam can be vented off at the top, so that more water can be added.

Pointing out that every U.S. plant is likely now checking its own design tolerances, emergency procedures and ability to operate under blackout conditions, Brown says, “It’s time to review and reflect, not time to panic. Plants that were safe last week are safe this week.”

## TERRORISM EXPERT JOINS FACULTY

James Forest, one of the country's most esteemed terrorism and national security experts, recently joined the Criminal Justice and Criminology Department. As security issues absorb more of America's attention and resources than ever before, UMass Lowell is expanding its program in homeland security.

Prof. Forest's research has helped bring the making of a terrorist into better focus, debunking some long-held ideas and digging deeper into causes and effects of not only terrorism, but anti-terrorism efforts.

The subject became important to Forest on Sept. 11, 2001, when his academic career took a sharp turn. With a Ph.D. in higher education administration, he was the assistant dean for academic assessment at West Point.

"I was conducting research on teaching and



James Forest

learning," says Forest. "After Sept. 11, I wondered, 'How do people learn to be terrorists and how are they taught?' At the time, very little research had been done in this area."

Forest became director of Terrorism Studies at West Point and conducted research initiatives and education programs for its Combating Terrorism Center. With top security clearance, he accessed important source materials – such as captured training materials, even individual terrorism students' note-



As director of Terrorism Studies at West Point, Prof. James Forest had access to terrorist training materials.

books – and delved into understanding the learning process.

His first book, which was followed by eight more dealing with critical security issues, was "The Making of a Terrorist: Recruitment, Training and Root Causes."

In addition to his teaching and research at UMass Lowell, Forest maintains his top secret clearance by serving as a senior fellow with the Joint Special Operations University.

### M2D2 START-UPS RAISE \$5 MILLION

Four start-up medical device companies have raised more than \$5 million in private funding since they became associated with the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2), the UMass Lowell-UMass Medical School initiative charged with bridging the gap between the invention and production of new medical devices.

The four received "FastLane" grants as part of an M2D2 program that helps companies progress to the stage where they can secure external investment. The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's John Adams Innovation Institute (JAII) funded the program.

The four companies raised \$5,055,000 in private funds, for a 10 to 1 return on investment from the JAII \$500,000 award. They are: MoMelan (for a device that stretches skin for improved skin grafting), Thera-Torr (for an ultra low-pressure air mattress designed to prevent bed sores), MedicaMetrix (for a device to improve prostate cancer screening) and Aura Medsystems (for a light-based platform for sealing wounds).

### UMASS LOWELL LEADS REGION IN GRAD RATES

A recent report by the Chronicle of Higher Education found that UMass Lowell had the largest increase in graduation rates for students from 2003 to 2008 among public research institutions in the region.

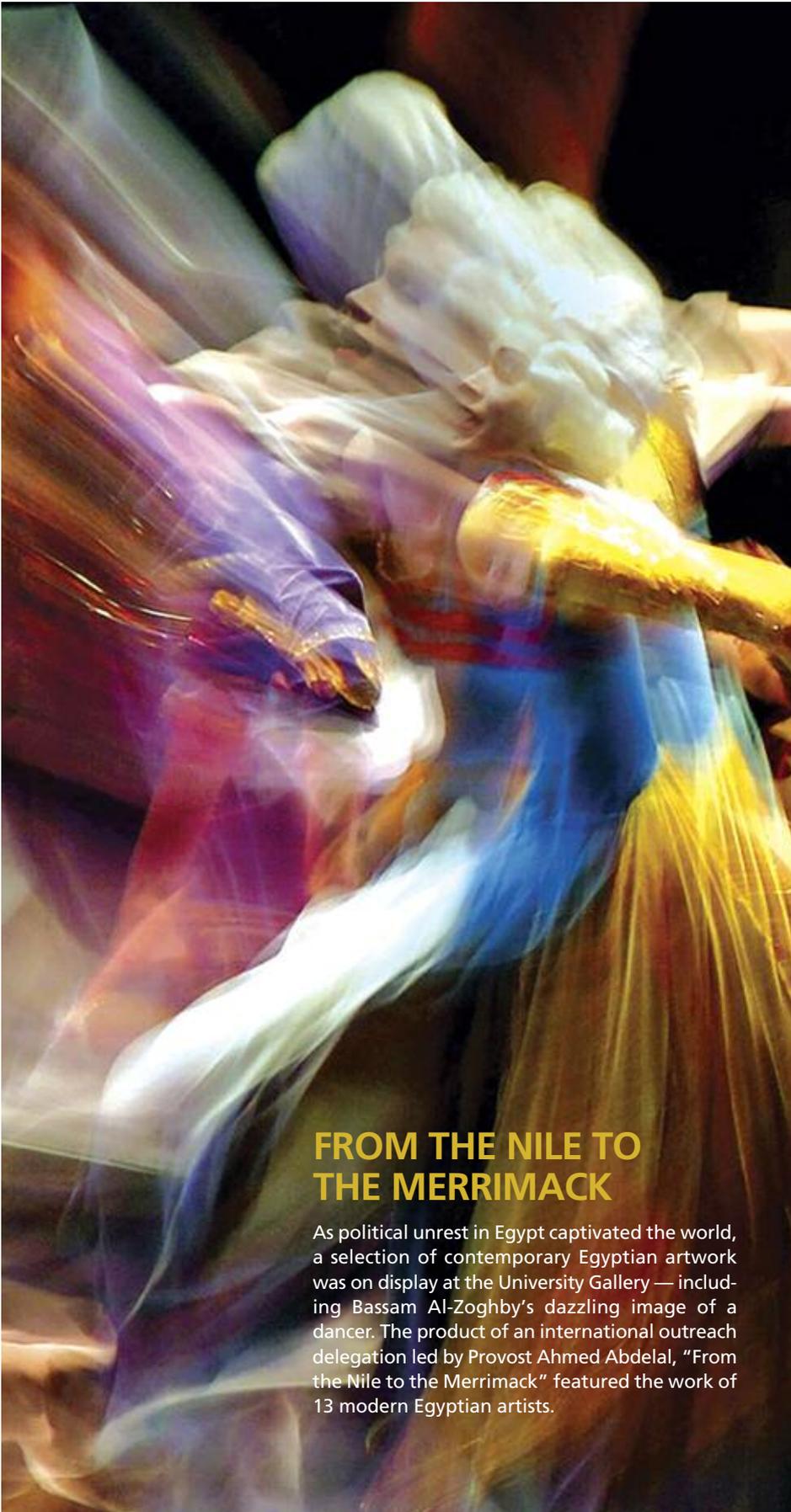
The increase also placed UMass Lowell at No. 24 in the nation among more than 150 colleges and universities included in the report.

The University has had the largest number of graduates in its history at its last three Commencement ceremonies.

## GUITAR HERO ENTERTAINS CAMPUS

Renowned classical guitarist Eliot Fisk was joined on stage by UMass Lowell guitar students during a standing-room-only recital he gave as part of the Music on the Merrimack series run by faculty member Bonnie Anderson.





## FROM THE NILE TO THE MERRIMACK

As political unrest in Egypt captivated the world, a selection of contemporary Egyptian artwork was on display at the University Gallery — including Bassam Al-Zoghby's dazzling image of a dancer. The product of an international outreach delegation led by Provost Ahmed Abdelal, "From the Nile to the Merrimack" featured the work of 13 modern Egyptian artists.

## STUDENTS STUDY ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ANKARA

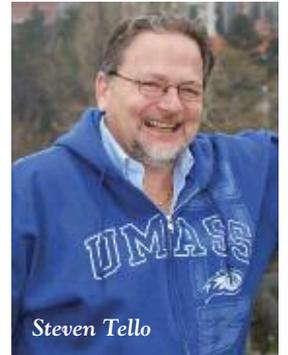
College of Management Prof. Steven Tello and five students spent two weeks in Turkey in January, as part of a collaboration with Bilkent University in Ankara.

Tello and his counterpart at Bilkent created a course called Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which examined innovation and entrepreneurship in Turkey.

"We in America need to look at how to grow and create new businesses with international partners and for international markets," Tello says. "It's important to understand how other countries support entrepreneurship and what the life cycle of a new business looks like in other places."

In addition to meeting for their own discussions, the group attended a session of case-study presentations by students in a Bilkent entrepreneurship class and met with several entrepreneurs who have technology startup companies in various stages of development.

"Most of our students have jobs," says Tello.



Steven Tello

"They make connections between concepts and their application, so they were able to be very helpful in discussions about taking fledgling businesses to the next level. I was proud of them."

The time was right to create an exchange course like this one, says Tello. The College of Management introduced the undergraduate concentration in entrepreneurship in 2007 and the Masters of Science in Innovation and Technological Entrepreneurship program in 2009, and both are attracting growing numbers of students. A concentration in international business was added more recently.



Management students Steven Johnian, back left, and Chris Foster, front, arrive in Turkey.

## (BARNEY) FRANK TALK

Students in the advanced political science class, “The Congress,” had a unique opportunity on March 4: to hear from and query U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, who has served 30 years in Congress. Chancellor Marty Meehan, who himself served 14 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, teaches the class, along with Patricia Talty, an attorney and adjunct member of the faculty.

Frank, who has served the 4th Congressional District since 1981, bemoaned the hardening of partisanship, saying, “This [Republican Party] is the most ideologically cohesive, disciplined party in American history and it’s prompting a similar stance from the Democrats.



Barney Frank

Ideological issues are trumping institutional issues.”

The partisan divide is now reinforced across the country, said Frank, because the “media function as two parallel universes,” with fewer and fewer people watching the same national broadcasts. People are working with completely different sets of information, he argued—and as a result, each side genuinely believes it’s a majority in the country.



The Francis Cabot Lowell Alumni Awards & Honors Fellows Gala recently honored community and alumni fellows who embody the values and accomplishments of the city of Lowell’s namesake. Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney, far left, and Chancellor Marty Meehan, far right, are joined by honorees, from left: Sean P. Garballey ’07, Massachusetts state representative; Eamonn Hobbs ’80, president and CEO of Delcath Systems; Susan Pasquale ’75, director of curriculum & faculty development in the Office of Medical Education at UMass Medical School; Henry Ferrini, filmmaker; David Wegman, professor emeritus and former dean; Anne Mulvey, professor of psychology; and Gerald G. Colella ’78, vice president and chief operating officer for MKS Instruments.

## UMASS LOWELL PUMPS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO CITY

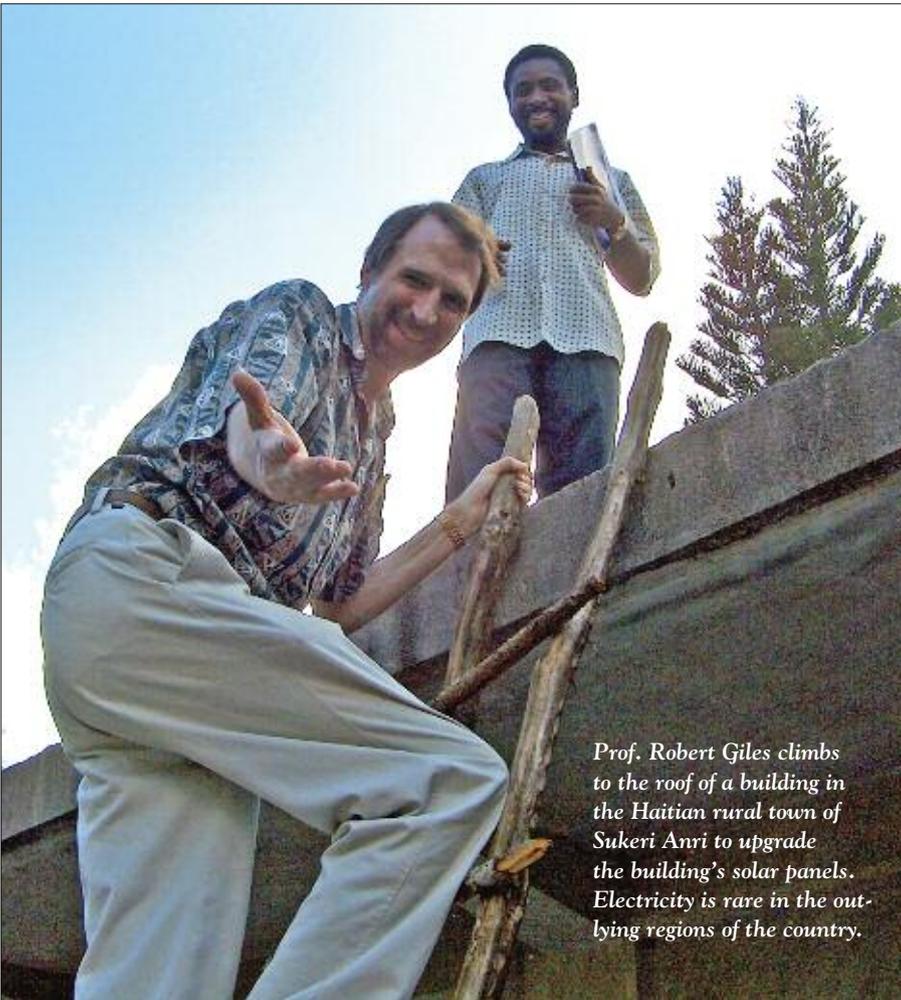
The University’s students, faculty and staff provide a significant stimulus to the city’s downtown economy, representing a potential \$10 million in annual spending in Lowell, according to research released by the Lowell Plan Inc. and UMass Lowell.

“The data reveal a high level of interaction between University students, faculty and staff, and downtown businesses and organizations, which is very encouraging,” says Jim Cook, executive director of the Lowell Plan.

To read the full report, visit [www.uml.edu/downtown-report](http://www.uml.edu/downtown-report).



Downtown Lowell surges with energy during the annual Lowell Folk Festival.



*Prof. Robert Giles climbs to the roof of a building in the Haitian rural town of Sukeri Anri to upgrade the building's solar panels. Electricity is rare in the outlying regions of the country.*

## PROFESSOR ON HAITI: 'A FOURTH-WORLD COUNTRY WITH FIRST-WORLD POSSIBILITIES'

University Professor Robert Giles, chair of the Physics and Applied Physics Department, is walking the walk when it comes to promoting science education and cutting-edge research both here at UMass Lowell and abroad.

Giles has been leading an effort to initiate a development studies research team in Haiti since 2001, and visited Port-au-Prince in January, a year after the devastating earthquake there.

"The pictures depict a distressed, impoverished country beyond self-repair," he says. "But it's a society, culture and people that I have grown to love. I travel to Haiti to develop a first-hand relationship and understanding of the country. A fourth-world country by International Banking System standards, I believe Haiti has first-world possibilities by virtue of its geographical location in the Caribbean."

Giles has been encouraging Haitian high-school students to explore their academic abilities and opportunities in higher education through the use of introductory college-level science curricula. He has also been submitting proposals to funding agencies in an effort to establish this project team as a research center at UMass Lowell.

"Once I was told by a missionary that 'you must stand where they stand and sit where they sit to understand the poor in this world,'" he says. "Now having the privilege of many 10-day visits to Haiti, my Haitian friends, journeys and stories create a foundation of experience that has changed my life to its core."

Giles was named UMass Lowell's University Professor in May 2010. He was recognized, in particular, for his work as director and principal investigator at UMass Lowell's Submillimeter-Wave Technology Laboratory. The lab, which recently received a five-year, \$27 million renewal grant from the U.S. Army's National Ground Intelligence Center, is leading the way in developing transmitter and receiver technologies in the areas of military surveillance, homeland security and medical diagnostics.

His latest research involves the use of high-frequency microwaves to "see through" clothing to reveal any hidden weapons or explosives; a portable radar system that allows soldiers in the field to tell whether an activity is friendly or hostile; and a safe, non-invasive technique for detecting different types of human skin cancers.



*Prof. David Lewis, right, and daughter Brittany*

### PROFESSOR SPENDS WINTER BREAK HELPING IN HAITI

David Lewis, a professor in the College of Management, spent a week in January engaged in tasks like stripping metal from shattered concrete, comforting babies in an orphanage and building giant filters to create potable water.

Lewis and his 22-year-old daughter, Brittany, were volunteers with All Hands, a grassroots relief organization whose members have spent the last year working to help Haiti recover from the destruction left behind by a 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck on Jan. 12, 2010. That quake and the more than 50 aftershocks that followed over the next two weeks killed an estimated 300,000 citizens, injuring hundreds of thousands of others and leaving more than 1 million people homeless.

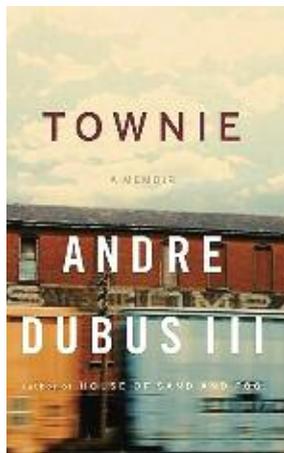
The Lewises traveled through the heart of Port-au-Prince en route to Leogane, seeing in person some of the most dramatic images of the damage they had seen on TV: the National Palace, the Port-au-Prince Cathedral and the National Assembly, all in ruins. "It was just like you were in the news," says Lewis. "It was shocking."

## DUBUS BOOK A 'SLEEK MUSCLE CAR OF A MEMOIR'

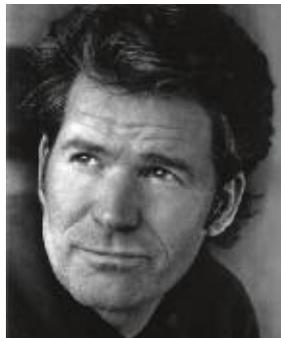
The New York Times called Asst. Prof. Andre Dubus III's recently published "Townie" a "sleek muscle car of a memoir." Vanity Fair says it "pays off on every bet that's been placed on him." And that's just the beginning: raves have poured in from all corners, including from The New Yorker, The Wall Street Journal, The Miami Herald, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Washington Post, USA Today, The Boston Globe and O Magazine.

At this magazine's print time, "Townie" was No. 4 on The New York Times bestseller list.

But the book didn't come easily. Dubus says he spent 20 years trying to work his hardscrabble Haverhill upbringing into a fictional account. He tried to capture the people and time through characters, only to hit the wall. The project languished. Then, one day, at the construction site of the home he was building with his brother, Jeb, some laborers were talking baseball.



*Andre Dubus III's memoir reached No. 4 on The New York Times bestseller list.*



*Andre Dubus III*

"I realized that Jeb and I didn't know anything about baseball. Or football. And it got me thinking. How did two teenage boys grow up outside of Boston and know nothing of sports?" says Dubus. "I decided to write an essay about it."

The essay quickly morphed into the bigger story of Dubus' life – the pain of his parents' breakup, the slide to deep financial straits – all against the backdrop of his life on the wrong side of Haverhill. When he first attempted a memoir, he kept it mostly to his experiences, excluding details about much of his family. It didn't work.

"I needed my family to tell my story – I didn't grow up alone. But it's one thing to make myself naked to the public, and another to expose them," he says. Dubus asked his three siblings for permission to tell their stories, and they all assented.

The result is Dubus' first non-fiction work, which follows the publication of "House of Sand and Fog" (a National Book Award finalist that became a movie starring Ben Kingsley and Jennifer Connelly) and the New York Times bestseller "The Garden of Last Days."

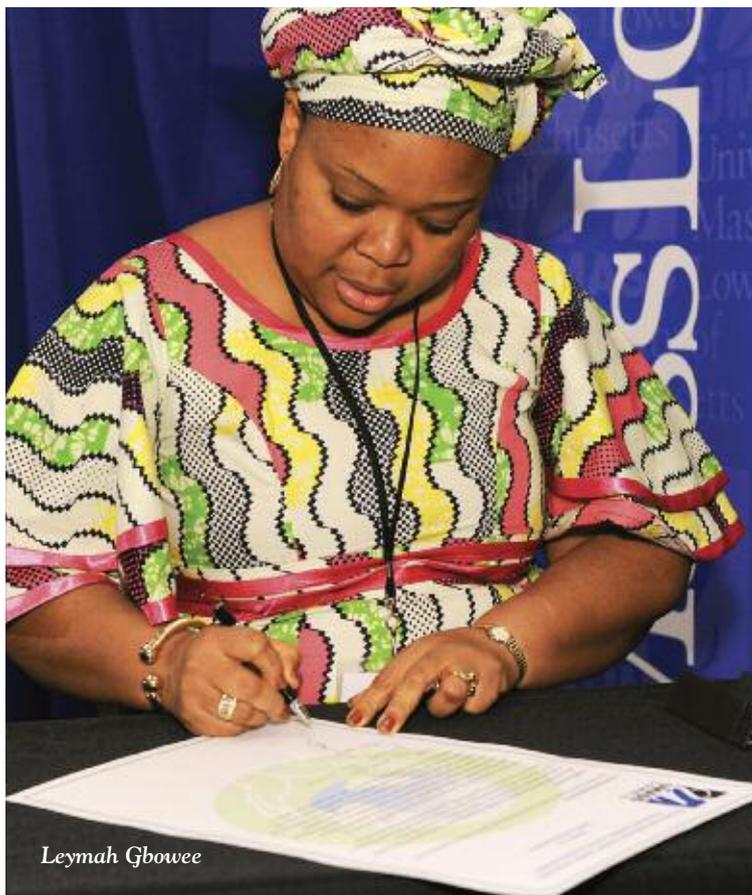
### 8 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ANDRE DUBUS III

- He was once a bounty hunter in Mexico, charged with finding a contract killer. "My efforts were unsuccessful – thank God," he says.
- He trained for Lowell's Golden Gloves, where he nurtured a solid, rare, knock-out punch at the Lynn Boys Club under fighter Tony Pavone.
- He pursued a Ph.D. in Marxist Social Science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He quit four days after starting the program, and began writing.
- He is Andre Dubus III – his namesakes include his famous writer father, and his grandfather – the first Andre – who was a surveyor for Gulf State Utilities Co. in Southern Louisiana. He and his wife, Fontaine, decided not to perpetuate the name with an Andre Dubus IV because, "Kids need their own name!"
- His last name is pronounced "Deh-Byoose." The decidedly un-French- sounding name has Louisiana roots.
- He occasionally wakes up bolt upright in a cold sweat, asking himself, "What have I done?" in pondering the memoir's unbridled, honest look into his life.
- He is a self-professed "gadget hater." He frowns upon cell phone use, Facebook and computers, writing his prose by hand, with a pencil sharpened with a razor knife.
- When asked if he has ever felt uncomfortable about one of his published works, he answers simply, "Always—every single time."



### MARKING A DECADE OF MUSIC

The UMass Lowell String Project – which makes music instruction accessible to local schoolchildren and provides valuable teaching experience to UMass Lowell students – marked its 10th anniversary recently with a benefit concert featuring the award-winning Harlem Quartet.



Leymah Gbowee

## 'WE WILL NOT RELENT UNTIL PEACE PREVAILS'

2011 GREELEY SCHOLAR  
CHAMPIONS PEACE IN LIBERIA

If ever there was a moment that the continent of Africa was in need of a vision of peace, that moment is certainly now. And if ever there was a vision that the continent could embrace – as one African nation has embraced it already – it may be Leymah Gbowee's.

Gbowee, this year's UMass Lowell Greeley Scholar for Peace Studies, is Liberian, born in that country in 1972. One day in 2003, as she tells it, with her country in the throes of a vicious civil war, she had a dream – "a crazy dream" – in which someone came to her to urge that she organize the women of her church in a prayer for peace.

It was indeed a crazy dream. The war, Liberia's second civil war inside of 20 years, had been going on nearly half a decade. The country's president, Charles Taylor, was waging a brutal campaign against an army of insurgents; before it was over, 150,000 lives would be lost. Rape was commonplace, starvation was nearly epidemic. The country was in misery. There seemed no end in sight.

It was against this backdrop that Leymah Gbowee, answering the mission she had been called to, began her prayer groups. The first ones took place at her Lutheran church in Monrovia, the nation's capital; from there, in response to a broadcast over a Catholic radio station, they spread to an open-air fish market in the city, at which Gbowee's women showed up day after day, in mounting numbers, to pray and sing and

wave signs. And from there the movement spread outward: all women, tens of thousands strong, Muslim as well as Christian, in churches, mosques and city streets. In the summer of 2003, they issued a proclamation:

"In the past we were silent. But after being killed, raped, dehumanized, infected with diseases and watching our children and families destroyed, war has taught us that the future lies in saying NO to violence and YES to peace. We will not relent until peace prevails."

Across the country, sympathy for the women grew stronger. The president, faced with eroding support, agreed to peace talks, to take place in Ghana. When the talks threatened to stall, Gbowee's women's army staged a sit-in outside the Presidential Palace, blocking all egress until a resolution was reached. The president resigned, and went into exile. (He would later be charged with crimes against humanity; his trial, in the Hague, is now in its fourth year.) A transitional government was formed. Two years later, in November 2005, in a runoff following the country's general election, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first female head of state on the African continent, was elected president. She remains in office today. And Liberia remains largely peaceful.

For her part in all this, Leymah Gbowee has been awarded the 2007 Blue Ribbon for Peace from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, the 2009 Profiles in Courage Award from Boston's Kennedy Library and a host of other honors.

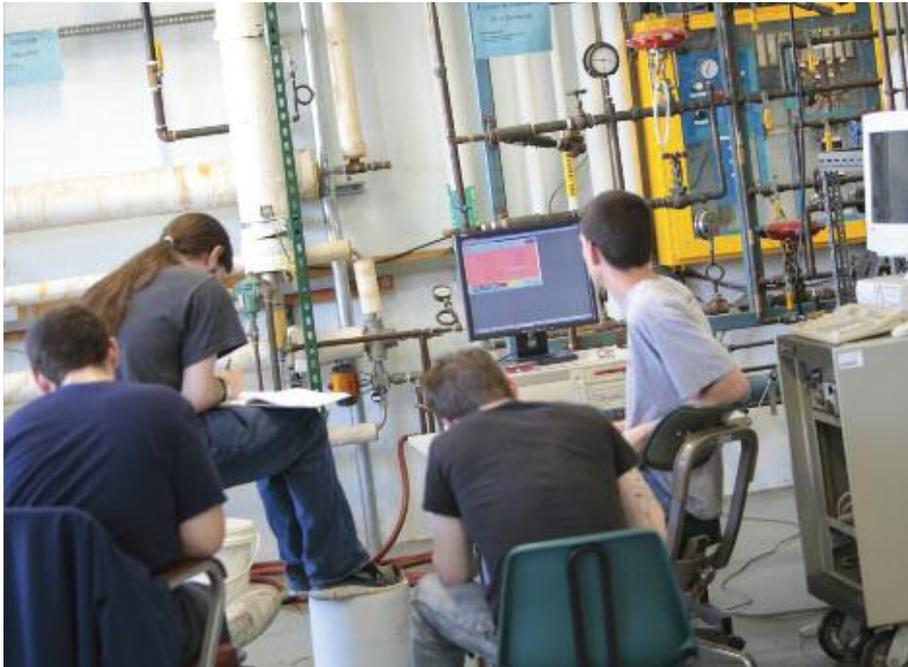
In April of this year, in the wake of a winter and early spring of historic upheaval across the African continent – people's uprisings, with varying outcomes, in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain and the Ivory Coast – Gbowee was on campus for three weeks to accept the Greeley Award, meet with students and faculty and speak with community groups.

In early April, speaking at a UMass Lowell Day Without Violence event, she addressed the issue of the world's perception of Africa, which she said was home to "sound people" who should be included on an equal basis in peace talks, rather than judged by the corruption or brutality of a small number of dictatorial leaders. "If world leaders would negotiate with African leaders as equals, that would be a change," she said. "There are good African leaders, but no one wants to listen to them."

A week later, at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, Gbowee was among the delegates to a "Women's Summit" of international leaders: social, political and economic pacesetters from nearly a dozen countries, who came together with the common goal of creating non-violent solutions to conflict. It was there that a screening of the award-winning documentary, "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" – about Gbowee and her army of praying, singing Liberian women and the wonders they wrought – was screened before an audience of students, faculty and the public. It is a film, wrote Bob Herbert in the *New York Times* two years ago, that "reminds us of the incredible power available to the most ordinary of people if they are willing to act with courage and unwavering commitment."

Each year, the Greeley Scholar Program honors a distinguished advocate for peace, noted humanitarian or faith leader. Funded by the Greeley Endowment for Peace Studies and established with a major gift from the Dana McLean Greeley Foundation for Peace and Social Justice of Concord and a matching contribution from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the UMass Foundation, it is named for an internationally respected human-rights advocate and long-time Unitarian Universalist minister in Concord.

Leymah Gbowee is the fourth annual Greeley honoree.



## DESHPANDE FOUNDATION JUMP-STARTS INNOVATION WITH \$5 MILLION

Sometimes the next big idea just needs a jump-start, turning today's students into tomorrow's entrepreneurs.

That's why the Deshpande Foundation will provide \$5 million to the Merrimack Valley Sandbox, one of only three initiatives of its kind in the world, supporting the new Merrimack Valley Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UMass Lowell.

Budding business leaders at UMass Lowell will soon have access to leadership training and seed funding that will help get their ideas off the ground - all right on campus. The Center will also launch programs to train young professionals in the non-profit sector, offer existing companies capacity building support and incubate startups in Lowell and Lawrence, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship across the entire Merrimack Valley.

"This new center will be an idea generator that taps the imagination, idealism and capacity to solve problems with some of the best minds in the region," says UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan. "Students will partner with experienced leaders in business and nonprofits, as well as educators at the partnering institutions to address social challenges and spark new economic development. The entire Merrimack Valley will benefit."

The Merrimack Valley Sandbox will coordinate activities between the University and colleges, local non-profits and the business community, encouraging entrepreneurship among college students, young professionals, displaced workers, experienced professionals and existing companies. In addition to its \$5 million, the Deshpande Foundation hopes to raise another \$10 million from outside funders to supplement funding in the region.

Partners in the Sandbox include the Deshpande Foundation, the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Middlesex Community College, Northern Essex Community College, Merrimack College, Teach For America and other local non-profit organizations.

"Innovation and entrepreneurship are the drivers of our economic development, and we look forward to working with the leaders in the Merrimack Valley to boost the innovation ecosystem," said Gururaj "Desh" Deshpande, chairman of the foundation and

a successful high-tech entrepreneur who is chairman of Watertown-based A123 Systems and founder of Sycamore Networks, headquartered in Chelmsford. Deshpande serves as co-chairman of President Barack Obama's National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

### EDUCATION STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

"Jonathan is his name and he says he doesn't like math."

That was how Graduate School of Education (GSE) student Alicia Arzuaga was introduced to the Lowell public school student who would become her tutee. "I raised my hand [and said], 'I will tutor him,'" Arzuaga says. "That is the student I want to reach."

Arzuaga is one of about 25 GSE students in Asst. Prof. Elizabeth Bifuh-Ambe's Teaching Reading in the Content Areas course - all of whom have been spending Tuesday afternoons tutoring middle- and high-school students at Christ Jubilee International Ministries (CJIM) in Lowell.

"I had been aware of some of the challenges that some immigrant students of African origin were facing in public schools in Lowell," says Bifuh-Ambe. "Christ Jubilee International Ministries had started an initiative to find solutions to the educational problems of some of the children of its diverse membership. However, CJIM lacked the financial and human resources necessary to achieve their goals."

Through a UMass Lowell Service Learning grant, Bifuh-Ambe infused a service-learning component into the course. The graduate students spend four weeks tutoring students from fifth through 12th grades in reading, math, science, social studies and other school disciplines.

It's made a big difference for both the graduate students and their younger tutees.

"During our last tutoring session, Jonathan said 'man this is easy now, thanks to you; I should pay you!'" Arzuaga recalls. "I think as teachers, we all look to hear these words, but we need to remember that it is not so much what we teach our students but how we coach them that matters."



UMass Lowell's Alicia Arzuaga works with a Lowell middle-schooler named Jonathan.



*Peter Murray rides a wave in Rye, N.H.*

## STUDENTS SURF, SKI AND SKYDIVE

Surfing. Ice climbing. White-water rafting. Skiing. Kayaking. Rock climbing. Skydiving. Watching the sun rise from the peak of a mountain.

Sounds more like scenes from a Patagonia catalog than from a UMass Lowell student's day-to-day life. But thanks to the University's Outdoor Adventure Program, all of those activities are available to students at little cost.

This year, the University also began offering trips to national parks. Over Columbus Day weekend, guides took 10 students to Acadia National Park in Maine for a three-day camping trip. During Spring Break, a group of 11 tackled the Grand Canyon.

More than 500 UMass Lowell students take part in the program, which is the most extensive in the five-campus system, says Peter Murray, director of Campus Recreation.

The cost to students ranges from \$5 to \$500, the latter covering larger trips like the one to the Grand Canyon. In most cases, however, students don't have to travel far to take advantage of amazing natural wonders.

"Lowell is centrally located in New England, which allows easy access to some of the best natural resources," Murray says, adding that his team runs trips in all six New England States.

Patrick O'Connell, a senior majoring in business administration, has participated in an overnight backpacking trip, two white-water rafting trips and one winter hike.

"When pushed to your limits, exposed to stressful situations and accomplishing great feats, you get to see people in their truest form," O'Connell says. "You learn how they overcome hardship and how they appreciate

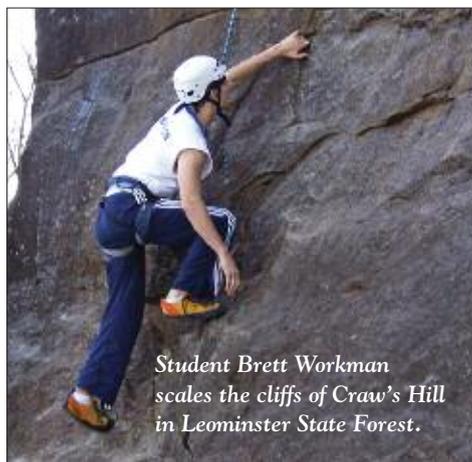
their victories. I've left each trip with new friends and better understanding of how I handle challenges."

For Murray, the best part of the program is the feedback he gets from students.

"There is nothing like the look on a student's face when they do something they never thought they could or would have a chance to do," he says. "Most people don't get to go rock climbing outdoors on a real cliff or be one of the first people in the United States to watch the sun rise from the top of Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park in Maine. We often hear that these trips create lasting memories and confidence that changes students' lives."

### INTO AFRICA: NURSING STUDENTS DELIVER CARE TO GHANA

While many students enjoyed winter break relaxing with friends and family, members of UMass Lowell's Nursing Students Without Borders program spent long hours in impoverished conditions 5,000 miles away. The 10 senior nursing students, led by Asst. Prof. Valerie King, delivered care, supplies and compassion to Ghana, West Africa. They were: Kelly Britton, Lorna Bratt, Alexandra Lamont, Melissa Bernier, Lauren Horgan, Jason Hebert, Laila Charmchi, Kimberly Cook, Erica Lavoie and Amanda Cincotta.



*Student Brett Workman scales the cliffs of Craw's Hill in Leominster State Forest.*



*Students crest the Maytag Rapids of the Kennebec River in Maine.*



*Nursing student Amanda Cincotta takes the blood pressure of a Ghanaian citizen while classmate Jason Hebert looks on.*



## REAL-WORLD PROJECTS GIVE STUDENTS AN EDGE

Students in Asst. Prof. Leland Ackerson's Introduction to Epidemiology class put their public health research skills to work recently by solving real-life issues in the local community. The students evaluated health services – employee wellness programs, adult education courses and opiate prevention training – and presented the results to Lowell General Hospital, the Lowell Adult Education Center and the Lowell Health Department.

“When students learn by doing, not only do they better absorb what they are learning in the classroom, but their research results can help our community partners gain valuable insight into their programs that they wouldn’t have otherwise,” says Ackerson.

Lauren Buckley, a senior in the nutritional sciences program in the School of Health and Environment, was part of the team that surveyed 218 people who attend the Lowell Adult Education Center. They discovered that people need more information about substance abuse, dietary choices and exercise, health insurance and domestic violence.

“The project helped me learn in a new and innovative way, sending me out into the Lowell community to do research and in the process I discovered important information for myself,” says Buckley. “I think this is when the best learning happens.”

The Lowell Health Department will use the student research to improve its opiate overdose and mortality prevention training programs. Lowell General Hospital will expand its health and wellness programs for employees. The Lowell Adult Education Center will seek more grant funding to provide more health education classes.



Senior Lauren Buckley researched health topics for the Lowell Adult Education Center as part of her epidemiology course.

## TUTORS HELP MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS ADD IT UP

On Valentine’s Day, Devin Ferreira felt the love. His admirers? Fifth- and sixth-graders at the Henry J. Robinson Middle School in Lowell. The UMass Lowell senior, a music business major, spent the morning the same way he spends every Monday: tutoring kids in math. But on this particular Monday, he received some special thanks for his efforts – boxes of chocolates, Valentine’s, temporary tattoos and “Crush on U” pins.

Ferreira is one of 24 UMass Lowell tutors who spend a collective 100 hours a week tutoring students in math at both the Robinson and the Kathryn P. Stoklosa Middle Schools.

The program is funded by two grants: one for \$35,000 from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation and the other for \$20,000 from the Theodore Edson Parker Foundation.

The tutors are a diverse group of both undergraduate and graduate students, whose majors vary from chemical and electrical engineering, to education, psychology, sound recording, education, environmental health, English and biology.

“It’s so good for our students to see the diversity of the tutors,” says the Robinson’s Brenda Busta, a math teacher and coordinator of the tutoring program there.

“They say, ‘Wow, he’s in college? Maybe I can go to college, too!’”



## MAIA BENAVENTE’S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

In the years since its inception, the Village Empowerment Project has brought direct, lasting improvements to villagers in a tiny Peruvian village called Huarmey. Maia Benavente, a graduate student in the Energy Engineering program, recently traveled with her father to deliver and install a high-efficiency stove for villagers. The stove cuts down on emissions, which will reduce respiratory illness among villagers.

“I also led a solar workshop for a group of children in Huarmey to help introduce them to the fundamental physical concepts behind passive solar systems,” she says. “We built simple solar box cookers to demonstrate the power of solar irradiation.”

## PLASTICS STUDENTS MAKE CO-OP CONNECTIONS

Angela Hu, a UMass Lowell senior majoring in plastics engineering, didn't know what to expect when she took a co-op job with TESco Associates last summer. For Hu, who was participating in the University's pilot co-op program, it was her first engineering job, an opportunity to apply all she'd learned in the classroom to real-world projects.

"I just knew I had to work hard and the hard work would pay off," she says.

After working full-time last summer and part-time once classes resumed in the fall at TESco, a Tyngsboro-based provider of research, development and manufacturing services to medical device makers, Hu's hard work was recently recognized by the Plastics Engineering Department and the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education.

Earlier this month, Hu and Liam Driscoll, a fellow plastics engineering major, were named Outstanding Co-op Students for 2010. In addition, Freudenberg NOK's Elastomeric Lead Center in Manchester, N.H., was honored as Outstanding Employer Partner of the Year for its commitment to the newly launched co-op program.

The co-op program prepares students for a job market that increasingly looks for candidates ready to step into professional roles. In all, 26 plastics engineering students participated in the pilot program and the initiative is being expanded to include management, sciences and other engineering disciplines next year.

"Employers want people who can hit the ground running. The level of skills they expect is much higher," says Diane Hewitt, associate director of Cooperative Education for Engineering and Technology.



### STUDENT AWARDED FOR GIVING BACK

Nursing master's student Djwan Scott accepted the Excellence in Nursing Education/Teaching award at a recent reception in Boston surrounded by 200 people, including her family.

The New England Regional Black Nurses Association presented Scott with the award for her leadership and teaching of diverse and disadvantaged students in UMass Lowell's Bring Diversity to Nursing program.

In addition to working full time as a registered nurse at Brigham and Women's Hospital and pursuing her master's degree in gerontology, Scott works 18 hours a week mentoring, tutoring and counseling 36 students in the program.

"In my role, I build relationships with students, understand their backgrounds and help them gain insight into the nursing profession," said Scott at the recognition ceremony. "This is what I love – sharing my knowledge with students who are embarking on a journey I once struggled with."



*Djwan Scott, right, receives a kiss from her proud mother.*

### HEALTH GRADS SCORE HIGH ON BOARD EXAMS

Graduates of the School of Health and Environment (SHE) nursing, medical technology and physical therapy programs have achieved consistent above-average pass rates on board examinations they must take to practice in their fields.

In all three programs, UMass Lowell pass rates have exceeded the national average: a 95 percent pass rate in 2010 on the national exam for registered nurses, as compared with the state average of 86.8 percent and the national average of 87.4; a 92 percent pass rate for medical technology graduates for the past five years on the national medical laboratory science board exam, as compared with the national pass rate of 77 percent; and a 100 percent first-time pass rate on the national physical therapy exam, for 2010 class of doctor of physical therapy graduates, compared with the national average of 89 percent and the Massachusetts average of 91.5 percent.



### EQUESTRIAN TEAM RIDES FORTH

UMass Lowell may be an urban campus, but students who want to ride horses can. Members of the equestrian club ride at Midnight Moon stables in Chelmsford.

## RESEARCHERS DEVELOP SUPERFAST COMPUTER CHIP

Frustrated with slow computers? Tired of waiting for your files to download?

Researchers from UMass Lowell and the University of Glasgow in Scotland have created a new processor that will pave the way for superfast desktop PCs. This technology will be a boon — especially for users who work with vast amounts of data, play video games or do heavy graphic editing.

“Our processor’s performance, or data throughput, is five gigabytes per second, which is about 20 times faster than microprocessors currently on the market,” says Assoc. Prof. Martin Margala of UMass Lowell’s Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

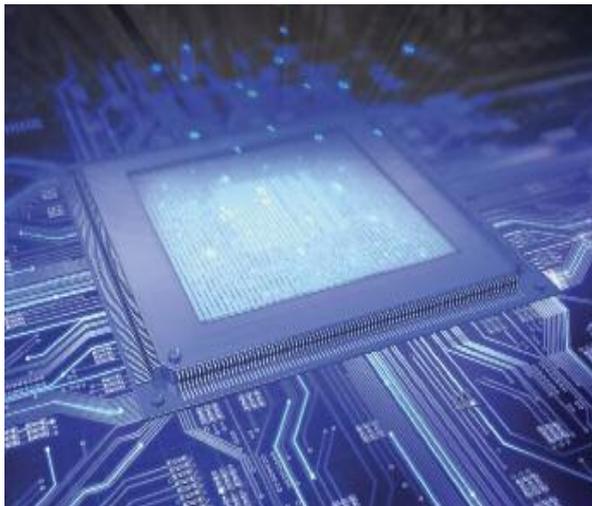


Martin Margala

Margala and his team were able to achieve this breakthrough by squeezing more than 1,000 cores onto the computer chip, called a Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA). The core is the part of a computer’s central processing unit (CPU) that reads and executes commands. For comparison, today’s PCs have only two, four or 16 cores.

In addition to enhanced processing speed, the new chip design consumes very little energy, so it represents a “greener,” more environmentally friendly option.

Although the work is still in an early, proof-of-concept stage, Margala believes that FPGA processors will become more widely used in consumer electronics and will help usher in a new era of high-speed computing.



## ‘SMART MATTRESS’ WILL PREVENT BED SORES

Bed sores are one of the leading causes of open wounds in bed-ridden patients, especially those in nursing homes. Also called pressure ulcers, they’re brought about by constant pressure on the skin, particularly on the back, elbows, ankles, heels, hips, buttocks, shoulders and head.

The Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2) and UMass Lowell’s Plastics Engineering Department are collaborating with TheraTorr Medical, a medical device company based in Beverly, in developing an ultra low-pressure air mattress that is designed to prevent the formation of bed sores.

“We are assisting TheraTorr with the optimization of materials, component design and refinement of production methods,” says



Patients lying stationary in bed for extended periods of time can develop serious, even life-threatening, bed sores.

plastics engineering Asst. Prof. Stephen Johnston, who is involved in the mattress project.

The smart mattress redistributes the patient’s weight more efficiently and can conform to irregularities in the body’s contour better than existing medical mattresses, significantly reducing pressure on the most vulnerable “hot spots” and bony protrusions.

“The most important component of our smart mattress design are the ‘sensor cells,’ which are basically vertically oriented air chambers,” says TheraTorr’s Tim Moutafis, the mattress’s inventor. “There will be about 1,000 of these cells in a typical mattress surface. There will even be a climate-control system to adjust the heat and humidity appropriately.”

## AWARDS & GRANTS

**Guanling Chen**, assistant professor of computer science: \$499,670 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to help make mobile applications for smart phones better, faster and easier.

**Profs. Joey Mead and Carol Barry**, Plastics Engineering Department: \$30,000 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to boost a UMass Lowell nanotech R&D collaboration with Shenkar College in Israel.

Executive Vice Chancellor **Jacqueline Moloney**: Named to the inaugural class of Sloan-C Fellows by the Sloan Consortium for being a national leader in “building online programs that provide quality access for students while advancing strategic institutional goals.”

**Xingwei Wang**, electrical and computer engineering assistant professor: \$400,000 five-year “CAREER” award from the NSF to support her development of the world’s smallest duplex ultrasound probe.

**Daniel Wasserman**, physics assistant professor: \$400,000 five-year “CAREER” award from the NSF to support his research project entitled “Mid-Infrared Quantum Dot Cascade Lasers.”

**Physics and Chemical Engineering departments**: \$400,000 from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to help fund graduate fellowships in health physics and nuclear engineering for the next four years.

**UMass Lowell**: \$124,200 from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to expand its Professional Science Master’s (PSM) degree programs.



## SENSOR DETECTS EXPLOSIVES, IMPROVES HOMELAND SECURITY

On Christmas Day 2009, a 23-year-old Nigerian passenger aboard a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam tried to ignite a homemade explosive device hidden in his underwear as the plane was preparing to land in Detroit. Fortunately, the plot was foiled before anyone was seriously hurt or killed. The incident, however, highlights the need for the United States to be ever more vigilant in the face of global terrorism.

A group of UMass Lowell researchers has developed a highly sensitive optical sensor that can rapidly detect even trace amounts of explosives in the air. Such a sensor could be used to screen passengers, luggage and cargo at airports across the country to help safeguard the nation's aviation infrastructure.

"Explosives like TNT and PETN are very hard to detect because of their extremely low vapor pressure, typically only a few molecules per billion air molecules at room temperature," says Abhishek Kumar, a physics graduate student involved in the project at the Center for Advanced Materials (CAM). "Our optical sensor can detect less than a picogram, or a trillionth of a gram, of explosive in vapor phase under room temperature in a matter of seconds."

Physics professor and CAM Director Jayant Kumar led the sensor's development. The group also includes Mukesh Pandey, a postdoctoral fellow at UMass Lowell who has been with Harvard Medical School since 2009. Their work has been funded by four-year grants from the National Science Foundation and the Army Research Lab totaling about \$500,000.

To create the sensor, the team used organic fluorescent materials — such as certain kinds of dyes and semiconducting polymers — that respond to the trace elements of explosives in the air. A thin film of the organic solution is smeared on a flat surface, like a glass slide, and exposed to the air being tested. By shining ultraviolet light on the film's surface and measuring the amount of fluorescent light emitted, it's possible to quickly determine whether molecules of explosives have adhered to the surface.

## SENSOR DETECTS SALMONELLA, E. COLI

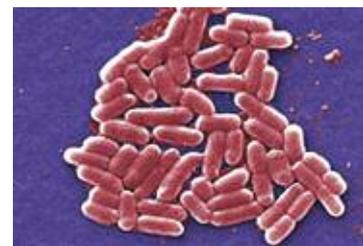
A mechanical engineering professor is developing a new tool that will help ensure that what you eat or drink doesn't make you sick.

"My students and I are designing a simple sensor for rapidly detecting major disease-causing microorganisms in food, especially in raw chicken, eggs, ground beef and dairy products," says Hongwei Sun, an expert in micro electro-mechanical systems.

The National Science Foundation recognized the importance of his work and awarded him with a three-year, \$100,000 grant.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that each year, roughly one in six Americans — or about 48 million people — gets sick from bacteria, viruses or microbes. Of these, about 128,000 are hospitalized and about 3,000 die from complications.

These foodborne pathogens include norovirus, salmonella, clostridium, campylobacter, staphylococcus aureus, toxoplasma, listeria and



E. coli. The health costs associated with the resulting illnesses run in the billions of dollars.

"We will combine magnetic immunoassays with micro Coulter counting techniques to achieve simultaneous detection of multiple pathogenic bacteria in foods with high specificity and sensitivity," says Sun. "Our method, once optimized, can potentially be applied to detecting a wide range of other targets, such as viruses, toxins and disease-related biomarkers."

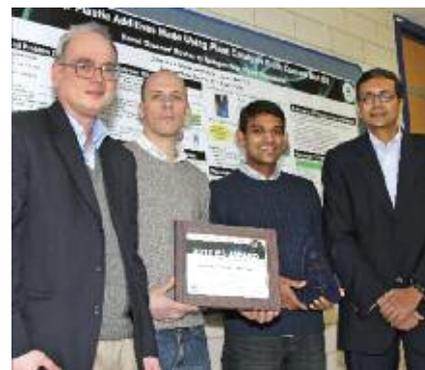
In addition to improved food and water safety and enhanced public health and homeland security, Sun says the project offers a multi-disciplinary training ground for undergraduate and graduate students involved in the research.

## STUDENTS' GREEN PROJECT WINS \$75,000 EPA AWARD

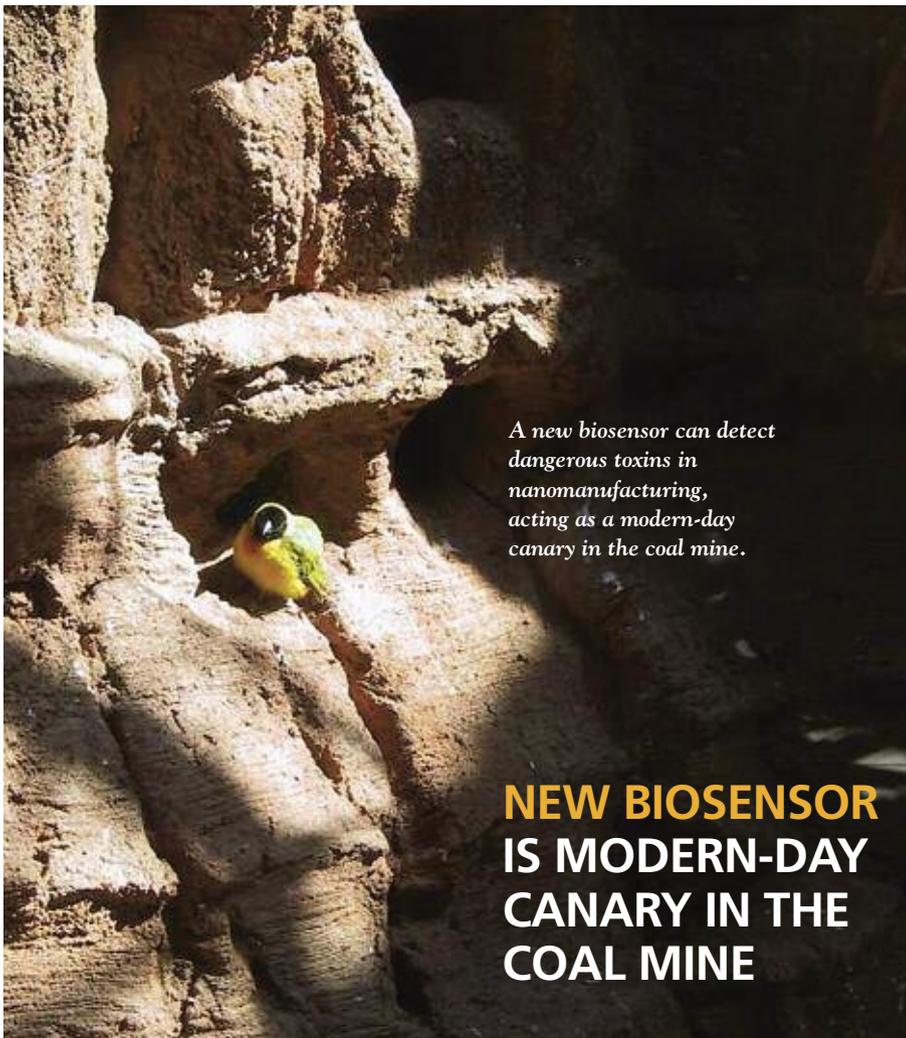
Students who have developed a way to use a byproduct of processing cashew nut shells to make fireproof fabric have been recognized for their work by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Polymer science graduate student Sethumadhavan Ravichandran and chemical engineering graduate student Ryan Bouldin teamed up with physics Prof. Jayant Kumar and plastics engineering Asst. Prof. Ramaswamy Nagarajan in designing a safer, "greener" method for producing flame-resistant materials.

For their effort, the team was recently chosen by the EPA to receive a \$75,000 People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) award during the National Sustainable Design Expo held at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. UMass Lowell was one of only five schools to win the coveted P3 award.



Prof. Jayant Kumar, Ryan Bouldin, Sethumadhavan Ravichandran and Asst. Prof. Ramaswamy Nagarajan.



*A new biosensor can detect dangerous toxins in nanomanufacturing, acting as a modern-day canary in the coal mine.*

## NEW BIOSENSOR IS MODERN-DAY CANARY IN THE COAL MINE

In the old days, canaries in cages were used in coal mines as a visual and audible early-warning system, alerting miners to dangerous buildups of toxic gases such as carbon monoxide and methane in the mine shaft. These gases would kill the bird first before affecting the miners.

A team of UMass Lowell researchers has developed a modern, high-tech equivalent of this canary warning system for use in the nanomanufacturing industry.

Called the “nanocanary,” the new ultra-sensitive biosensor assesses the toxicity of engineered nanomaterials, such as carbon nanotubes, on living cells. This is important in determining how nano-size particles affect human health and the environment, and in studying ways to develop commercial nano products.

The research team includes Asst. Prof. Dhimiter Bello in Work Environment, Prof. Kenneth Marx in Chemistry, Prof. Susan Braunhut in Biology and Asst. Prof. Joel Therrien in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Bello says the nanocanary has a distinct advantage over other biological/chemical sensors in that it is capable of directly sensing toxicity. “The direct sensing of toxins is arguably one of the largest unfulfilled needs that the sensor community faces,” he says. “Because the nanocanary monitors the overall health of a population of representative cells, it measures an effect rather than an agent concentration. As such, the nanocanary is better able to respond to complex exposure environments — chemical, biological, radiation, etc. — and sense interactive effects of toxins, including those not previously known. This property is particularly important for homeland-security applications.”

Adds Therrien: “The nanocanary biosensor is expected to have uses in environmental monitoring, testing for toxicity in nanomanufacturing, drug development and customized cancer therapeutics.”



*A new optical sensor network being developed by UMass Lowell researchers will ultimately help improve soldiers' helmets.*

## PREVENTING BRAIN INJURY IN SOLDIERS

Traumatic brain injury, or TBI, is just one of the many dangers facing American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. It can occur when the head is struck suddenly and violently by a blast from an artillery shell or roadside bomb.

A team of UMass Lowell researchers hopes to better protect soldiers' heads. Prof. Xingwei Wang of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, and Profs. Christopher Niezrecki and Julie Chen of the Mechanical Engineering Department recently received a one-year \$30,000 grant from Raytheon Co. to develop a novel optical pressure-sensor network for evaluating the structural design of soldiers' helmets.

“This monitoring system ... will study the effects of blasts on the helmet or skull,” says Wang. “The data collected will be used to evaluate, and therefore improve, helmet design to better protect soldiers from traumatic brain injury.”

Moderate to severe TBI can cause a host of neurological problems, including headaches, confusion, slurred speech, memory loss, convulsions or seizures, loss of coordination and coma. Wang says with modifications, the sensors can also be

used to evaluate helmets in sports, especially for football and hockey players, as well as for race car drivers who are prone to repeated head trauma and concussions.

## NEW TOOL SENDS TRAFFIC ALERTS

Wouldn't it be great to get real-time alerts about traffic tie-ups on the road? UMass researchers are helping make that possible. Called Anytime-Anywhere-Anyway (AAA) Transportation Information, the system will alert drivers through their mobile devices of any traffic congestion due to accidents, road construction or weather.

The project recently received a \$100,000 seed grant from the UMass Science and Technology Office. Researchers from the Lowell, Dartmouth, Amherst and Boston campuses are collaborating on the project. The team plans to integrate hardware (a wireless network of underground/surface road sensors) with software (an intelligent transportation system) to seamlessly deliver traffic data through secure multimedia communications, including the Internet.

## TOUCH SCREEN HELPS THE DISABLED

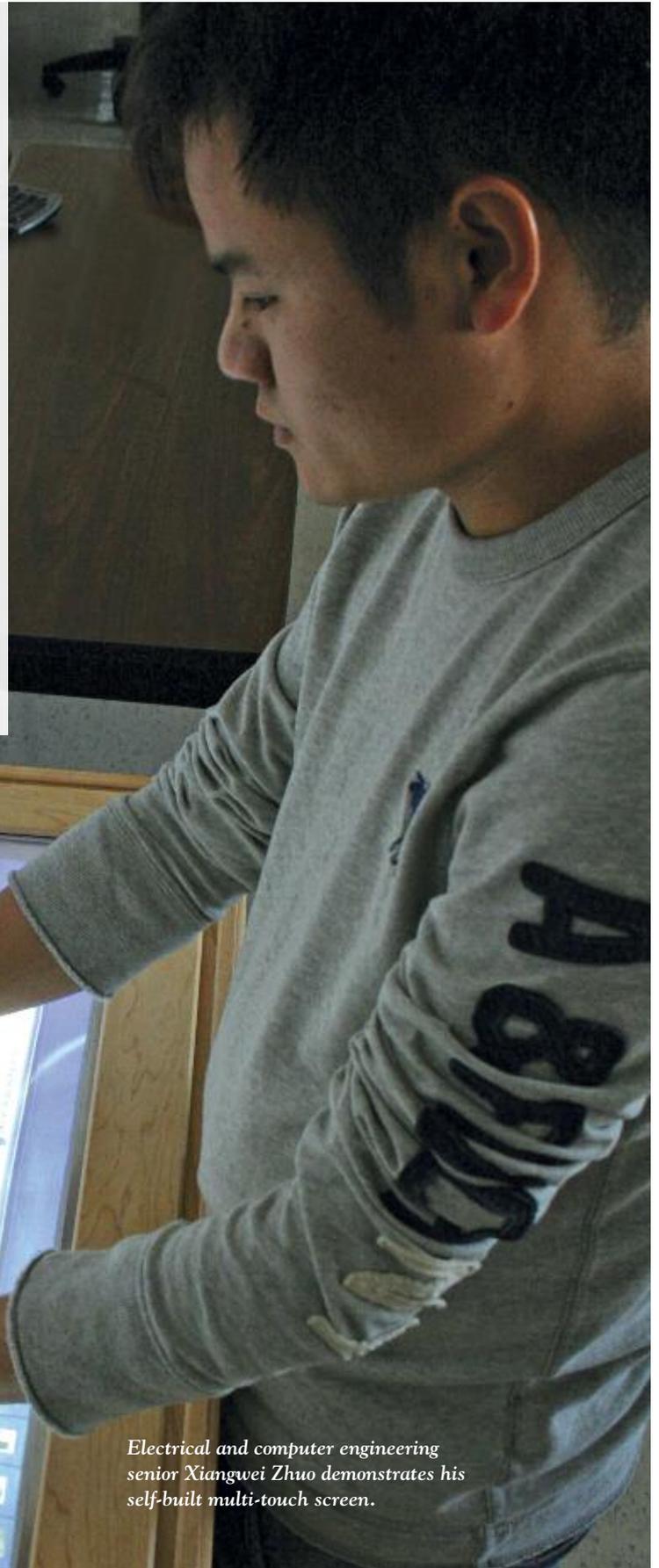
An electrical engineering senior has created an interactive multi-touch screen to assist people with physical disabilities. Xiangwei Zhuo built the device to help those with motor or cognitive challenges overcome their limitations.

“With this device, they can point to and touch the screen instead of using a conventional mouse or keyboard,” says Zhuo. “This will enable them to browse the web, write e-mail, manipulate photos or play games and music much more easily.”

The device is similar to Microsoft Surface, an interactive surface computer with a tabletop, 30-inch, touch-sensitive, flat-screen display used mainly for entertainment, gaming and product demos. It lets users capture and manipulate digital content and move information using simple touch and hand gestures and object recognition instead of using a mouse and keyboard. Microsoft Surface costs up to \$12,000 a piece, while Zhuo built his device for less than \$700.

Last December, he delivered his touch screen to a Bridgewell facility in Lynn that offers services to people with physical and developmental disabilities.

“The project is beyond what any of us could have imagined,” says Patti Peterson, an occupational therapy consultant for Bridgewell. “The number of people who will benefit from Xiangwei’s work encompasses so many more individuals than we had expected. He spent time working with us to make sure that we knew exactly how the system works. Our clients here are already enjoying the device.”



*Electrical and computer engineering senior Xiangwei Zhuo demonstrates his self-built multi-touch screen.*



Sarah Behn's Boston College jersey was retired in 2003.

## BC LEGEND NAMED HEAD COACH OF RIVER HAWK WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

BY JACK MCDONOUGH

**"I'D BEEN READING ABOUT THE GROWTH OF UMASS LOWELL AND I WAS EXCITED WHEN THE JOB OPENED."**

—SARAH BEHN

Sarah Behn — a Boston College basketball legend who went on to achieve coaching success on both the high school and college levels, and who operates New England's largest basketball camp for youngsters — is the new head coach of women's basketball at UMass Lowell.

In announcing the appointment, Athletic Director Dana Skinner said Behn's personal athletic accomplishments and successful coaching experience "made her a compelling candidate from the beginning of the search process."

Behn, who assumed her new post in April, is the sixth head coach in the program's history. She succeeds Kathy O'Neil who had coached the women's team for 26 years.

"I'd been reading about the growth of UMass Lowell and I was excited when the job opened," Behn says. "The great reputation of the University and the power of the Northeast-10 in women's basketball is what first attracted me."

The Foxboro native had a sensational playing career at Boston College where she was the only four-time Big East Conference all-star in BC women's basketball history.

Her regular season total of 1,546 points still stands as a Big East record.

She played one year of professional ball in Europe after graduation before establishing the Sarah Behn Basketball Camp. During the ensuing years, she also coached women's basketball at Framingham State and Franklin Pierce, and at Foxboro High School.

Her own playing career began at an early age.

"When I was 7," says Behn. "I had two big brothers who played sports and I grew up watching them play and being dragged to their practices. Then my dad, who played basketball at Brown University, started coaching me and it took off from there."

Naturally, she says, she always played against her brothers, too. "They were tough on me, physically and mentally," she says with a smile. "That made me a lot tougher player."

Asked about the difference between coaching college players and high school players, she says, "My style is upbeat and positive. I like to motivate and try to get the most out of the kids, regardless of age. But there are obvious differences between the two levels.

"I'm really glad to be back in the college ranks and glad to be coaching older players who obviously are better and I'm glad to be recruiting again at a scholarship institution so we can attract the best possible student athletes.

"In high school you get what you get and you try to make the most of it. In college, I try to hand pick the team I want."

At the University, Behn will have four starters and 13 veterans returning from the 2010-11 team. Despite the fact that the lady River Hawks finished in a disappointing tie for 10th place in the NE-10, the new coach is optimistic.

"I know we've got a really strong group of women coming back," Behn says. "If we can get everyone on the same page working hard together, I know we can build the program up. You have to give credit to Coach O'Neil who recruited these talented players."

In 1998, five years after she graduated, Behn was inducted into the BC Hall of Fame, and five years after that her No. 33 jersey was retired, making her the college's first female athlete to be so honored.

Her basketball camp has trained more than 25,000 youngsters from more than two dozen Massachusetts communities since it opened in 1994.

During her time as a coach at Framingham State and Franklin Pierce, Behn turned both programs around. She guided Framingham State from last place in the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference to title contention in one year; and helped a struggling Franklin Pierce squad earn a NE-10 tournament bid in two years.

She and her husband, Tim, live in Foxboro with their four children, 9-year-old twins Jack and Joey, 5-year-old Teddy and 2-year-old Gracie.



## A PERFECT SEASON FIELD HOCKEY TEAM WINS NATIONAL TITLE

BY BOB ELLIS

Shannon Hlebichuk has not watched the video.

The recording is of the final game of the 2010 UMass Lowell field hockey season. A game the River Hawks won, 1-0, over Shippensburg University to capture the NCAA Division II National Championship and complete an unheard of 24-0 season. The title was the second in program history.

Hlebichuk is the team's head coach. She was also the 2010 National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division II National Coach of The Year. The title win in Louisville, Ky., set off a chain reaction of emotional fireworks from Louisville to Lowell. But several months later, Hlebichuk still has not watched the video.

"There is no reason to. We won," she says. "There is no reason to focus on the things we did wrong, no reason to look for teaching points."

The season was anything but what had been expected of the UMass Lowell offensive juggernaut. The team had shredded the University's record book in nearly every offensive category. The River Hawks scored an astounding 118 goals in their first 23 games, averaging 5.1 goals per game in a traditionally low scoring sport.

UMass Lowell scored only once in that championship game, but it was enough.

"That allowed our defense to get the recognition it so deserved all season long," says Hlebichuk. "We made good decisions, good tackles, the good plays that we had not been asked to make during the regular season. We played tremendous defense."

But the seeds of a national championship were planted some years earlier.

The members of the senior class of 2010 were freshmen in 2007. That group included forwards Sammy Macy, Katie Enaire and Lizzy Ales and midfielder Liz Day – who would combine to score 84 goals in 2010 and rewrite the school's record book. Midfielder/defender Jaime Hadley and goalkeeper Amy Carbon were also part of that group.

They had all been high school Players of the Year, All Stars, Division I recruits ... and they had been rivals who could not have imagined playing together or rooting for one another. "If you come to Lowell," Hlebichuk says she told them, "we can do something special together."

The coach convinced them that they were not fighting for the same position. Their roles changed and "I told them we were going to need them all," says Hlebichuk. They bought into it. By their senior year at UMass Lowell, Macy, Enaire, Day and Hadley — along with junior

defender Annie Hansbury and freshman goalkeeper Melanie Hopkins — had earned All-American status.

"There was a new sense of commitment to our core value of hard work," says Hlebichuk. "Everybody had a new look in their eyes, a new focus and I thought, 'This could be it.'"

Hlebichuk challenged her players at the team's first meeting. "I just flat out said, 'We have all the pieces to the puzzle, the only thing I expect is a National Championship; anything less is failure.'"

Most teams, no matter how talented or how successful, sooner or later, hit a bump in the road. That never happened to this team: 16 of their 20 regular season games were shutouts.

"Never before have we had that high level of intensity for such an extended period of time," says Hlebichuk. "I had told them to 'play every game like it's the National Championship.'"

They brought that intensity to practicing, lifting, fundraising, community service and to the post season. In the last, the scores were closer, but the results were the same. The River Hawks



Shannon Hlebichuk

*Continued on next page*

Continued from Page 19

defeated Adelphi, 4-2, and Stonehill, 6-1, to win the Northeast-10 Tournament and defeated Stonehill again, 5-1, to earn a spot in the NCAA Division II National Championship game.

The championship game was anything but characteristic of this River Hawk team. There were mistakes and turnovers. But just as in the 23 games that preceded it, there was intensity, passion and big plays.

Liz Day scored the game's only goal, Jaime Hadley made a potentially game-saving tackle, sophomore Sarah Wilcox made a diving save to keep Shippensburg scoreless — and UMass Lowell celebrated its second field hockey National Championship.

"I drive to work some days and I replay that weekend in my mind," Hlebichuk says. "It makes me smile, gives me chills, sometimes it makes me tear up. It was a pretty special season."

The season was special enough to prompt an anonymous donor to give the team \$25,000 recently — and promise to match up to an additional \$10,000. To help make that happen, call Danielle Callahan at 978-934-2218.

## Field Hockey Sunset Social

Join the team for a lobster- and clambake on July 7 at the Bellegarde Boathouse. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m. and sunset cruise at 7:30 p.m. For information, email [Laura\\_Sullivan@uml.edu](mailto:Laura_Sullivan@uml.edu).



## GOALTENDING GLORY DAYS

BY BOB ELLIS

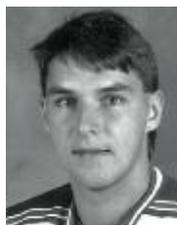
### Dwayne Roloson '94 Reflects on 16-Year Career

Dwayne Roloson, the former UMass Lowell hockey goaltender, has been stopping pucks for most of his life. He has stopped, smothered, blocked, kicked out, deflected and caught more than 20,000 pucks during the 16-year professional career that has followed his graduation from the University in 1994. It's a life he always dreamed about.

"I say that to people; it's my motto," he says. "Guys say 'how you doing?' and I tell them, 'I'm living my dream. I go to work everyday and love what I am doing.' It's a dream, I have to pinch myself and bring myself back to reality."

That dream has taken Roloson to various locations around the hockey map: Calgary, Buffalo, Minnesota, Edmonton, Long Island and now Tampa Bay. The National Hockey League's Tampa Bay Lightning acquired Roloson from the New York Islanders during this 2010-11 season, in hopes that the veteran netminder could provide the goaltending to make the club a legitimate contender for the game's top team prize: The Stanley Cup. (Unfortunately for Roloson, the Lightning was defeated by the Boston Bruins in the Eastern Conference Finals.)

Roloson didn't mind the change of address: "I'm pretty ecstatic about getting the opportunity to play in the playoffs and have a chance to win the cup."



Dwayne Roloson at UMass Lowell

He's on the right track. Roloson's Lightning debut grabbed headlines. He made 34 saves in shutting down the Washington Capitals' high-powered offense in a 1-0 overtime win.

Roloson won eight of his first 11 games for his new team, four by shutout. Not a bad start for a goaltender who grabbed attention earlier in the season because of his age — 41 — the oldest goaltender in the National Hockey League. "I don't feel old," he says. "They say 'he's old, he's washed up.' I just try to prove them wrong."

There were times that he wondered if they might be right. After spending two years as a backup in both Calgary and Buffalo, Roloson found himself back in the minors during the winter of 2000-01.

"I wondered 'what am I doing? I'm almost 30 years old and I have to go back to minors... am I ever going to make it?'" he recalls.

After talking the situation through with his wife, he gave himself one more year and that made all the difference. Playing for the Saint Louis Blues' American Hockey League affiliate in Worcester, Roloson earned All-Star status and was named the league's outstanding goaltender.

"It's a matter of dealing with adversity, battling through adversity. I did what I had to do to make the step to where I am today," he says. "Every time somebody says 'no,' you've got to prove them wrong."

Continued



Continued from Page 20

The strong season in Worcester gave Roloson's career the jumpstart it needed. He signed a contract with the Minnesota Wild and played some of the best hockey of his career. Roloson helped the Wild to its first ever playoff appearance in 2003 and the following year was named to the NHL's Western Conference All Star Team. He was honored after the 2004 season with the Roger Crozier Saving Grace Award as the goalie with the highest save percentage.

Roloson played in Minnesota for five years, one season lost to the battle over a collective bargaining agreement, before Edmonton swung a deal to acquire a goaltender who could get them into the playoffs: Roloson.

Edmonton, coached by former ULowell star Craig MacTavish, grabbed the final playoff spot and then rode Roloson's spectacular play to the Stanley Cup finals. The dream was short-circuited when Roloson was injured in the opening game of the final series. The Oilers eventually lost the cup to Carolina in seven games.

When you talk to Roloson or talk about him with others the discussion always comes around to hard work. "Dedication," says Bruce Crowder, who coached Roloson during his final three years at UMass Lowell. "He was hungry, he worked hard, he was the first person on the ice, he was the last person off. He did whatever it took to make himself better."

Roloson set the school record for saves in a season (1,148) in 1993, earned All American status and was named Hockey East's Player of the Year in 1994, his senior season. He was a Hobey Baker Award finalist, given to the nation's outstanding player.

When Roloson talks about UMass Lowell, he speaks not of games, but of teammates. The names roll off his tongue easily: Norm Bazin, Ian Hebert, Shane Henry, Travis Tucker ... and the list goes on. "It's the bonds you remember; I try to forget the games right away," he says. "The life experiences, the friendships that you've made. I look back at how excited I was to go [to UMass Lowell]. I learned a lot, got a great education, made new friends and those friends became lifetime friends."

## NORM BAZIN '94 NAMED HEAD COACH OF UMASS LOWELL ICE HOCKEY

Norm Bazin, head coach at Hamilton College for the last three years and a former player and assistant at UMass Lowell, has been named head coach of the River Hawks men's hockey team.

Bazin was introduced to the campus community and media at a press conference held at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center in April. He succeeds Blaise MacDonald who resigned at the end of the 2010-11 season after 10 years at the helm.

In his introductory remarks, the new coach said, "I think we have a first-class facility, a world-class University, a loyal fan base and a solid hockey foundation in terms of support from our administration and staff."

A native of Manitoba, Canada, Bazin was a winger for the River Hawks from 1990 to 1994 and served as an assistant coach from 1996 to 2000. He later spent eight seasons at Colorado College as a



Norm Bazin

coaching assistant and recruiting coordinator.

He took over at Hamilton in 2008 and led the Division III Continentals to the top of the New England Small Conference Athletic Conference (NESCAC) last season. His success with that program earned him NESCAC Coach of the Year honors each of the last two years.

Athletic Director Dana Skinner says, "The characteristics that have made Norm such a successful leader will pay dividends for our hockey program and the University."

Bazin and his wife, Michelle, have two sons Blake, 7, and Coleston, 4.



## SPREADING THE LOVE

River Hawks hockey player T.J. Massie signed autographs, posed for photos and helped make holiday cards with nearly 1,000 students at Tyngsboro Elementary in December.



# UMass Lowell's 'Footprint' Grows 30 Percent in Five Years

BY JACK MCDONOUGH

## *St. Joseph's Hospital Acquisition Helps Meet Growing Space Needs*

**C**lose on the heels of two other major acquisitions, UMass Lowell has made yet another exciting expansion move, acquiring the six-building former St. Joseph's Hospital property on Pawtucket Street, a master stroke that connects the University's three campuses and further enhances its relationship with the Lowell community.

With the addition of this property, which follows the purchase of the DoubleTree Hotel and the Tsongas Center, the University has increased its "footprint" by 30 percent over the last five years.

During that period of time, the University has built, acquired or restored six properties, increasing its presence by more than 900,000 square feet to a total of more than three million. In addition to the hospital property, the DoubleTree and the Tsongas Center, the expansion has included the East Campus parking garage, the Bellegarde Boathouse and the Desmarais house at 150 Wilder Street.

The garage, a four-level, \$13 million concrete and steel structure, opened in 2007 and provides 630 parking spaces for students, faculty and staff. The house and quarter acre of land at 150 Wilder Street, adjacent to the South Campus, was donated to the University by Paul and Linda Desmarais as a tribute to Paul's late aunt, Berthe Desmarais, a Lowell high school teacher who lived there most of her life. The house currently serves as studio space for the Art Department.

Meanwhile, the Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center on the North Campus and a South Campus Health and Social Sciences building, both now under construction, will add another 152,000 square feet to the University's growing footprint.

The acquisition of the St. Joseph's property alone increased the size of the University's holdings by 10 percent

and will help meet the space needs of an undergraduate student body that has grown by 30 percent in the last three years. These facilities, which comprise nearly 300,000 square feet of space and come with some 300 parking spaces, physically link the North, South and East campuses and will be known as University Crossing.

The site was acquired by the UMass Building Authority on behalf of UMass Lowell for \$6.3 million, and the University will invest additional millions in rehabilitation work. As part of the sale, the city received \$440,000 in back taxes and water and sewer charges.

The hospital buildings have been mostly unoccupied since 1992 when St. Joseph's and St. John's hospitals formed the Saints Memorial Medical Center.

City Manager Bernie Lynch said that this and other recent University projects have "demonstrated its commitment to quality redevelopment that benefits not only the University and its students but the entire community."

According to a report by the UMass Donahue Institute, UMass Lowell delivers \$490 million annually across the region in positive economic impact, including the support of thousands of local jobs and businesses.

"Through this purchase, we're again making a significant investment to address the University's critical need for additional space, while also revitalizing a Lowell landmark that has been underutilized for too long," said Chancellor Marty Meehan. "We look forward to working with the campus community and city and neighborhood groups on plans to reinvigorate this vital area."

The hospital property, situated at 220 Pawtucket St., will house the University Police Department, an expanded bookstore, space for student services and activities, community programs, classrooms, faculty offices, a food court and student housing.

**"Through this purchase, we're again making a significant investment to address the University's critical need for additional space, while also revitalizing a Lowell landmark that has been underutilized for too long."**

— Chancellor  
Marty Meehan

*Continued*

# Featurestory

It is anticipated that the revitalization of this property will create greater foot traffic and activity in the area and help connect the campuses on both sides of the Merrimack River. The site is near what will be the south landing of a new bridge that will cross the river at University Avenue. At the other end of that span will be the new Emerging Technologies building, an imposing gateway edifice to the North Campus.

Other plans include a new residence hall on East, a new College of Management building and two parking garages, one each on North and South. ■

## MAPPING THE FUTURE

A) The former St. Joseph's Hospital property, six buildings totaling nearly 300,000 square feet, will link the North, South and East campuses and be known as University Crossing. It will house a consolidated, expanded bookstore and the University Police Department. Other potential uses under consideration include space for student services and activities, student dining options, community programs, classrooms and faculty offices.

B) The Tsongas Center, home of the River Hawks hockey team, was purchased from the City of Lowell in 2010. With a 17,000 square foot arena floor and seating for up to 7,800, the facility provides ample space for University graduation and other academic programs, and can host events ranging from hockey and basketball to concerts, conventions and community events. The University has made a number of improvements to the Center, including the installation of 400-foot electronic message boards, a new video scoreboard, an improved sound system and an exterior marquee.

C) The former DoubleTree Hotel, purchased in 2009, is now the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center. Home to some 400 students during the academic year, this facility in the heart of Lowell also enables the University to host seminars, conferences and workshops and to provide housing for visiting educators and students as the University continues to expand its international programs. Some 30 hotel rooms are always available to the public and, during the summer months, all rooms are available for visitors flocking to Lowell for the annual Folk Festival and other events sponsored by the city.

D) The \$70 million Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center is taking shape as steel construction begins. The 84,000 square foot facility will be the hub of industry partnerships and new manufacturing technologies. The first floor lobby will serve as a new home for the National Plastics Museum. Within its four stories, the ETIC will house Class 100, Class 1000 and Class 10,000 cleanroom spaces, wet lab and engineering lab space, and a plastics processing high bay.

E) The Bellegarde Boathouse, situated on Pawtucket Boulevard, was transferred from the state Division of Conservation and Recreation to the University by the state Legislature in 2006. Since then, aided in part by \$1 million in state funding, the University has made significant improvements to the facility, including roof replacement, dock upgrades, new windows and siding, and a deck area for social functions. In addition to serving the needs of the University, the boathouse also hosts the Lowell High School boat club, a private boat club and makes available space for other public recreational and educational programs.

F) The University broke ground on the \$40 million, 69,000-square-foot Health and Social Services building on April 21. It will be home to three of the University's most popular majors in health and social sciences, housing seven classrooms, 16 seminar/project rooms, eight conference rooms and 72 faculty offices for the departments of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Nursing and Psychology.

*In five years, UMass Lowell has increased its presence by more than 900,000 square feet — to a total of more than 3 million square feet.*



F

The new Health and Social Sciences academic building marks the first new construction on the University's South Campus in more than 30 years. Located on the corner of Broadway and Wilder streets, it is expected to open in Spring of 2013.



E

Located at 500 Pawtucket Blvd., the UMass Lowell Bellegarde Boathouse opened in the fall of 2009, after a \$1 million renovation to all internal and external spaces.



D

Located on the corner of University Avenue and the VFW Highway, the Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center will serve as the gateway to North Campus. It will open in the fall of 2012.



B

The \$24 million, 7,800-seat Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell, located at 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, was acquired from the City of Lowell in February 2009.



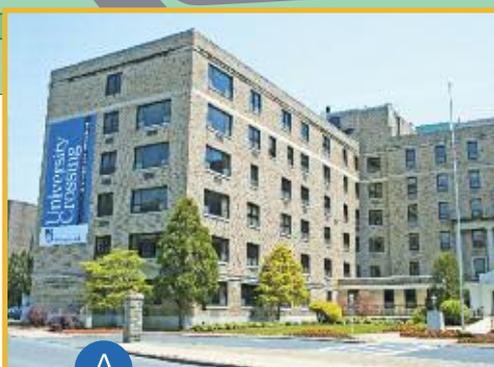
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A

University Crossing, at the site of the former St. Joseph's Hospital at 220 Pawtucket Street, will undergo a multi-year, multimillion-dollar renovation.



The former DoubleTree Hotel, The UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center at 50 Warren Street opened to 400 student residents in September 2009, after \$5 million in renovations.

# Coverstory



*Brian Dempsey '99, chairman of the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee, pauses during a busy day at the State House.*

# Brian Dempsey '99:

## Smart, Savvy Leader for Challenging Times

BY DAVE PERRY

*New Chair of State Ways and Means Committee Looks Back at His College Days*

**B**rian Dempsey is knee-deep in the muck of a contentious state budget. And yet, well before 8 a.m., one of the state's most powerful men is smiling and welcoming. He is the first arrival in his Haverhill insurance office.

The previous night, he was a TV-news fixture, announcing a controversial plan to curb municipal benefit costs. These are tough times, the fourth straight year of significant budget cuts in a slug's paced state recovery. This year, of course, there is \$1.5 billion less in federal funding to help fill the gap.

Colleagues and observers say Dempsey, 44, is a perfect choice to handle budget debate. He's a cool customer, a good listener and a smart politician, able to forge alliances but tough and determined enough to do what he believes. It was in University of Lowell classrooms that he found many of the skills he would later hone for larger stakes. But some skills aren't learned.

"He's one of the great talents in predicting the enormity of an issue," says House Majority Leader Ronald Mariano (Quincy). "That's something you can only learn from experience and being extremely, extremely smart."

"Brian has a great political mind," says Mariano. "He understands the issues, and sees very clearly the pitfalls of something. Very savvy guy. He knows what's going to be an issue long before it is one. This is an extremely talented guy whose talent is being recognized now."

As Chairman of the powerful Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee, Dempsey's Beacon Hill office has the door through which all state budget items pass. There are times, of course, when he would rather be at a Red Sox game, or with his family. Morning workouts at a Haverhill gym get the blood flowing. But otherwise, there hasn't been a whole lot of free time of late.

### FOCUSED ON NEW TECHNOLOGIES — AND HIS ROOTS

Dempsey was an early supporter of funding for the sort of new technologies such as nanotechnology, which UMass Lowell has embraced as a cornerstone of its future programs. In 2003, as chair of the House Science and Technology Committee, he hosted a session at the University where UMass Lowell researchers briefed the committee.

"I see the value of these things also as economic development proposals. I like that Massachusetts is using

its strengths. And UMass Lowell, especially under Marty Meehan, has done an outstanding job of capitalizing on its assets and leveraging greater opportunities. They've been well-positioned."

He said science and technology are "where we thought Massachusetts could grow, and the job growth numbers were showing that was where the growth was."

As chair of the Economic Development and Emerging Technologies Committee, he returned to Lowell's campus in 2010 to discuss casino gaming. He is perhaps best known for authoring last year's bill to legalize casino gaming in Massachusetts.

"We spent a year and a half getting that bill together, making sure we did it right," says Dempsey. "It was a strong bill that took a lot of things into consideration. In the end, the Governor vetoed it. I'm optimistic something will make it out this year on that."

But he's also remained faithful to the promise he made when he entered statewide politics — "to make sure Haverhill gets its fair share."

Jeanine Murphy, executive director of Emmaus Inc., the organization that battles homelessness and provides shelter in Haverhill, says Dempsey has "never forgotten his roots. We feel like we really have a voice." (Murphy is also a University of Lowell alumna, having earned a criminal justice degree in 1981.)

"He's always wanted what's best for the city, and he continues to embody that," says former Haverhill City Councilor Michael McGonagle. "When it comes to doing the best for Haverhill, he's always there."

### ULOWELL AS POLITICAL SCIENCE LABORATORY

Dempsey was always busy. Even in his first year at the then University of Lowell in September 1985, he was driven. He had left college after a year at Norwich University, the Vermont military college, unable to afford another semester of its hefty price tag.

Lowell had been the 1984 Haverhill High School graduate's other college choice, but when a seat on Haverhill's School Committee opened up, the University became a perfect political science laboratory, a classroom full of theories he could test hours later on the campaign trail.

He was 18, the son of Helen, a nurse at Hale Hospital, and James, the guy known for driving Haverhill's Bookmobile. (His parents, both 82, still live in the city.)

*Continued*

**"HE'S ONE OF THE GREAT TALENTS IN PREDICTING THE ENORMITY OF AN ISSUE. THAT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN ONLY LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE AND BEING EXTREMELY, EXTREMELY SMART."**

— House Majority Leader  
Ronald Mariano



Brian Dempsey speaks to reporters at the State House.

**“THE LEVEL OF TEACHING AT ULOWELL WAS OUTSTANDING, AND I STILL FIND MYSELF USING THINGS I LEARNED IN THOSE CLASSROOMS ALL THE TIME.”**

— Brian Dempsey

When, in 1985, he announced his first campaign, he hoped for a slew of congratulatory and encouraging phone calls. “One or two calls flooded in,” he says with a chuckle.

In what turned out to be a sort of practicum, he garnered 6,346 votes, just 36 ballots shy of a seat on the board. He buckled down on his University of Lowell studies. Dempsey earned a Liberal Arts degree, but his focus was hard on politics, a passion born of family dinnertime discussions and further honed at Haverhill High School, where he was president of the Student Council and the student

representative to the town’s School Committee. Plus, three of his uncles had run unsuccessfully for City Council.

His passion intensified. Two years later, three incumbents bowed out of the City Council and Dempsey entered the race. He won one of the nine seats, finishing sixth. He was 20.

His star ascended.

He earned his insurance license to supplement his income, selling for John Hancock into the evenings, eventually – in 1997 – hanging his own shingle on Bailey Boulevard. And while running a city didn’t have set hours, City Council meetings also convened at night.

He’d go to class, then go run for office.

“But while I was (at the University), I was there. The level of teaching was outstanding, and I still find myself using things I learned in those classrooms all the time.

“You know, the perception was, or at least I’d always thought, you go to a state school and you’re in a classroom with at least 100 other people. Well, I experienced nothing even close to that. There was a lot of interaction and debate. We discussed local, national and international events. Those things have helped me a lot.”

Future wife Julie, whom he’d dated since sophomore year in high school, graduated from UMass Lowell with a degree in psychology.

They married; he worked in marketing at a health care facility in Lowell, called Northwood.

“I really enjoyed that,” he says, “It taught me a lot about the health care field. Had I not been re-elected, I might have gone into that field.”

When the votes were counted in November 1989, Dempsey was first among candidates, and became the Council’s president.

In 1990, he says, “Beacon Hill was a mess. I was frustrated as a local official. Everyone was. I remember driving by City Hall and people were lined up. Not to vote, but to register to vote.”

Dempsey was ready for the challenge, he says. He took on incumbent Frank Emilio and won the Democratic primary in September 1990 by 801 votes. He handily topped a Republican in the general election.

Dempsey, feeling “a responsibility” to those who elected him to Haverhill’s City Council, stayed on there for a year, even as he served in the Legislature.

### ‘STANDING UP FOR THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE’

In the meantime, life grew busier. The Dempseys had their first son, Ryan, now 20 and studying at Suffolk University in Boston. Tyler, 18, is a senior at Haverhill High, where Brittany, 15, is a sophomore.

“Political science was something Brian really loved,” says Prof. Avalon “Nick” Minton. “I enjoyed having him in class a great deal. Admittedly, he did miss some classes, but it was due to his being so active in politics. A student running while in class is uncommon, but not unheard of.”

Dempsey recalls Minton and other Political Science professors “weaving in” to classes bits of his experiences.

“We’d certainly talk about it. My papers were all about my campaigns, and I learned a lot about how to do it in class. Classes other than politics were more difficult, my professors less understanding, shall we say, of my outside interests.”

Dempsey has returned to speak at UMass Lowell, including in 2009, when Minton presented him with a Distinguished Alumnus Award.

While his top priority has always been Haverhill, the community he represents, Dempsey’s elevation to chair of Ways and Means at the end of January made clear his stature across the state. In his district, it had been plain for years – he hasn’t even had an opponent since 2004.

Michael McGonagle, 52, owns a staffing agency. He was on Haverhill’s City Council from 2007 to 2009. He says Dempsey’s appeal is born of experience, and slices across political borders. “I’m a Republican,” says McGonagle, “but that never came between us.”

“I’ve known him as a rep for years and years, and he actually grew up with a couple of my brothers. And he was one of the guys I spoke to when I considered running. Yeah, he’s a political mentor, sort of, though he is younger.

“I’ve seen him in all sorts of settings, among politicians, as a business guy, with family. And he’s always very likeable, soft-spoken. Watch him in a room full of people, and he’s not interested in just getting his point across. He’ll listen to everyone first.”

Murphy of Emmaus Inc., has followed Dempsey’s career all along.

“Luckily for us, he’s understood what we do,” says Murphy, with the agency for 23 years, the last 10 as its executive director. “He’s supported the agency all along. It seems like he has always been there for us.

“He gets it. He gets that homelessness is an issue that touches jobs, growth, education and housing, all of those different areas. I have always felt with Brian and his staff that I could get them to pay attention. And some wouldn’t see the reward in it.

“He’s standing up for those who don’t have a voice. He’s not doing it for votes. These are people who don’t go out and hold signs. It’s hard enough to just survive. He does it because it’s the right thing to do.” ■

# JACK WILSON — GOOD PRESIDENT, BAD GOLFER — JOINS UMASS LOWELL

BY JACK MCDONOUGH

**A**fter serving as president of the University of Massachusetts system since 2003, Jack Wilson stepped down from that post in June and joined the UMass Lowell faculty as University Distinguished Professor of Higher Education, Emerging Technologies and Innovation – a somewhat overwhelming title that, well, doesn't quite fit Jack Wilson, the person.

Yes, Jack Wilson is a very successful academic, physicist, researcher and entrepreneur with a hugely impressive résumé, replete with titles and credits such as distinguished

professor, dean, provost and founder of companies.

But chat with him a while and he'll tell you that he's also a collector of rocks, a planter of rhododendrons and a bad golfer, which, he explains, can be a business asset. (More on that later.)

He'll also tell you that he's very enthusiastic about coming to UMass Lowell because the Lowell area reminds him of his native Pittsburgh; he eagerly anticipates teaching and working with students and alumni; and he looks forward to helping the University strengthen its connection with all segments of the regional community.

*Continued*



**“UMASS LOWELL STRUCK ME AS THE KIND OF PLACE I WANTED TO BE PART OF, A PLACE WHERE YOU COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLES’ LIVES. I ALSO LIKE THE FACT THAT IT HAS A VERY STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.”**

— Jack Wilson

He chose to come to Lowell, he says, because “I saw it as a place where I could make a difference and it was a good cultural fit with my own background and experience. The culture of Lowell is much like that of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh is a hard-working town, a blue-collar town that was once a mill town — steel in place of textiles — but in each case the major industry left and both towns had to reinvent themselves. That’s been a challenge for people and those are the kind of people I like to work with.”

Another big reason for his eagerness to come to Lowell, Wilson says, is the “excitement and vitality” that Chancellor Marty Meehan has brought to the University: “He’s created the perfect climate for people interested in entrepreneurship and innovation.”

As for the University itself, he says, “I was really impressed with the quality of the people who came out of there. Many of them were first-generation college students looking at the University as a path up in life. Whatever the University gave them must have been pretty good because they did find it. They found a great path.

“That struck me as the kind of place I wanted to be part of, a place where you could make a difference in peoples’ lives. I also like the fact that UMass Lowell has a very strong relationship with the business community. Since I have worked most of my life with one foot in the business community and the other in the academic community, it just seemed like this is the place to be.”

When he arrived on campus in June, Wilson set up shop in the College of Management. Why, one could wonder, would a physicist not reside in the College of Arts and Sciences? The answer, he says, is “I think I’ll work with all colleges. I plan to have friends in many areas. I’ll be working across all boundaries, and management seemed a good place from which I could do that.”

## **WILSON EXCITED TO GET BACK TO CLASSROOM**

Growing up in the Steel City, Wilson knew by the age of 12 that he wanted to be a physicist. “People don’t believe that but it’s true,” he insists now. “I wanted to become a scientist because I was fascinated with how the world worked.”

He didn’t inherit the science gene from his parents. His father was a business executive with H.J. Heinz and his mother was secretary of the board of an architectural and urban planning firm.

Regardless, he pursued his interest at Thiel College in Pennsylvania, where he earned a bachelor’s degree, and then on to Kent State University in Ohio where he earned master’s and doctoral degrees in physics.

That education provided him with the ability to go on to a distinguished career as an educator at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the University of Maryland, to make his mark in research and development, and to be the founder of two corporations.

And now it’s back to the classroom at UMass Lowell this fall where he’ll be teaching (“it’s too soon now to know what”) and conducting research.

His research will be in the areas of policy and practice, to understand the process of commercialization, how entrepreneurs form companies and what policies are needed to improve the economy.

You won’t, however, find a smock-clad Jack Wilson toiling overnight in a laboratory.

“I think my test tube days are over,” he says. “But I might go back to doing some mathematical modeling of systems or things like that because I’m still interested in computational science.”

What clearly excites him most is working with people — with students and alumni and the community.

“I have very good ties with the business community, the nonprofit community and the healthcare community, for example,” he says. “One thing I’ve always done is act as kind of a Fiddler on the Roof, the matchmaker who makes sure the right people get together.

“If someone has a great idea in the research lab and I know someone in a company who is working on a related area, then I try to put them together. If someone in a company has a certain problem and I know people at the University who have a possible solution, then I’ll put them together.”

Wilson hopes to do that for students and alumni as well as for the University.

“My message to the alumni is that I’m very much looking forward to working with them. I view the alumni as critical to the University,” he says. “What I’m saying to them is that ‘I think you can help the University and I think the University can help you.’”

As an example, he says, this help could come in the form of mentoring if a student or an alumnus has an idea that entails forming a company.

“I did that,” he says. “I took a company through three rounds of raising venture capital. I understand how to work with venture capitalists, how to create prototype products and how to sell products. I’m very willing to help with initiatives like that.”

## **BAD GOLFER, GOOD FUNDRAISER**

And the subject of raising money brings us to Jack Wilson’s hobbies.

In addition to being a decent skier, he says he plays golf “pretty badly.” But, on the plus side, he says, “People say I’m a very good fund-raiser golfer because I take a donor out and invariably lose, so I make the donor feel good about his golf game.”

Then there’s the rock collection.

Wilson has collected rocks from his parents’ home in Pennsylvania, his daughter’s home in Wisconsin, and a variety of other places, including the one he pulled from the ocean at the tip of the Cape of Good Hope and brought home in his suitcase.

When he moved from New York to Massachusetts 10 years ago, the rocks came with him. And one day, as he was unloading them from a truck at his Westboro home, a neighbor watched for a while and then said, “Jack, you

do know we have rocks in Massachusetts, don't you?" To which he replied, "Yes, but not my rocks."

And, finally, in addition to rock collecting, the thing that Wilson enjoys more than golf or skiing or anything else is gardening.

When he sold his house in New York, the new owner loved all the rhododendrons that he had planted but was a little overwhelmed by them. So, Wilson dug up a number of them and took them to Westboro where he planted them at the new house.

Now this particular Westboro neighborhood is peopled with business executives and other professional types, many of whom employ gardeners. And on this one day, Dr. Jack Wilson, then founding CEO of the UMassOnline distance-education program, was busily working on some of his rhododendrons in front of his new home when one of the ladies of the neighborhood stopped to admire his work.

"You're doing a beautiful job there," she said, for which he thanked her.

Then, recognizing quality help when she saw it but not realizing that he was the homeowner, said, "Could I hire you to do my gardening?" ■

## THE NEXT PRESIDENT: A QUICK LOOK AT ROBERT CARET

The Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts unanimously elected Robert L. Caret president of the five-campus university system in January.

Caret, the president of Towson University in Maryland, succeeded retiring UMass President Jack M. Wilson, who stepped down on June 30.

Caret, 63, has been the president of Towson University since 2003. He had served as a faculty member, dean, executive vice president and provost of Towson for 21 years before leaving to assume the presidency of San Jose State University in 1995. Caret, who is credited with helping to reinvigorate the San Jose State University campus, also championed a joint city/university effort to build the Martin Luther King, Jr., Library there.

He is a native of Maine who received a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of New Hampshire in 1974 and a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and mathematics from Suffolk University in 1969.

Caret has authored many articles on chemistry, chemical education and higher education for business and professional publications. He is the co-author of four textbooks in the fields of organic chemistry and allied health chemistry.



## Want to Stay in Touch? 4 Simple Ways!



1.

### Alumni Network

This simple social networking site on UMass Lowell's website helps connect alumni to each other.

**How to:** Visit [www.uml.edu/alumni](http://www.uml.edu/alumni).

2.

### Facebook

Find long-lost friends, learn about events on campus and discover how to become an active part of UMass Lowell's growing River Hawks community.

**How to:** Go to [www.facebook.com/umasslowellalumni](http://www.facebook.com/umasslowellalumni).

3.

### Twitter

Get updates about the University and alumni events — in 140 characters or fewer!

**How to:** Visit [www.uml.edu/twitter](http://www.uml.edu/twitter).

4.

### LinkedIn

Connect with other UMass Lowell alumni and expand your network, post discussions, learn about events and advertise job opportunities.

**How to:** Go to [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) and enter "UMass Lowell Alumni" in the search field. Click "join."



LinkedIn



University of  
Massachusetts  
Lowell

# The Katens of Oregon: *Giving a Gift, Closing a Circle*

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS



**H**e first saw her in the Lowell Tech library, one day in 1962 or '63. He was two years ahead of her, a physics major from Methuen; she was from Pennsylvania, a major in plastics engineering. She was studying in the balcony, he remembers — he noticed her right away. They went out a few times; he asked her to join him on a ski weekend (he was on the ski team). The first day out, she broke her ankle. The next day, he broke his. And that, he says today, “was when the bonding really got started.”

Paul Katen and Cheryl Vasey were married in 1968, five years or so after that first library sighting. The path they've traveled since — mostly together, occasionally apart — has taken them from Florida to Colorado to California to Oregon (with a two-year side-trip to Australia by Paul), back to California, and now — finally, since their retirement 11 years ago — back to Oregon again, where they both remain very nearly as busy as when they were pursuing their careers.

These were two careers that involved some pursuing. Paul, an atmospheric physicist, worked in the early years for Pratt and Whitney, received a Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences from Colorado State University, then later was on the faculty at Oregon State University (where he did research on the physics of aerosol); then there were the two years in Canberra, Australia, studying the impact of coal-fired power plants, and a later stint as pollution consultant to the City of Los Angeles.

Cheryl's path, though nearly as peripatetic, is easier to chart. In 1972, following a year or so with a start-up whose name she can no longer recall, she went to work for Hewlett-Packard in Colorado (“I was one of the first women engineers in the business. We were a rare breed in those days”). Over the next 28 years, as she rose through the company's engineering ranks, her responsibilities widened: from automated tooling of HP's calculators, to managing its new inkjet project, to running the project's R&D side; and finally, to the post from which she departed in 2000 — general manager of the company's Home Imaging Division, the branch responsible for production of the company's photo printers, cameras and scanners.

“I was in charge of a lot of very complex projects,” she says today. “And a big part of why I could do that, and do it well, was my Lowell Tech background. It made me a superb technologist.”

Their careers, though parallel, weren't always a perfect fit. Paul moved between jobs; Cheryl's job moved her sometimes between cities. But they adapted — and it kept things interesting, both say. During the time Paul was posted in Australia, remembers Cheryl: “We would arrange to meet somewhere every three months. It could actually be very romantic sometimes.”

Their retirement, from what they tell of it, sounds less like retirement than a series of second careers. For Paul,

it has offered the chance to direct his physicist's skills toward preservation of the Oregon environment. A defunct amusement park on what was once part of an estuary on the Salmon River, abandoned decades ago, over the years has crippled an ecosystem crucial to the survival of many species, particularly the river's salmon.

“This is an important habitat for them,” says Paul, who now spends his days testing water quality, repairing fish ladders and removing dams — all part of a \$1 million project, led by Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council, where he's been a volunteer for close to 10 years, and the U.S. Forest Service, to restore the site to its original state.

“It gives them a place to hide from predators, and gives them refuge during heavy rains,” so they're not swept out to sea before they're ready. “It hasn't been there in forty years. We're trying to put it back.”

Cheryl's version of retirement has been just as full, and at least as diverse. During part of her week, she serves as a driver for Meals on Wheels, distributing food and companionship to seniors along her stretch of the Oregon coast. “It can be very gratifying work,” she says. Another block of time, at least seasonally, is given over to her work as a tax consultant for AARP — which, as April 15 approaches, she says, can feel almost like a full-time job.

The final piece of her working life these days may be the most fitting. Her job as a volunteer at the local library, she says, keeps her in touch with an abiding passion, one that stretches back to her Lowell Tech Days and beyond.

“I love libraries. I always have. I love scanning their shelves, pulling out books — a book here, a book there — until you come across one you find absolutely fascinating, a book you just can't live without. That's a wonderful process. And for all the advantages of the digital age — and there are a lot of them, I'll be among the first to tell you that — that's just something that doesn't happen with computers.”

It's a passion that hasn't stopped with volunteer work. The Katens' recent gift to the UMass Lowell library fund — the largest ever, at \$230,000, to be divided between money for technical journals and for a new learning center — is a clear reflection of where their passions lie: “It was in libraries, probably more than anywhere else, that I learned how to figure things out for myself,” Cheryl says. “I always loved studying there. A library is the heart and soul of a university. That's why we chose the gift we did.”

What she doesn't say, but just as well could have, is that, for a couple whose life together began in the stacks of the LTI library nearly 50 years ago, theirs is also a gift that brings a marriage full-circle. ■

**“IT WAS IN LIBRARIES, PROBABLY MORE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE, THAT I LEARNED HOW TO FIGURE THINGS OUT FOR MYSELF. I ALWAYS LOVED STUDYING THERE. A LIBRARY IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF A UNIVERSITY. THAT'S WHY WE CHOSE THE GIFT WE DID.”**

—CHERYL KATEN

# Smith Hall, With Us No Longer, Releases Her Memories

RESIDENTS RECALL FLAG FOOTBALL, AN R-RATED  
HYPNOTIST AND A MYSTERIOUS NAKED LADY

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

*A copper time capsule that was placed in the cornerstone of Smith Hall in 1947 was opened this spring, revealing items such as letters from government leaders and campus memorabilia from the time.*

Smith Hall, the University's first-ever residence hall, built more than 60 years ago to accommodate the rush of veterans returning home from war, will have been gone nearly a year by the time you read this — the wrecking ball took her down last July. But she wasn't consigned, officially, to memory until March 30 of this year, when a crowd of several hundred alumni, faculty, staff and friends, led by Chancellor Marty Meehan and UMass President Jack Wilson, gathered at the site to say goodbye — and to welcome her replacement.

It was a worthy send-off for the grand old dame. A time-capsule, buried in the cornerstone of the then-new building when she was christened in 1947, was opened and shared with the crowd. A letter from the governor, Republican Robert Bradford, written just two years after the bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki had ended war in the Pacific, spoke of the world's peril "at the dawn of the Atomic Age." Another letter, this one from Lowell Technological Institute President Kenneth Fox, paid tribute to the Institute's "prestige in textile engineering, known around the world." A copy of a 1947 student newspaper, a listing of LTI's academic curriculum and a ribbon commemorating the Institute's 50th anniversary — all were removed from the capsule and shared with those in attendance.

The present, too, was honored. A new, 2011 time-capsule, Meehan announced, is to be buried in the guts of the now-underway \$70-million Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center (ETIC) — its skeleton already in place on the site of the old Smith Hall. The contents of that modern capsule, he said, along with a copy of the student newspaper, The Connector, a River Hawks T-shirt and a USB drive loaded with photos and music, will include the cover of Time Magazine's 2008 post-election issue with a picture of Barack Obama.

The historic parallels were not lost on the Chancellor: 1947, he noted, was the year Jackie Robinson, as first-baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers, broke major league baseball's color line — "and now, today," he said,

"we celebrate [another milestone], our first African-American president."

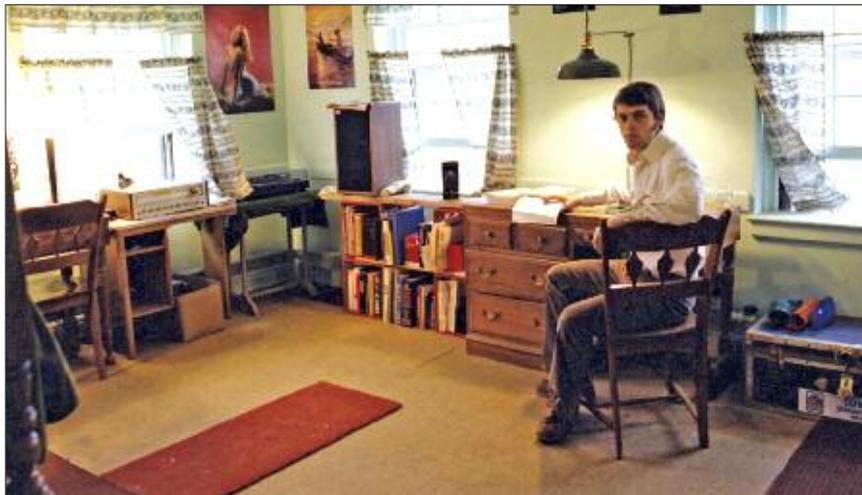
But until the conclusion of the ceremony, when the last giant girder — signed in magic marker by many of those present — was raised in place to top off the new ETIC building, the moment belonged mostly to the past.

"When I heard Smith Hall was closing, I got a lump in my throat," said Joe Peznola '87, one of the day's several speakers, who shared with the crowd his memories of arriving as a freshman, with a single suitcase, and crashing on the couch of his brother's room, Smith 203 — where, as luck would have it, he would spend much of the next four years. He went on to tell other stories: the warm-weather weekends spent on "Smith Hall Beach," the giant freezer on the roof of the building; the pancake breakfasts in the cafeteria; the mysterious, long-haired naked woman who appeared in the hallways one night, asking cryptically for "Tom the Greek."

"It was my home," Peznola told the crowd. "It was where my friends were, it was where I mentored and was mentored. ... But sometimes progress comes with a little loss of our past."

Other alumni, from other years, told other stories. Dana Granville '75, today a composite materials engineer for the Army — he has worked for the Army, as a civilian, since his LTI graduation 36 years ago — remembered flag football games, and a Spring Carnival, on the Smith Hall lawn; a Jethro Tull concert in the fall of '71, the somber words of LTI's then-president Martin Lydon ("Look to your right, look to your left — one of you will not be here") on his arrival as a first-semester freshman.

"I remember that the rooms had sinks in them — we thought that was pretty great at the time," he told this reporter in an interval between speeches. "And that you could walk through tunnels to get everywhere,



Rick Allen '80 sits in his Smith Hall dorm room in the fall of 1978.

which was fantastic on stormy days ... I remember Dean [Leo] King, the dean of students — he was great, he was everywhere you looked — and Profs. [Stephen] Orroth and [Stephen] Driscoll — he was the adviser to my fraternity, Pi Lambda Phi ... Both of those guys are still with the University. That really says something about the place, I think."

Two residents from a later era, Tom Kalil and Joe Collins, both 1992 graduates and both today employees at EMC Corp., shared their memories of other Smith Hall traditions: dances with the women students in adjoining Eames Hall ("They could get pretty crazy"); an "R-rated hypnotist," who hypnotized residents into doing things the two would rather not divulge: and something known as the Suitcase Dance, so called because everyone arrived with a packed suitcase, and a winner, picked at the end, left the dance for a weekend in Florida.

"We were a close-knit group," Kalil remembers, "all engineering students, so we worked together, we lived together, we knew each other well. When you're that close with people, over that long a time, it forms a bond, I think, that sometimes can last a lifetime."

It was a sentiment that seemed to join many in the crowd that day.

"We will miss you, Smith Hall," said Peznola, in his role as surrogate for the thousands of residents who lived and worked in the building over its 63 years, to the gathered group. "But we have our memories. And we have friends for life." ■

**"IT WAS WHERE MY FRIENDS WERE, IT WAS WHERE I MENTORED AND WAS MENTORED. ... SOMETIMES PROGRESS COMES WITH A LITTLE LOSS OF OUR PAST."**

— Joe Peznola '87



When it opened its doors in 1947, Smith Hall became the first residence hall on campus.

## Commencement 2011

Commencement 2011 was record-breaking on many fronts — from the number of graduates (more than 2,570) to the amount of money raised for student scholarships (more than \$670,000). But it was the announcement of a gift from keynote speaker Robert Manning '84 and his wife Donna '85, '91 — more than \$5 million toward constructing a new College of Management building and the newly named Manning School of Business — that showed the new graduates where a UMass Lowell degree can take them.

“You can accomplish anything and don’t ever let anyone get in your way,” said Manning, chairman and CEO of Boston-based MFS Investment Management, in his address at the May 28 ceremony. “I am not going to wish you good luck. You don’t need good luck. The people you are going to compete against need it.”

*Note: Read more about the Mannings’ gift in the next issue.*



**A.** Student speaker Vinicius Dimiz, originally from Brazil, was recognized by the College of Engineering for his work in the University’s Assistive Technology Program.

**B.** Trustee Ruben J. King-Shaw Jr.

**C.** College of Sciences graduates celebrate after receiving their diplomas.

**D.** Donna '85, '91 and Robert Manning '84 received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.

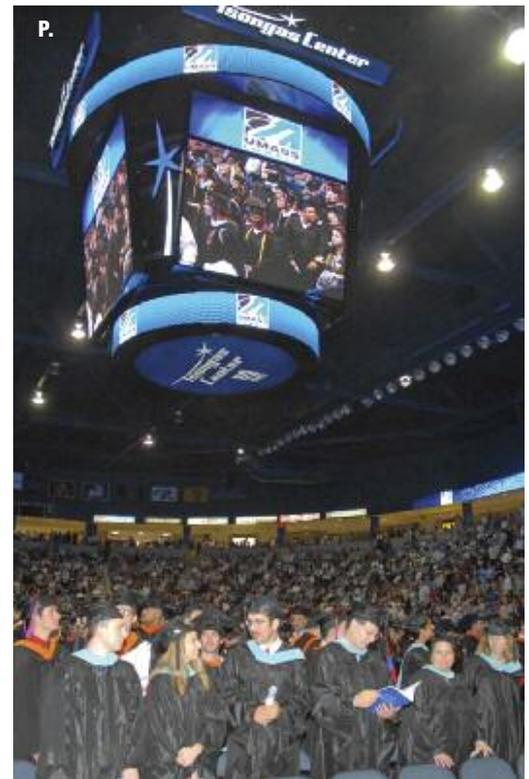
**E.** Valedictorian and electrical engineering graduate Keith Chamberlain — who achieved a 4.0 GPA all four years at UMass Lowell — joins his parents, Monica and Bill, after receiving the Trustees Key.

**F.** John F. Kennedy '70, left, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, visits with former UMass Lowell professor and dean Stuart Mandell.

**G.** Chancellor Marty Meehan '78, left, looks on as professor and dean emeritus Stuart Mandell receives an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

**H.** Keynote speaker Robert Manning '84, chairman and CEO of MFS Investments Management in Boston, told students to “remember where you came from.”

**I.** Donna Manning '85, '91, an oncology nurse at Boston Medical Center, receives an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.



**J.** From left: Andre Dubus III, John Kennedy '70, Stuart Mandell, Chancellor Meehan '78, Mico Kaufman, Donna Manning '85, '91, Robert Manning '84, outgoing UMass President Jack Wilson; UMass Board of Trustees Chairman James Karam

**K.** Commencement speaker Andre Dubus III reaches over Robert Manning '84 to shake hands with honorary degree recipient Donna Manning '85, '91.

**L.** From left: Nina Coppens, interim dean of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Robert Gamache, dean of the School of Marine Sciences;

Shortie McKinney, dean of the School of Health and Environment; Robert Tamarin, dean of the College of Sciences; Kathryn Carter, dean of the College of Management; John Ting, dean of the College of Engineering; Anita Greenwood, interim dean of the Graduate School of Education

**M.** Music graduates, from left, Kendall DiTommaso, Elisabeth Hodge and Theresa Cleary sing the National Anthem.

**N.** Best-selling author and UMass Lowell English professor Andre Dubus III, receives the Chancellor's Medal of Recognition from Chancellor Meehan '78.

**O.** Chancellor Meehan '78 presents renowned sculptor Mico Kaufman with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

**P.** More than 2,570 students, the largest graduating class in UMass Lowell history, received degrees on May 28 at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell.

**Q.** Excited graduates prepare to receive their diplomas.

# The University Shows its Colors

### From Department Chairs to Plumbers, Painters and Police, Faculty and Staff Prove Their Commitment



Of all the ways in which school loyalty may be measured — alumni support, enrollment numbers, student retention levels, the number of fans in the stands at a hockey game — there is probably none more telling than the support of those who work there.

And by that measure, the loyalty enjoyed by UMass Lowell may be unparalleled.

Consider: More than 600 members of the University's active faculty and staff, and 300 more of its retirees, have made gifts, over the course of their tenures, that total close to \$4 million. Some of these have been remarkable in their size. Six have exceeded \$100,000 each, more than 40 are above \$10,000; 32 have come in the form of endowments, conferring scholarship aid on some of the same students their benefactors are paid to teach or serve.

For all that, though, it is the breadth of the donors, more than anything else, that stands out. The deans, department chairs and top administrators, of course, are well represented — and there are scores and scores of professors (and a full 100 percent of the Plastics Engineering Department) who have donated. But there are also librarians, coaches, clerical workers, administrative assistants, secretaries, painters, publicists, typists, wait-staff, nurses, laborers and police. The full list of donors, just under a thousand names in all, is a mirror of the University they serve.

"We have many successes to celebrate this year — but none of them would be possible without the hard work and passion that our faculty and staff demonstrate for our students every day," says Chancellor Marty Meehan. "That so many of them are willing to give back financially as well, says everything you need to know about their loyalties to the University."

Over the past five years, roughly a fifth of all the UMass Lowell faculty and staff have made gifts — a percentage that exceeds even that of the alumni. But perhaps more remarkable: of the 300-odd staff and faculty who are alumni themselves, fully half are represented on the list.

One of these is Gary Mucica, a 1971 Lowell Tech graduate who went on to top-level management positions with Clorox and Johnson and Johnson and is today director of graduate programs for the College of Management — as well as the University's varsity golf coach. Mucica's support (his generosity places him in the top tier of donors, faculty or alumni) has been, he says, in direct response to what he feels is the University's contribution to his life and career.

"I have much in common with other graduates from my era," Mucica says. "We took the great education we'd received at Lowell Tech, and went on to have successful business careers. Years later, when I reconnected with the school, around the time of it becoming UMass Lowell, I was impressed by how it had remained true to its mission, the same mission I remembered — of providing an affordable, quality education. Even more, though, I was impressed by the accelerating pace of its development and its ambitious plans for the future. I'm glad to be a part of that growth, and to be able to invest back in the school that started me on the path to my success."

Sheila Riley-Callahan, UMass Lowell's executive director of academic services — this year was her 25th as a member of the University staff — earned both her B.S. and graduate degrees at ULowell. Like Mucica, giving for her has been a function, at least in part, of gratitude: "It was here that I was given the opportunity to become the person I am."

But in her case, it's also more personal than that.

"I grew up locally, went to Lowell High School. No one in my family had ever been to college before. 'Why go to college?' my father said to me, 'You're only going to get married and raise kids' — which only made me more determined," she says. "So that's who I am — first-generation collage, like a lot of other kids I came with, like a lot I work with today, every day, in my job. I'm right there with them, on the front-line as they struggle with their decisions, just as I remember once struggling, about what they want and who they're going to be.

"So that's why I give — because I love this place. Because it helps me to remember where I came from. That's something I try never to forget."

There are no doubt other reasons to give as well. There may be as many reasons as there are faculty and staff who choose to give. But whatever these may be — gratitude, pride, kinship, a sense of ownership — there is something very special about the reality of a thousand men and women, many of them of modest or middling means, choosing to add their dollars to the thousands of hours they already give.

"We are so very, very grateful to the faculty and staff for giving so generously of their resources, in addition to their hard work, which they provide us each and every day on behalf of the University and its students," says Edward Chiu, UMass Lowell Vice Chancellor for Advancement. "It is a fitting, and most remarkable testament of their commitment.

"And on a more personal level, I'd just like to say 'Thank you.'"





Members of UMass Lowell's ROTC perform a drill on North Campus.

# For Student Veterans, a Long, Less-Lonely Road

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

*With New Veterans Center, the University Honors its Returning Military*

**D**avid Boyd is 29 years old, a UMass Lowell senior majoring in history. Not so long ago, he was something else entirely: an Army intelligence analyst stationed in South Korea, halfway between Seoul and the DMZ – and following that, a counter-terrorism analyst based in Florida, deployed from there to embassies and host nations around the globe.

He arrived on campus in the spring of 2008. His biggest challenge, he says, like that of most of the 1,270 veterans on campus – and the thousands of others on campuses around the United States – had little to do with academics:

“After being in Iraq, Afghanistan or wherever, and being used to a structured lifestyle like the military, where you have to do things a certain way – or else – you come into a school where the kids walk into class late, then sit there with their iPods on, talking with friends or texting the entire time.”

His first months at school were lonely ones, he says: “I didn’t know any other veterans. I felt out of place being in class with freshmen who were eighteen and nineteen and away from their parents for the first time.”

A lot has changed in two years. Boyd, now president of the University’s Student Veterans Organization (SVO) and state director for the Student Veterans of America – as well as a member of the SALUTE veterans honors society and Phi Alpha Theta, the History Department’s honor society – today spends a sizable block of his time working to assure that other UMass Lowell veterans won’t have to suffer the same alienation.

He was there on Veterans Day last November, in his capacity as SVO president, to introduce the Chancellor in a flag-raising ceremony on campus that included U.S. Sen Scott Brown, State Senator Steve Panagiotakos and others. It was at that ceremony that Chancellor Meehan told the assembled crowd of the University’s newest commitment to its veterans:

“We have committed space to create a combined veterans’ benefit office and drop-in center, with full-time and part-time staff, so that our student veterans can find the resources they need and the support of other veterans on campus,” Meehan told the assembled crowd. The center, which has also enjoyed the strong backing of U.S. Rep Niki Tsongas, will be open by September of this year, according to the Chancellor.

For Boyd, the new center will be a milestone. “It will be a place any veterans on campus can come and get information to assist them,” he predicts. “We’ll have people there to help them and to show them what’s available, which is important, especially since most veterans don’t know all the services available to them. It’ll be a huge step toward making them feel comfortable here.”

“It’s going to be very important for the veterans on this campus,” says Oneida Blagg, UMass Lowell’s director of Equal Opportunity and Outreach, and herself a veteran of the National Guard and Reserve. “Veterans today are dealing with any number of mental or emotional issues – PTSD, rage, panic attacks, sexual trauma. The military

*Continued*



*A ceremonial flag-raising was held on campus in November in honor of Veterans Day.*



UMass Lowell's Air force ROTC gather on North Campus.

**“IT HAS BEEN FINDING OTHER VETERANS ON CAMPUS, BEING ABLE TO TALK TO THEM AND SPEND TIME WITH THEM, THAT HAS MADE THE LARGEST DIFFERENCE FOR ME.”**

— DAVID BOYD

used to discourage its people from revealing their problems; partly because of this, many of them are still reluctant to do so. Now though, with the new center, they'll have a place they can come to talk with others who are dealing with [similar issues]. They'll no longer have to face them alone.”

All this is recent history. Only five years ago, a veteran on campus was as likely as anyone else to get lost in the shuffle: typed as a “non-traditional student” or “adult learner,” and grouped with the hundreds of others over 25 years old returning to school after working, having children or otherwise taking time off schooling.

Then one day, at a luncheon for such students in the spring of 2006, one of these “non-traditionals” – a young woman, a former medic in Iraq – approached Imogene Stulken, the University's Protestant campus minister. It was this brief exchange, between the student and the minister, that would plant the seeds for today's SVO.

Stulken would recall later that the woman had said, “I'm not finding much in common with my classmates. I didn't know when I went to sleep whether or not I would wake up in the morning. I can't relate to classmates who are worrying about what clothes to wear or what party to attend.”

From there, one thing led to another. Stulken spoke with Mary Connelly in the Dean of Students Office, who referred her to another UMass Lowell veteran interested in forming an organization on campus. Sometime after, in the course of working with still other vets to prepare boxes for soldiers and sailors posted overseas, she learned more of the needs and wants of these particular “non-traditional” men and women.

And so it happened, as Stulken would relate it all later – at a celebration for campus veterans in the spring of last year: “From one person sharing her story, to one person hearing then retelling that story, to that one listener's remembering the story and sharing it with one other student, to dedicated students responding one by one – from Brian

to Michael to Ted to David, and to many more – a community was formed.”

It couldn't have been more timely. Within just two years of the 2006 luncheon exchange that gave birth to the SVO, an epochal piece of national legislation – the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 – had made its way through Congress. Often compared to the original GI Bill that followed World War II, it took effect in the fall of 2009, greatly expanding educational assistance for recent active-duty veterans and resulting in an overnight cascade of new enrollments – a one-year, forty percent increase in the number of UMass Lowell students receiving military benefits.

The University, in a host of ways, has risen to meet the challenge. The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, headed by Vice Provost Charlotte Mandell, is now in place to raise awareness of veterans on campus and address their issues and concerns; a therapist at the Lowell Vets Center now spends her Thursday mornings at the University's counseling center to be available to student veterans; the office of the Veterans Benefits Coordinator, Linda Morabito, has expanded its reach and staffing. UMass Lowell now has a web page exclusively for student veterans; it hosts a welcome luncheon for incoming veterans in September, and another one two months later on the day before Veterans Day.

And then last spring, in a first-ever ceremony, the University hosted a reception to honor its graduating veterans – conferring on each one a “challenge coin,” inspired by a World War I battlefield tradition, to symbolize lifetime membership in the University community. At the same ceremony, joining their graduating colleagues, UMass Lowell's inaugural-year inductees to the SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society were honored for their achievements. UMass Lowell is a charter member of SALUTE, one of only five in the country. The students honored are eligible to apply for national scholarships that supplement the new GI-Bill funding — or in some cases, are awarded to students not receiving GI-Bill benefits.

David Boyd, as SVO president, has been an advocate for much of this – and is happy, he says, with the progress made on his watch. Still, like any good soldier-leader, he has one eye out for the unmet challenges:

“There are still certain buildings that [some] physically disabled veterans wouldn't be able to attend classes in. There are issues and services that certain veterans need because of their [disabilities], such as PTSD, that the University – whether staff, faculty, or students – isn't yet ready to deal with. And there are some professors [who] still let their personal biases and political beliefs affect how they treat and grade their veteran-[students].”

But these are battles for another day. And the biggest battle of all, says Boyd, as he heads into the final half of his senior year, appears already to have been won:

“It has been finding other veterans on campus, being able to talk to them and spend time with them, that has made the largest difference for me.” ■

# Alumni Life

## Inside...

- 44 FEATURE
- 47 IN MEMORIAM
- 48 ALUMNI EVENTS
- 52 CLASS NOTES

## TRAVELING THE WORLD

*Kenneth Tucceri '06 recently traversed the length of the Appalachian Trail — from Mt. Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia.*



ALUMNUS RICH MINER:

# 'IDEA MAN'

BY EDWIN L. AGUIRRE

*Android co-founder and UMass Lowell alum Rich Miner '86, '89, '97 is based in Cambridge's Kendall Square.*



## GOOGLE PARTNER HONED HIS ENTREPRENEURIAL INSTINCTS AT UMASS LOWELL

Prof. Emeritus Pat Krolak remembers sitting at Logan Airport, getting ready to board an airplane to Pennsylvania, and waiting anxiously for his grad student Rich Miner. As part of their work for the Center for Product Enhancement, the pair were due in Philadelphia, where they were scheduled to make a pitch to the Commodore and Amiga group.

Miner had been working on their presentation throughout the night – and still had it in his possession – but he was nowhere in sight.

“Our plane was leaving in 45 minutes and there was still no sign of Richard at Logan Airport,” recalls Krolak. “I called him and it turned out he was still packing things into his car at Lowell. I said, ‘Richard, the plane is about to leave.’ And he said, ‘Sure, I have plenty of time.’”

Krolak says a lot of money was at stake – and he was nervous.

“About five minutes before the plane’s door was to close, Richard came running up to the counter, breathing hard,” he says. “I asked him, ‘How did you ever manage to get here so fast? How did you find parking, especially with this being Thanksgiving week?’ He said, ‘It was easy — I just stopped the car in front of the gate, left the keys in the car with the engine running and ran inside. They’ll probably just tow it and charge me with a fine.’ And that was exactly what happened: the car got towed away, but we made it to our presentation, got the contract and Richard paid the towing fine, which turned out to be cheaper than Logan’s parking fee since we were away for nearly a week!”

Things seem to work out that way for Miner, says Krolak — but his good luck is more than matched by his motivation, intelligence and innovation.

Indeed, while working at the Center for Product Enhancement — where Miner was a team captain and as such would attend up to 20 trade shows a year, pitching the group’s research projects to presidents and CEOs of major corporations — Miner secured an unheard-of number of deals.

“By the time Richard decided to become a Ph.D. student, he had several million dollars’ worth of contracts under his belt, which was amazing for an undergrad,” he says.

### A HOME-GROWN ENTREPRENEUR

“A natural leader.” “Motivated and inquisitive.” “Innovative and a self-starter.”

These are just some of the accolades used by computer science Prof. Emeritus Tom Costello to describe Miner, his former student.

Miner, who earned his bachelor’s degree in computer science in 1986 and his master’s in 1989 from then-University of Lowell and his Ph.D. in 1997 from UMass Lowell, is now a partner at Google Ventures, the venture-capital division of the Internet search giant that invests up to \$100 million per year in promising enterprises.

Miner’s 25-year-plus journey to “the other side of the desk” — the side that invests venture-capital money rather than asking for it — involved the successful founding of several innovative, leading-edge technology companies, including Wildfire in 1991, which was acquired by Orange in 2001 for a reported \$142 million, and Android, a mobile platforms company that Google acquired for a reported \$50 million in 2005. These days, sales of Android-powered smartphones have outpaced those of other smartphone platforms.

“There was no question he was going to be successful — it was just a question of how soon and where,” says Costello. “His current work at Google Ventures is basically a continuation of what he was doing at the University: assessing technology and determining what ideas look marketable and what the size of the market is going to be.”

Miner says UMass Lowell was instrumental in preparing him for his future.

“The education I received was great,” says Miner. “The University’s Computer Science Department was amazing — it was deeply immersive and intense.”

As an undergrad, he had thoughts of becoming a physicist. But on the side, he wrote computer games for the Commodore 64, a first-generation gaming system, and soon discovered his love of both computer science and entrepreneurship. As a graduate student, his work with Krolak opened the door to other innovative ideas.

“My professors prepared me with the skills to be an entrepreneur by providing a strong technical and commercial foundation,” says Miner. “They also provided me with pragmatic education. They challenged me and encouraged me to go out and work with companies to get real-world practical experience. Even though I wasn’t taking any business courses, my fellow grad students and I were living the business side of things since we were dealing with real world commercial issues well as advocating for our projects to research foundations and sponsors while also carrying a full course-load.”

Miner and his team worked with Wang, Apollo, Digital, IBM, Kodak, Siemens, Raster Technologies, LexiData, Stellar and Pyramid Computing, among others.

“We had strong relationships with these companies. If they were involved with CAD, graphics and computing, we were working with them. Most of our projects were funded by corporations with the goal of having direct impact on their products,” he says.

Krolak considers Miner a “one-in-a-lifetime” student: “I was trying to mentor Richard, but it was like trying to tame the wind. He was a ball of energy. We’re all very proud of him.”



*A close-up of the 7281 parallel data-flow coprocessor that Miner designed and built, after being told that it was not possible to create one. The card enabled the University’s Apollo workstations to process high-resolution images a lot faster.*

**“THE UNIVERSITY’S COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT WAS AMAZING — IT WAS DEEPLY IMMERSIVE AND INTENSE.”**

—RICH MINER

*Continued*



*Rich Miner pioneered the development of video conferencing as an undergrad in the late 1980s, well before there were webcams or digital video editors. Here he is shown using the technology on campus to order pizza from a shop in downtown Lowell.*

**“YOU NEED TO DO YOUR ABSOLUTE BEST AND SHOUT OUT LOUD ABOUT WHAT YOU’RE DOING. YOU NEED TO TRY TO WORK ON THINGS THAT ARE IMPRESSIVE SO OTHER PEOPLE WOULD TAKE NOTICE. YOU CAN’T SET YOUR BAR LOW.”**

—RICH MINER

Says Costello: “Even in his early undergraduate days, Rich was very creative and innovative. He had remarkable foresight, intuition and a lot of humor. He understood team dynamics and was very good at developing a cooperative team. They all worked very hard and worked long hours while still carrying full-time student loads. This showed what students can do if you let their imagination and creativity go beyond the confines of the classroom walls.

“As a student, Rich was very talented, but he’s not an A student. He didn’t focus on grades; he focused on doing things. Other students may focus on grades but they don’t get to develop leadership and marketing skills like Rich.”

**A TRUE PIONEER**

Assoc. Prof. James Canning is yet another fan of Miner.

“Rich is on my list of Academic Hall of Fame,” he says. “He’s a cornucopia of ideas. He was our ‘Idea Man.’ He outworks everyone else; he can work on multiple projects simultaneously, deal with issues at every level, tackle technical details of code programming, conceive how to put projects together and come up with fresh ideas for new projects.”

At the University’s research lab, Miner created projects ranging from designing and building a 7281 parallel data-flow coprocessor to building a high-res graphics card for handling photographs, office documents and satellite and medical images. He was also the principal developer of the EXP “expression” language to support math researchers and image processing. In addition, he did groundbreaking work in the field of video conferencing.

Rich also played a key role in the creation of the first international image-processing standard for the industry. Its committee members included representatives from Kodak, Digital, IBM, Wang, Data General and Siemens.

“Rich worked on digitizing video in the late 1980s, in his first year as a grad student,” says Costello. “He

developed the software, was paid \$9,000 for it and the prototype led to what is now Avid Technology, a billion-dollar company based in Burlington. Hollywood movie companies and all network news organizations use the technology for image-editing and special effects.”

Costello says Miner revolutionized multi-way video conferencing over coaxial cable, enabling him to communicate, share and annotate documents with faculty and students simultaneously.

“Rich enjoyed challenges,” he says. “The words ‘impossible,’ and ‘not doable’ were simply not part of his vocabulary.”

**SECRETS OF A SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR**

What is the secret to Rich Miner’s success?

“Working hard and being passionate about what you’re doing,” he says. “You also need to seek out the best and smartest people to work with and try to be at the right place at the right time.”

He says you also can’t sit there and wait for great things to happen:

“You need to do your absolute best and shout out loud about what you’re doing. You need to try to work on things that are impressive so other people will take notice. You can’t set your bar low.”

He advises new graduates who would like to become entrepreneurs to jump in and do it.

“If you’re not yet ready, then look at the right place to get a good education and then join a mid-stage start-up with a great culture and great environment for innovation and learn from there,” he says. “It’s always easier to establish a start-up company when you’re young because it’s easier to make sacrifices when you’re just starting out in your career.”

He says aspiring entrepreneurs should also take advantage of start-up accelerators for professional advice, practical guidance and networking aids.

“It’s easy to get mentorship, resources and support from start-up accelerator programs such as TechStars and MassChallenge, certainly easier than it has ever been,” he says.

Failure isn’t necessarily a bad thing, he notes, especially if you learn from the failure.

“You should never be afraid to fail, although you should not set out for that,” he says. “But you should always aim high — if you have a great idea and you believe in it, you should go for it. Find good mentors and take advice from them because it’s easy to get blinded by your idea and miss the big picture — there could be no market for your product idea or there might be huge technological obstacles that could get in the way.

“Failures could offer good learning experiences. But don’t start focusing on the failures — focus on the successes.” ■

## FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS HONOR THE MEMORY OF PAT O'HAGAN '81

The spirit of Mary "Pat" O'Hagan '81 lives on in the hearts and minds of her friends and neighbors in the tiny town of Sheffield, Vt., which she and her husband, Ed, had called home since 1995.

The 78-year-old grandmother, who lent her abundant energy and enthusiasm to all manner of civic activities and volunteer work in her adopted hometown, met a tragic death last fall. She apparently was abducted from her home on Sept. 10 and her body was found three weeks later by hunters in a wooded area of Wheelock, 10 miles south of Sheffield. Police are treating the case as a homicide.



Described as extremely active and energetic, Pat had been heavily involved in the Sheffield community and in her church. Her memberships included the local historical society, the St. Elizabeth Church Women's group, the Sheffield Food Pantry, the Planning Board and the Red Hat Society. She was also a kayaker who loved to travel, go camping and spend time with her nine grandchildren.

She and husband Ed had lived for years in North Chelmsford, Mass., where they raised their five children. Then, at the age of 49, Pat earned a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Lowell. Fifteen years ago she and Ed moved to Sheffield where they bought and renovated a house before Ed died in 2001.

Terry O'Hagan, one of the couple's four sons (and also a UMass Lowell alumnus), says the Sheffield townspeople are remembering his mother in many different ways.

Her memory is preserved in a bench at the old town hall, which she had worked so hard to have restored as a historic building. A community garden is being named in her honor. And the local food pantry, at which Pat had been very active, has collected three years worth of funding donated in her name.

Terry says the family continues to support many of the causes that their mother espoused.

"We have a lot of money that was donated for the search effort (when Pat was missing) and we've donated a lot of it to local causes," he says. "We've also asked people to direct their donations now to the local food bank."

Police are continuing their investigation into Pat's death. "It's an ongoing case," Terry says. "We're hopeful that it will be resolved soon."

## DECEASED

YEAR*	NAME	YEAR*	NAME	YEAR*	NAME
1925	Nettie E. Ryan Burke	1967	Ronald F. Buckley	1981	Donald P. Schwanekamp
1934	John W. Garner Sr.	1969	Nancy L. Lovell Benoit	1982	Frederick C. Soucy Jr.
1936	Evangeline A. Drury Geiger	1970	Joseph McClintock	1982	James B. Meyers
1940	Ruth M. Conrad Stephens	1970	Paul F. Gleisberg	1982	Leo J. Donnelly Jr.
1940	Mary K. Kiernan Howland	1970	William D. Gallant	1982	Suzanne T. Deschenes McMahon
1940	Margaret J. McLay Shyne	1971	Stephen W. Hatherley	1982	Viet A. Tran
1940	Dorothy M. Brandt Feeley	1971	Charles F. Navien	1983	Cary L. Renault
1941	Agnes A. Dreven	1972	David O. Seaward	1983	Kenneth E. Jenkins
1944	Olive M. Cahoon	1973	Victor A. Bonaceto	1986	Philip F. Riley
1944	Mary A. Pasho	1973	George J. Morgan Jr.	1986	Thomas Verzi Jr.
1944	Violette T. Dubois	1973	Norman J. Cote	1988	Richard H. Donovan
1948	Ying K. Lee	1973	Sandra H. McAleer	1989	Thomas M. Jurgen
1948	George T. Fieldsend	1973	Timothy J. Murphy	1990	Nghiem T. Do
1949	Thomas A. Huff	1974	Kenneth S. Manuelian	1992	Larry R. Meachum
1949	John P. Maguire	1974	Michael E. Madden	1993	Daryl P. Killip
1950	Alanson W. Bowden Jr.	1974	Sidney E. Stirk	1993	Michael E. Giblin
1950	John Evans	1974	Darrell E. Jordan	1993	Maurice J. Hache
1951	Bernice M. Scott	1975	Nancy L. Becht Edwards	1994	Craig M. Charron
1951	Carolyn B. Hopkins Small	1975	Robert L. Lagasse Sr.	1995	Jason D. Sheehan
1953	Frederick H. Koek	1975	Theophilus Kosmes	1996	Robert A. Christian
1954	Virginia M. Quinn Callahan	1975	Eileen A. Kelley	1997	Ralph H. Hall Jr.
1956	Joan M. Obey Wight	1975	Robert T. Falkowski	1999	Anne B. Pramas
1957	Adolphe A. Traversy	1976	David R. Chase	2001	Sandra L. Bohlin
1958	Francesco-Tomaso Esile	1977	Steven D. Roebuck	2001	Robert S. White
1959	George G. Cormier	1978	Judith A. Birmingham	2003	Marilyn Tamayo
1960	Gerald A. Gagnon	1979	Joseph M. Gibson	2006	Nicholas R. Wojtkiewicz
1961	Norman T. Veillette	1979	John W. Plunkett	2006	Shaun M. McGaughey
1962	Earl Sharfman	1980	John H. Zahr	2007	Kendall C. Graffam Jr.
1963	Clare E. Karis	1980	John P. Pierzynski Jr.	2008	Elayne R. Fong
1963	Norman R. Leclair	1980	Shirley B. Solomon	2008	Lisa D. Stanton
1964	James F. Robbins Sr.	1980	Theodora F. Karp Banks	2010	James Drew Knapic
1964	Dianne E. Councilman Cox	1981	M. Patricia Hanley O'Hagan	2010	Steven LeRoy Hansen
1966	Michael H. Anderson				

\* year of graduation

**Marion "Olive" Cahoon '44** of South Chatham, died unexpectedly at age 88 on December 1, 2010 at her childhood home. Olive earned her music degree at Lowell State Teachers College, and then taught and supervised vocal and instrumental music in public schools of Falmouth, Derry, N.H. and Washougal, Wash. Later she joined the faculty of Gulf Park College in Long Beach, Miss.

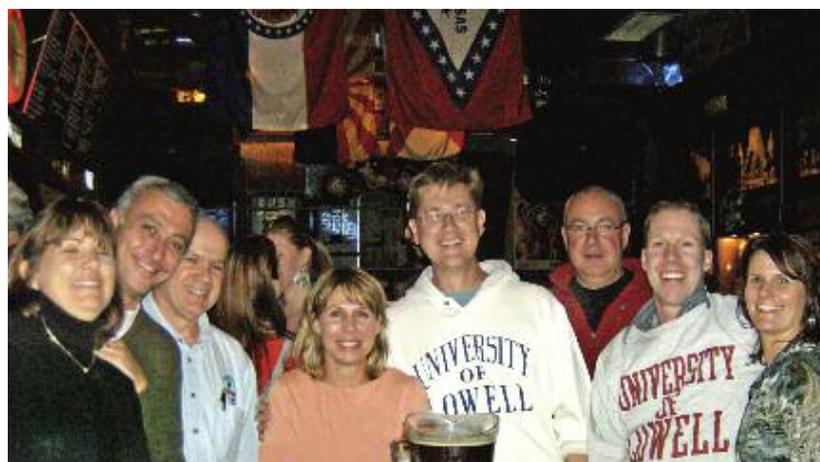
On the Mississippi Gulf Coast, she met her husband, Leon Cahoon, originally from Nantucket. They lived in Gulfport for nearly 10 years and had two children. When Leon passed unexpectedly, Olive moved back to Chatham with her 8-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter.

In her long career as a pianist, she served as an accompanist for the Music Circus (now the Melody Tent) in Hyannis, the Gulf Coast Theatre of Arts in Mississippi, Mississippi's Metropolitan Opera Auditions, the Chatham Chorale and various community theater productions and concerts.

From the late 1960's to the mid-1990's she was on the piano faculty at the Cape Cod Conservatory of Music, Art, Dance and Drama in Barnstable. Olive also enjoyed photography, drawing, painting and writing poetry; recently a few of her poems were published in the National Library of Poetry.



# Alumni events



**Top row, left:** At the 10th Anniversary Sukant Tripathy Memorial Tribute are, from left, Dean of Sciences Bob Tamarin, Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney, Konarka CEO Howard Berke, Susan Tripathy, Sheila Tripathy, Aruna Vedula and Dean Emeritus Krishna Vedula. **Right:** At a Sigma Phi Omicron reunion on Feb. 19 are, from left, Brian Harrington '71, Paul Falman '72, Norm Paquette '71 and Dave Sullivan '69.

**Middle row, left:** At a Residence Life, Student Government and Orientation Alumni Reunion on Jan. 29, are, from left: Dean of Enrollment and Student Success Tom Taylor, Conway Campbell '97, Dennis Lucia '95 and Shannon Lucia '96.

**Middle row, right:** Alumni participated in the 210-mile Reach the Beach race in New Hampshire included Bill Siopes '04, Melissa Charbonneau Siopes '03, Melissa Egan '03, Prof. Bob Malloy '79, '88 and Cristina Emphasis '03.

**Bottom row, left:** At an ACS Reception of chemistry alumni and faculty at Anthony's Pier 4 in Boston, are, from left: Wayne Aruda '71, '83, Martin Isaks, Bill Bannister, Ara Jeknavorian '71, '74, '99, Prof. Gene Barry, Allen Denio '56, '57, Tris Laurion '54, Prof. Emeritus Art Watterson and Paul Bessette '73.

**Right:** Rochester, N.Y., plastics alumni gather at a River Hawks hockey game.



**Top row, left:** Mary Jo Leahey '37 and Chancellor Marty Meehan '78 at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla. **Middle:** Enjoying a reception at the Capital Grille in Naples, Fla., are Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '76, '92, Maureen Lerner, Arnold Lerner, Brenda Costello '68, Joe Fitzpatrick and Mary Ellen Fitzpatrick. **Right:** Don '59 and Gloria LaTorre enjoy a Red Sox game during spring training with other UMass Lowell alumni and friends.

**Middle row, left:** Joe Day '66, Ann Northrop, Thomas McGuirk, Christina McGuirk '67 and Chancellor Meehan '78 gather at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla. **Right:** Accountant alumni from Moody, Famiglietti & Andronico visit with faculty,

from left: Accounting Department Chairman Stephen Collins, Prof. Monty Carter, Greg Famiglietti '09, Professor Emerita Linda Kistler, Professor Emerita Mary Ellen Morris, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Operations Joanne Yestramski '76, Will Andronico '89, Craig Eaton '96, Travis Drouin '93 and College of Management Dean Kathy Carter '78.

**Bottom row, left:** Omicron Pi fraternity brothers with Chancellor Meehan, UMass President Jack Wilson and Vice Chancellor for Advancement Edward Chiu at UMass Day at spring training in Ft. Myers, Fla. **Right:** Chancellor Meehan and David Pernick '41 at Mar-a-Lago.

# Alumni events



**Top row, left:** Mark Bonifacio '87 and Engineering Dean John Ting enjoy the MassPLASTICS alumni reception in Fitchburg on March 15. **Right:** California alumni gather at a reception at the Red Sox v. Anaheim Angels game on April 23.

**Second row, left:** California alumni and friends attending the Red Sox v. Oakland A's game in Oakland on April 19 are, in the back row, Abbey DeNaro '09 and Jose Barajas and, in front, row, Ted Dudziak '73, Gail Dudziak, Dave Earl, Diane Earl, John Davis and Mark Eastham '78. **Right:** Dean John Ting, left, with Edward (Ned) Barrett '58 and his wife Carole at the April 2011 Chancellor's Advisory Board Reception at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center.

**Third row, left:** At a Political Science Reception for students and alumni are, from left: Asst. Prof. Jenifer Whitten-Woodring, Prof. Emeritus Nick Minton, Outstanding Alumni Awardee Barbara Rocha Williams '02, Chancellor Marty Meehan and Department Chair Prof. Fred Lewis. **Right:** Roger Cressey '87 speaks at the Morse Lecture/Dinner Series to support the Dean Bergeron International Relations Club and Morse lecture series on April 7. From left: student Christina Gonsalvez, James Blatchford, Mike Mizzoni '11, Roger Cressey '87, Prof. Emeritus Nick Minton, Don Leonard '02, '04, Zack Simmons '99, '00, Prof. Emeritus Dean Bergeron, Sean Garballey '07, Kevin Moynihan '05, Conor Baldwin '07, '09, Heather Makrez '06, '08, Jason Carter '04, '06, Andre Gorgenyi '03, Paul Nutter '06 and Brian Kenny '87.



**Top row:** The Plastics Engineering Department celebrates innovation, honoring alumni patent holders at the ANTEC conference in Boston on May 3.

**Middle row, left:** Prof. Bob Malloy '79, '88, far left, and Prof. Steve Driscoll '66, '72, far right, flank donors at the May 3 Plastics Engineering celebration. From left: Jim Dandeneau '80, Mark Saab '81 and Eamonn Hobbs '80.

**Center:** Mary Jo '66 and Frank Spinola '66, (second row, white and black hats) enjoy a spring training Red Sox game with friends at an alumni event in Fort Myers, Fla. **Right:** Chancellor Marty Meehan, left, thanks plastics engineering alumnus Larry Acquarulo '81 for his recent generous gift to support the University's new Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center, which will house plastics laboratories.

**Bottom row, left:** Future UMass Lowell alumni at the Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center (ETIC) Topping Off Ceremony, from left: Student Trustee Mike Reid, ASAO President Marck Clerveau, Student Government Finance Chair Adam Dunbar, Student Government President Mike Mizzoni and Assistant Resident Director Jared Ide. **Right:** The Chancellor joins Smith Hall alumni at the ETIC Topping Off Ceremony.

NORMAN GALE '50 is one of those old warriors Tom Brokaw likes to write about. He was home from his first war – World War II – just long enough to get married and get his Lowell Tech degree, then shipped off to his second, the Korean War, the day after graduation (which he didn't have time to attend). He spent the next two years in Korea, in the Army's Third Infantry Division. He returned home to Missouri in 1952, reunited with his new wife, Peggy, and – with his LTI textiles training now behind him – opened up a business with his brother called Sun and Surf Inc., which manufactured women's clothing. His brother is gone now. And Peggy died last December, after 64 years of marriage – “I miss her terribly,” he says.

## 1963

**Thomas Toohey**, vice president of the Irish Ancestral Research Association, spoke before the Southborough Public Library Genealogy Club in Southborough recently. Tom has published his family stories in a two-volume book, “Images of Other Lives.” A teacher for 40 years, he holds a bachelor of science degree from UMass Lowell and a master's degree in music from the University of Hartford.

## 1968

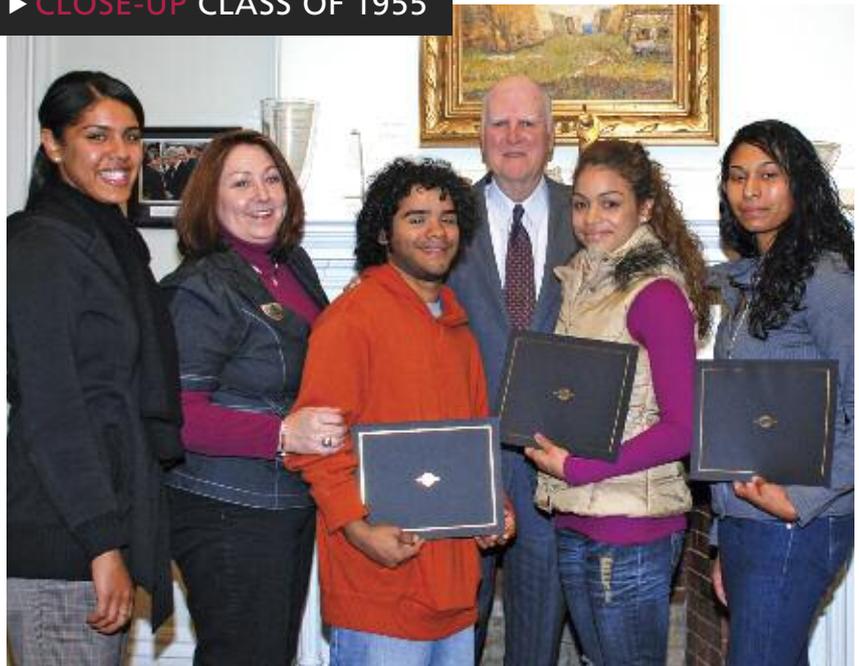
**Jo-Ellen Corkery De Luca** says she is a very proud Elementary Education graduate, now a retired teacher, who has assumed a different role in life. Having contracted Crohn's Disease at a young age and colorectal cancer at age 54, Jo-Ellen says that for the last 10 years she has taught the benefits of early detection through screening in her adopted town of Spartanburg, S.C. She began a support group for survivors,

which has grown to nearly 250 members, the largest such group in the country. In addition, she was asked by her cancer center to be its patient advocate to the North Central Cancer Treatment Group (NCCTG, Mayo Clinic's clinical trials arm). She says she may have been a third grade teacher and then a high school reading specialist but today has taken health-care adversity and turned it into a mission.

**Brenda Costello** was named the American Textile History Museum's community service award honoree last fall. She was honored in November for her service to such organizations as Girls Incorporated of Greater Lowell, the Whistler House Museum of Art, the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, the Franco-American School, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation and the Women Working Wonders Fund. “I'm deeply touched to

*Continued on Page 54*

## ► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1955



*Hank Powell '55 presents Powell Family Foundation scholarships to Lawrence High School seniors.*

## HANK POWELL: PAVING PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS

Henry “Hank” Powell knew two things for sure about attending college.

He would enroll at Lowell Tech: “Being raised in Lowell, in a middle-class family, I really had no financial opportunities to go anywhere else,” he says.

And, “I didn't want to study textile engineering.”

Powell went with paper engineering. Classmates may remember him as the tall captain of the varsity baseball team for two years, as well as senior class president in 1955. After serving in the Navy (as a radar officer flying high-altitude planes on the DEW Line in the Pacific) and in industry (Pellon Corp., Freudenberg and James River Paper), Powell founded his own company.

The Powell Corp. produced specialty non-woven materials for highly technical applications in electronics, including in batteries and for reverse osmosis technology.

In 1996, Powell was honored with the UMass Lowell Distinguished Alumni Award and, in 1998, he received the James B. Francis College of Engineering Distinguished Alumnus Award. He has served as chair of the Athletic Scholarship Development Committee and on the College of Engineering Industrial Advisory Board.

University scholarship and service run in the Powell family: his wife, Mary Jane, served as a University Trustee; their son, Andrew, is a mechanical engineering graduate; their other son, Jason, has a master's in education; a sister has bachelor's and master's degrees; and a niece and many cousins are graduates.

With the Powell Family Foundation, Hank and Mary Jane turned to funding college scholarships for deserving and needy students from Lowell. Through the College Success Program, they reached out to freshmen entering the University from Lawrence High School. Seven were chosen for Powell scholarships, helping them on a pathway to long-term success.

## ▶ CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1955

## A Lifetime Assignment: The 60-Year Career of Professor Ray Hardy – and It's Not Over Yet

He was just 22 when he taught his first class at Lowell Tech – an incoming physics instructor, the ink barely dry on his own LTI diploma, earned only three months before. Half the students were his age or older.

“I was just a green kid,” Ray Hardy remembers today. “I’d been a student-assistant the year before, and I guess they must have liked me – anyway, they gave me the job. You can bet it wouldn’t happen today.”

The year was 1955. The Korean War had just ended; Lowell Tech was awash in returning veterans armed with government tuition stipends – courtesy of the Veterans Adjustment Act of 1952, the GI Bill’s newest iteration – and eager to get on with their lives.

“The students were mostly male, of course, and older than what you see today – maybe a little more aware of the value of an education. So it was a challenge, especially as young as I was. But I was just glad to have the job.”

Teaching was different in those days, he remembers. The physics lectures took place in Cumnock auditorium; the students, up to four hundred at a sitting, would take their notes on lapboards from slides projected on overhead screens – “It was pretty primitive.” The teaching loads for instructors were twice what they are today.

“We’d have to teach 15 to 18 hours a week” – today’s normal load is six to nine – “in three or four different disciplines. I remember I taught courses in math, physics and engineering drawing, all in the same semester. You wouldn’t see that today – things are much more specialized.”

So the work was hard and long, and the pay was pretty meager. But there were rewards, Ray Hardy says today, that he’d never have traded for a lighter workload.

“The faculty was small, so you knew most everybody. I made some good friends along the way. And as time went by, you’d get involved in the students’ lives, not only in the classroom but outside it as well – you’d learn their concerns, sometimes their problems, try to help them out in any way you could. There’s a good feeling that comes with that.”

The years passed. The University changed names and configurations, then changed again. The faculty widened, the specialties narrowed, the students came and went. In 1983, after 28 years on the faculty, Ray Hardy was named assistant dean of the College of Sciences, a post he held for the next eight years. Finally, in the spring of 1994, at a party at the Vesper Country Club in Tyngsboro, with 150 friends and colleagues in attendance, his retirement was officially marked. He had served just short of 40 years.

But he wasn’t done teaching. He still isn’t. Today, 17 years after that Vesper Country Club retirement party – and a full 60



*Physics professor Ray Hardy and his wife, Shirley. They were married 56 years ago, the same year he started teaching at Lowell Tech.*

years since he first entered Lowell Tech as a freshman in the fall of 1951 – he still oversees labs, teaches a summer physics course, meets with students and keeps campus office hours. Ask him how long he plans to keep teaching, and his answer is quick and short: “Probably till I drop dead.”

Still, there’s time today for other things. He’s an active member of Rotary, and of his local church. He sees more of his family – three daughters, eight grandchildren – than he ever did when he was teaching full-time. And he travels more. Much more. He figures that he and his wife, Shirley (whom he married the same year he came to work at Lowell Tech), have travelled over the years to something like 40 countries – including China, Russia, Egypt, Norway, Israel and all over the Caribbean. And one of the biggest lessons he’s taken away from it all, he’ll tell you, is just how small the world really is.

“It’s amazing how many former students I’ve run into – in different countries, on boats, on planes flying over the Atlantic. We met this one couple a few years ago, on a cruise in the Caribbean, and this fellow – Bob Brown, he was in the class of ’61, so it had been a while and I’d probably aged a bit – he and I got to talking, and he tells me he went to LTI, and he’s raving about this professor he’d had.

“So,” he asks me, ‘did you ever know a professor by the name of Ray Hardy?’

“Well, as a matter of fact, yes,’ I tell him. ‘It so happens I am Ray Hardy.’”

Today’s Ray Hardy, professor emeritus, 78 and still going strong, chuckles over the phone as he finishes the story.

“It’s always nice to know you made a good impression.” ■

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receive this award," she said. "The museum highlights the importance of community volunteerism through this award. If my story inspires just one more person to become involved, my hours of community service will be worth it."

## 1977

**Jack Kimball '77**, a one-time state campaign manager for Mitt Romney and a business owner noted for his colorful and conservative politics, has been elected chairman of the New Hampshire Republican Party. Kimball operates an office-cleaning company in Portsmouth.

## 1978

**Robert Carrison**, creative director of Carrison Design, received five awards from Graphic Design USA magazine's 2004 American Graphic Design Awards competition. Carrison Design's winning submissions included two newsletters and a collateral piece for the TPC of Boston, a brochure for Tiare Apetahi (a charter yacht company) and the 2003 Annual Report for Xaverian Brothers High School. Located in Norfolk, Mass., the company's clients

include Fidelity Investments, Worcester Credit Union, Stop & Shop, Analog Devices, Dunn & Bradstreet, FleetBank, Buchika Skis and Verizon. Carrison lives in Norfolk with his wife, Pam, and their children Matt and Dever.

**Donna Chaff** has won the Zoll Society for General Music Excellence in Teaching Award given to one elementary music educator in Massachusetts every year.

## 1980

**Philippe and Maryann Lavalle** adopted Kyle Owen, who turned 2 last September. They also have a 21-year-old son, Sean, and a 15-year-old daughter, Keara.

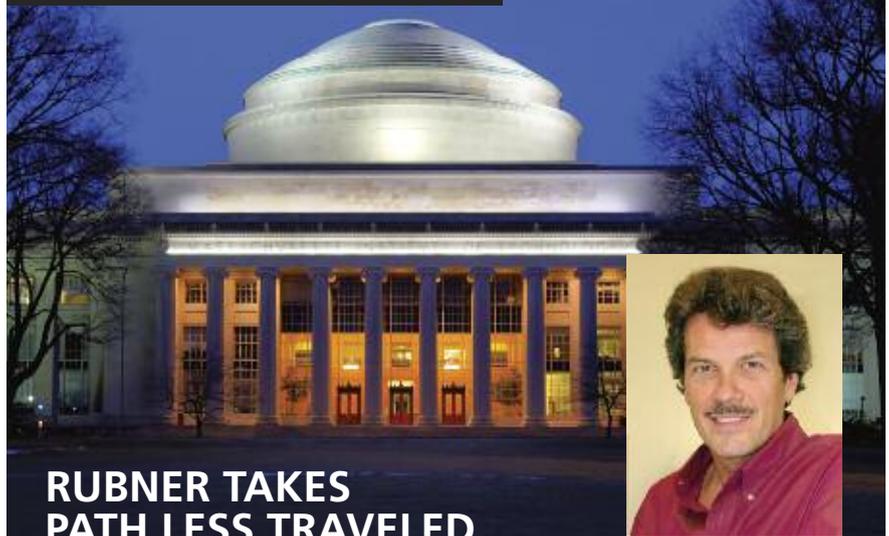
Biogen Idec has named **Douglas E. Williams**, Ph.D., executive vice president for Research and Development. Doug will oversee the company's global R&D operation, including discovery research, development, clinical operations and regulatory affairs. He has more than 20 years of scientific and senior leadership experience, most recently as chief executive officer of

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**BONNIE COMLEY '81** received The Theatre Museum's Service to the Theatre Award in a gala ceremony held recently at the New York Players Club in New York City. The museum, which is dedicated to preserving and celebrating all aspects of the theatre arts, recognized Bonnie for her contributions as a prolific producer. Among her current productions on Broadway are "The Merchant of Venice" with Al Pacino, "Priscilla: Queen of the Desert" and "Warhorse."



## ► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1982



## RUBNER TAKES PATH LESS TRAVELED

Michael F. Rubner, director of MIT's Center for Materials Science and Engineering, began his career unusually: at a community college, studying liberal arts.

One day, he took a chance and applied for his first job as a lab technician in an analytical chemistry lab. Competing against candidates with bachelor's degrees — and armed only with his love of chemistry — he won the job.

"So with no formal training, I was working every day and gaining experience," says Rubner, who today is MIT's TDK professor of polymer materials science and engineering and serves on the board of the Materials Research Society, considered the premier professional society in the area of materials science.

His academic break came at GTE Labs, which had a program that covered tuition and expenses for night school studies. At the University of Lowell, night school classes were taught by the regular faculty, top-notch people like Prof. Bill Bannister and Prof. Don Hilton, and Rubner says he received "an excellent education."

Through the Continuing Studies program, he finished his bachelor's in five years "working flat out at work and in school, with the help of my tremendously supportive wife, Barbara." By graduation, he had published more than 20 papers and was looking toward the Ph.D. program at MIT. Again, GTE Labs and Peter Cukor, Rubner's mentor, stepped in with an arrangement to fund his graduate studies by day, while he continued his work full-time at night. Fewer than three years later, he was Dr. Michael F. Rubner, a talented researcher of conducting polymers and thin film technology.

At about the same time, GTE closed its research labs, sending many notable researchers into academic settings. Rubner went to MIT and the late Sukant Tripathy came to UMass Lowell, where he founded the Center for Advanced Materials (CAM), accompanied by colleagues Jayant Kumar, Daniel Sandman and Lynne Samuelson. Rubner has collaborated with CAM on major research grants and spoken at research symposiums.

Rubner also likes to speak with Continuing Studies students on campus, telling them that night school is not restricted to career enhancement or terminal education.

"I couldn't wait to finish what I was doing to move on and learn the next thing," he says. "Continuing studies was a platform education for me. With passion, enthusiasm and hard work, you get out what you put into it."

## ▶ CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1979

*Anthony DuBose holds the class ring he lost 31 years ago.*

## A GIFT, TWICE GIVEN: A STRANGER'S KINDNESS REKINDLES THE PAST

Two days before Christmas, the phone interrupted his nap — he was groggy when he answered. The voice on the other end asked him his name. Then asked if he'd graduated from ULowell, and what year. Then if he'd belonged to a fraternity, and which one. He answered in a half-stupor. Anthony DuBose. Yes. 1979. Kappa Delta Phi.

Then the voice — it was a man's — spoke again. This time it wasn't a question.

"Anthony, I have your ring."

What ring? he wondered. Then he knew.

The next day, Christmas Eve of last year, at a Dunkin' Donuts on Middlesex Street in Lowell, Anthony DuBose got back his ULowell ring. It had been 31 years since he'd last taken it off — to help paint the offices of his first full-time employer, a Lowell nonprofit called Community Teamwork, in January 1980, when he was 23. He hadn't seen it since.

No one will ever know the story of the ring's journey: how it got from the offices of Community Teamwork to a drawer in a tailor shop on Hurd Street, a mile or so east, where it was found by the owners 27 years later. "I

was working at the time with a lot of troubled teens," Anthony DuBose says today, recently retired from his job as a probation officer. "One of them may have picked it up, thought he would take it, then left it somewhere. I just have no idea."

The tailor shop owners put the ring aside, thinking someone might appear to claim it. No one did. Four years later, when they retired — in the spring of last year — they ran across it again. This time, not knowing what else to do, they gave it to their daughter in Peabody, where it might otherwise have remained.

Another six months passed. Then one day, not long before Christmas, their daughter's daughter, 15 year-old Eleni, got to looking at the ring, and noticed that there was an inscription inside. She couldn't read it — the writing was tiny, and had faded over the years — but the magnifying-glass app on her father's cellphone could: Anthony DuBose, 1979, ULowell, Kappa Delta Phi.

The next stop was the Web. It was there, on Whitepages.com, that Eleni's father, Steve Stefanopoulos, found what he was looking

for: the right name, with the right age for a '79 graduate, living on Shaw Street in Lowell. And that was how the phone call happened. And a day later, on Christmas Eve, the meeting of the two men at Dunkin' Donuts.

"I told him he didn't have to say anything," Stefanopoulos told a reporter not long after. "That's what the Christmas season is all about. It was a great life-lesson for me to be able to teach my kids about doing the right thing."

As for DuBose, the message was more poignant. The ring had been a gift from his mother, who had died of cancer in August, five months before he got it back. It was to be his first Christmas without her. And now, here again — in her place — was her gift. When he found it would no longer fit on his finger, he put it on a chain around his neck — and has worn it there ever since.

"Amazing, all of it. Just amazing," he says today over the phone. "A Christmas blessing, it truly was. It brings back all those memories. And for [Steve] to find me, to go to all that trouble, then meet me and give back the ring. After all those years. That's just a wonderful thing."

## ► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1970'S

### GEORGE CONDO: EDGY MASTER

His father may have taught in the University's math department, but George Condo is all artist. A celebrated portrait painter for nearly three decades, Condo has garnered a rush of recent media attention tied to showings at both the Whitney and the New Museums in New York and a controversial album design cover created for rapper Kanye West's "My Beautiful, Dark Twisted Fantasy." The record company banned the image, igniting even more interest in his work.

Condo, a Chelmsford native, studied music and art history, including an art appreciation class with Liana Cheney, chair of the Cultural Studies Department.

"George wanted to be a good artist – I told him to go to New York!" says Cheney, who described her former student as a "generous and lovely person."

Growing up next to Lowell and studying at the University supported a kinship between Condo and the Beat Generation writers, including Allen Ginsburg and William Burroughs. Recently, Condo was asked to write the introduction to Jack Kerouac's "Book of Sketches."

Condo's style is often described as being like the Old Masters with an edge. In a lengthy profile in the *New Yorker*, the artist said he likes to "practice psychological Cubism – painting different and often conflicting emotions in the same face." Subjects are sometimes missing parts of their faces, or are otherwise surreal in feel, and the portraits are often of imaginary – sometimes recurring – characters Condo creates in his mind.

Twice included in the highly regarded Whitney Museum Biennial, his work was recently shown in an exhibit called "Mental States" at the New Museum.



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ZymoGenetics Inc. In addition, he served as head of research and as a member of the executive team at Immunex Corp., where he played a significant role in the discovery and development of the rheumatoid arthritis drug Enbrel. Doug earned a B.S. magna cum laude in biological sciences.



#### 1984

**Bruce Jackson** received the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring, an honor bestowed by the White House each year to individuals or organizations to recognize the crucial role that mentoring plays in the academic and personal development of students studying science or engineering — particularly those who belong to groups that are underrepresented in those fields. Eleven individuals and four organizations received the awards this year. Bruce is on the faculty of Massachusetts Bay Community College.

**Lisa Brothers** has been named president and CEO of Nitsch Engineering, moving up from her role as the company's vice president and chief operating officer. Boston-based Nitsch Engineering is the largest women-owned civil and transportation engineering, land surveying, and consulting firm in Massachusetts, and is on the Boston Business Journal's Top 25 Engineering Firms in Massachusetts List. Lisa has



more than 26 years of industry experience, including 21 at Nitsch. She currently serves as president of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts (ACEC/MA).

**Charles Pappalardo** has been named vice president of business development for the high-growth science and technology sector of Boston-based Suffolk Construction's Berry Division. The company says Pappalardo will be responsible for leveraging his real estate and construction knowledge and strong relationships in the Science and Technology sector to identify new construction and renovation project opportunities for Suffolk's northeast region. Prior to joining Suffolk, he was corporate vice president and Officer of Global Facilities Management Services at Charles River Laboratories.



**Susan G. Reed '84, '02** has been named chief probation officer of the Ayer District Court. A Lowell native, Reed earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in criminal justice. She holds memberships in the New England Association of Drug Courts and the National Association of Drug Courts. Reed said of her newly acquired position,

"I am tremendously pleased and honored. I feel very fortunate to be working with extremely hard working and dedicated employees in our probation department. With public safety my top priority, I look forward to serving the Ayer community and surrounding towns."

#### 1989

**Alice Bonner**, who received her master's degree in gerontological nursing here, was recruited by the federal government to improve and expand care provided by nursing homes. A practicing nurse practitioner for 20 years, Alice has been working for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health since October 2009 as the bureau director of health care safety and quality. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services noticed her work and recently offered her a senior post for the federal agency that ensures that the country's 16,000 nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities meet strict standards.

#### 1991

You may have seen **Joe Venuti** on Channels 5 or 56 in the past but the veteran weatherman is now working for the FAA. Joe is part of a research team at MIT's Lincoln Labs that has developed a new forecasting model to determine exactly where storms will track, up to eight hours in advance. He gives a lot of credit for his successful career to the meteorology program at ULowell.

#### 1992

After graduating from the Family Nurse Practitioner program, **Alice Sogomonian** moved back to her native southern California, working at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles for five years in the department of neurology ("where I happened to meet my husband, Dr. Charles Niesen, who is a child

### ► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1982



*William G. Rhodes III '82, left, and Dean of Sciences Robert Tamarin*

### NEW RHODES SCHOLARSHIP WILL HELP STUDENTS IN RADIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

William G. Rhodes III '82 and his wife, Susan, have established a scholarship fund to help support undergraduate and graduate students in the Physics Department's Radiological Sciences Program. The Susan Howarth Rhodes and William G. Rhodes III Scholarship Fund, will award \$50,000 and will be given out over five years.

Rhodes, who received his master's degree in radiological sciences and protection from the University of Lowell in 1982, has nearly 30 years of experience in the fields of radiation protection, emergency response and physical security, and their applications to national security challenges. He is senior manager of the International Security Systems Group at the Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M.

"This group is comprised of 100 staff members and four departments dedicated to addressing national security issues involving nuclear and radioactive materials," he says.

Rhodes credits his training and experience at ULowell for providing him with an outstanding technical understanding of radiological sciences.

"I found that I was very well prepared to deal with most technical problems in the workplace," he says. "I still rely on fundamental concepts I learned in graduate classes taught by the University's talented faculty, including Profs. Kenneth Skrable, George Chabot, Jesse Harris and Edward Alexander."

Rhodes notes that students at ULowell were taught to analyze questions using a systems approach that can be applied to many other problems.

"This approach has served me well in my management career at Sandia National Labs, as I have led technical departments and groups outside my core technical proficiency," he says.

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neurologist here in Pasadena in private practice,” she says). She went on to teach in the USC School of Nursing in both the undergrad and grad programs for a few years. After that, she took a nurse practitioner position at the California Institute of Technology in the student health center, where she has been for 15 years. She and her husband live in Pasadena and have two daughters, Michaela, 3, and Sydney Grace, 9.

## 1994

**Norm Bazin**, who played hockey at UMass Lowell and later was a member of the coaching staff, returns to the University as the new head coach of men’s hockey. He was head coach at Hamilton College for three seasons – and was named NESCAC coach of the year each of the last two. Norm also served as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Colorado College from 2000 to 2008.



## 1996

**Dain Charbonneau** has been named business development manager in northeast Orlando for Austin Outdoor, a Florida landscaping company. In his new role, Dain is responsible for developing relationships with commercial properties in planned communities, retail establishments, resorts, hotels and apartments. He has 13 years of experience in relationship management, account management and client relations.

## 1997

**Jeff and Tracy Black** report that they met in the fall of 1993 while both worked at the Smith Hall cafeteria. They have now been married nearly eight years and have a 2-year-old son.

## 1999

**Randi Stone**, who earned a doctorate in education at UMass Lowell, has published her most recent book, “More Best Practices for High School Classrooms: What Award-Winning Secondary Teachers Do.” The book is her ninth published by Corwin Press Books of Thousand Oaks, Calif. This latest work describes how outstanding high school teachers manage classrooms and use technology in teaching a variety of subjects ranging from science to physical education.

**Jeremy Watkins** and Jennifer Viveiros were married last September at St. Francis Xavier Church in Acushnet. The couple honeymooned in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and now make their home in Reading.

## 2000

**Spec. Alejandro A. Perez Acevedo** has graduated from the Army’s H-8 Tracked Vehicle Recovery Specialist Course at Fort Knox, Ky.



**Sid Shroff** is operations and engineering manager in the Molded Products Division of Greatbatch Medical, a New York-based manufacturer of systems and components for medical devices used in the cardiology, neurology, vascular and orthopedic markets. “We manufacture molded assemblies for pacemakers and implantable defibrillators,” says Sid, who earned his master’s degree in plastics engineering. “In five years, we have shipped close to 2 million assemblies — including almost 20 million components — without any defects or returns from our customers.”

## ► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1982



Dean of Management Kathryn Carter, left, Todd Schermerhorn and Kathy Allen '77

## ‘I HAD TO JUST KEEP GOING’— AN EARLY LESSON IN WORK, AND LIFE

“It was not,” Todd Schermerhorn remembers today, “your typical college experience.”

It was the early 1980s. The United States was in a recession; there was little money for student aid, and no financial aid available from home. So Todd, the middle of five boys – four of whom would attend ULowell – was working his way through college, paying the tuition bills himself. (His brothers, he says, would all do the same.) Without the money for a car, he hitchhiked from Billerica to classes every day. It was a time, he says today, that gave birth to a strong sense of resolve: “I had to learn to keep my head down and just keep going,” he says. “It was the only way.”

He graduated in 1982, magna cum laude with a B.S. in accounting, then went on to Babson, where he earned his MBA. In 1985, he started as a cost analyst at C.R. Bard in New Jersey – the medical-devices company, now with 11,000 employees in 28 countries and \$2.7 billion in yearly revenues. Today, 26 years later, he is the company’s senior vice president and chief financial officer. He is at the forefront of the company’s dealings on tax issues and investor relations, responsible for a worldwide staff of financial personnel – in charge of assuring, he says, “that we have financial expertise involved in decision-making, at all times, at all levels.”

It is a path he traces back directly to those long days and nights of accounting classes, thumbed rides and low-wage work. “It all began at ULowell. That’s where I got my worth ethic, right there. Same with my brothers [all four have had successful careers; two, both IT executives, are recently retired]. I learned it early – it’s served me ever since.”

It has served him very well. He lives today, with his wife, Kate, a Lowell native, in a suburban town in northern New Jersey, not far from the Bard headquarters. Two of his three sons are at college; a third is at Goldman Sachs. He plays golf avidly, works out daily and comes north to Vermont to ski whenever he can get away. Until recently, he served on the board of a local hospital, and remains active with a foundation to benefit victims of traumatic brain injury – because “a colleague’s son died as a result of one, and he asked me to help him make something good from it.”

His ties to UMass Lowell continue to unfold. In addition to his three fellow-alumni brothers, he has a nephew, Kyle Schermerhorn, who graduated two years ago, and a niece, Courtney Schermerhorn, a former standout at Lowell High School, who was named last year as assistant coach of women’s basketball. He is also a member of the College of Management advisory board.

But the deepest tie, by far, is the one that goes back the furthest. “If it wasn’t for ULowell,” he says, “I probably wouldn’t have gone to college at all.”

## ▶ CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1997

Sound Recording Technology (SRT) graduates **Adam Ayan '97** and **Mark Donahue '07** won three Grammy awards between them this year. Donahue, who is chief mastering engineer at Soundmirror Inc. in Jamaica Plain, won for both Best Engineered Album, Classical and Best Orchestral Performance, bringing his total to four (he earned one Grammy each at the 2007 and 2009 Grammys). Ayan won for his work on Keith Urban's "Til Summer Comes Around." He works at Gateway Mastering & DVD in Portland, Maine, and also has four lifetime wins. "I do a lot of speaking engagements," said Ayan by phone, between sessions. "And when people ask about my career path, I tell everybody, hands-down, go to UMass Lowell's SRT program."



*Adam Ayan '97*



## 2002

**Andre Gorgenyi** and his wife, Melissa, welcomed their second child, Jocelyn Karine Gorgenyi, on Nov. 18, 2010. The 7- pound, 2- ounce girl's older brother, Lewis, turned 2 on March 31. Andre is still with The Salvation Army but moved to the Planned Giving Department last summer.



## 2003

**Rosalind Gendreau** and her husband celebrated the birth of their daughter, Dillon May, last July 9.

## 2004

**Rosie Biancamano** and her husband had, their first child Michael, in May. Many other former UML alums have been giving them some great advice about what to expect and how to prepare and they are very appreciative for the support.



**Martha Marsden** has launched Marsden Creative, offering photography, videography, graphic design and websites. Though Marsden Creative's primary service is photography, it also helps turn photos into books, websites and other marketing ma-

terial. The company also offers archival services such as scanning photos and transferring VHS to DVD. Although based in Boston, the company also operates in Los Angeles and Phoenix and has taken on international projects, as well.

## 2005

**Stephen J. Kotsios** has been named commercial portfolio loan officer at TD Bank in Leominster where he is responsible for performing workout for customer loans and asset recovery. Steve has seven years of banking experience and previously served as portfolio collections manager at Zwicker and Associates, P.C., in Andover.



**Pete and Jamie Tormey** had their first child, James Peter Tormey, last Oct. 10.

## 2006

**Craig MacKenzie** is senior vice president of financial systems for the Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank. Originally from Chelmsford, he now lives in Lowell. Craig earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a bachelor's degree in economics from Syracuse University, and an M.B.A. from UMass Lowell.



**Heather Makrez**, a lifelong Lowell resident, is associate director of alumni relations at

## ► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1998



## 1998

**Erin McGuirk Ryan**, who received her master's of education in curriculum and instruction, was selected as one of 28 elementary and middle school teachers from across the country to take part in this summer's Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History fellowship on "From the Revolution to the Civil War" at Tulane University in New Orleans. Ryan — who teaches fifth grade gifted and high-achieving students at McNabb Elementary School in Pompano Beach, Fla. — has received three such summer fellowships. The first two took place at James Madison University and Valley Forge, respectively. "Growing up in Massachusetts, I took history for granted," she says. "Now that I've moved to south Florida, where the history is fairly limited, I have a much deeper appreciation for the struggles of the first settlers as they left their homes in search of something better for their families, and dedication of the Framers and Founders to transform this country into the great nation that it is today."

UMass Lowell. She oversees alumni events in the community and through social networks. Heather holds a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in regional economic and social development. She sits on the Young Professionals of Greater Lowell board, as well as the Pollard Library Foundation.

**Kenneth Tucceri** is an art consultant with Cutter & Cutter Fine Art of St. Augustine, Fla. An avid outdoorsman, he recently traversed the entire length of the Appalachian Trail — a grueling journey that, he says, allowed him to "clear my head and focus on life." But while he enjoys Florida, he says he's

still passionate about Lowell, especially his beloved sports teams and his artistic heroes Jack Kerouac and James McNeill Whistler.



**Christopher Stygles** is engaged to Jennifer McDonald. The two plan to marry in October.

## 2007

**Danielle Bergeron** owns Frills and Thrills Events and Social Media, a business that offers full-service event planning and social media consulting. She also works for Impact Promotions and teaches at Middlesex Community College. Danielle holds a master's degree in community social psychology from UMass Lowell and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Westfield State College.



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► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2008

## PURSUING THE AMERICAN DREAM

When Leonel Enrique Nava '08, '10 and his family fled Venezuela in 2003, they faced a future fraught with uncertainty.

Born and raised in Maracaibo, Nava worked in the Venezuelan petroleum industry for 13 years as a mechanical engineer. But his political and labor activities earned him the ire of officials in the administration of President Hugo Chavez. Fearing for their safety, Nava and his family came to the United States where he applied for political asylum. The U.S. government eventually granted his request, and the Navas have been living in the country ever since.

“Being in a different country with a different culture and a different language, I knew it was not going to be easy to get back on track,” he says. “I also knew from experience the detrimental environmental impact of petroleum extraction so I wanted to do something different. That was when I decided to study nuclear engineering.”

He enrolled at UMass Lowell and, in May 2008, he received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, with a focus on energy. Two years later, he obtained his master's degree in energy engineering, with a concentration in nuclear energy.

And in 2010, he took his oath as a new American citizen at a naturalization ceremony in Worcester.

Today, Nava is being trained in Chattanooga by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) as a nuclear fuel-core design engineer for its Pressurized Water Reactors (PWR) Nuclear Power Plants. The TVA ranks among the top 10 utilities in the nation for achievement in economic development.



*Leonel Enrique Nava '08, '10 poses with his son, Juan Fernando, at the 2008 commencement ceremony.*



**James Regis** married Stephanie Broome of New York last year in an intimate ceremony among family and friends, led by **Matthew MacDonald '06**.

**René Gauthier** passed a note to **Melissa Hanafin** in an Economics class in Pasture 405 in 2004, asking for her phone number so he could ask her out. This past February, René came back to cam-



pus to propose to Melissa in that very same room. The pair plan to marry in July 2012. While at UMass Lowell, René was a hockey player and finance major. Melissa was a softball catcher and graduated cum laude with a management and marketing degree. After graduating, René played professional hockey with the East Coast Hockey League on the Pensacola Ice Pilots team in Florida and is now a North

American sports and entertainment broker dividing his time between Canada, Michigan and Massachusetts. Melissa, after spending almost a year in the business world at State Street Bank in Boston on the international desk, decided the business world was not for her and is now a kindergarten teacher in Burlington.

## 2008

**Eric Williams** has graduated from the Harvard University Extension School with a master of liberal arts in management with a concentration in marketing management, and has established a business-to-business telemarketing company named DartLeads. Eric also won the laptop cover alumni raffle for entering class notes.



## 2010

**Taylor Von Kriegenbergh** came in fourth place out of 417 entrants for his play in

"The Big Event" poker tournament at the Bicycle Casino in Los Angeles, where he played against many poker legends. "In tournaments like these, being good and lucky pays dividends because it's always a combination of the two. I found myself being the chip leader after Day 4, the day before the final table started," he says. "I would have loved to beat them, but coming in fourth place and... taking home \$140,000 is nothing to complain about."

## ► CLOSE-UP PROF. EMERITUS

### PROF. EMERITUS SALAMONE ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY

Prof. Emeritus Joseph C. Salamone, chief scientific officer of Rochal Industries LLP in San Antonio, Texas, has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE).

Founded in 1964, the NAE is part of the National Academies, which also includes the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council. In addition to its role as adviser to the federal government, the NAE conducts independent studies to examine important topics in engineering and technology.

Salamone was recognized for his advances in ophthalmological devices and wound-healing therapies as well as for distinguished academic and professional service. He is credited with developing more than 40 products and product lines in eye and wound care that are sold throughout the world, and has more than 195 issued and pending U.S. patents.



While at UMass Lowell, he served as professor, chair of the Chemistry Department and dean of the College of Sciences. At the same time, he co-founded Polymer Technology Corp., which commercialized the world's first high-oxygen-permeable rigid contact lenses. The company was later sold to Bausch & Lomb, where he consulted for a number years, followed by his leadership as vice president of research. In 1986, he co-founded Rochal Industries, which has invented and licensed a number of revolutionary wound-care products.

## ► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2009



Saoran Ro euth '09, far right, is a ranger at Lowell's National Historical Park.

Filmmaker Ken Burns perhaps said it best, describing the National Parks as "America's Best Idea." Saoran Ro euth '09, for one, agrees with him.

Ro euth joined the park's internship program – an effort to increase diversity among its employees by leading minority students through a structured progression of training and job immersion to potential permanent employment with National Parks Service (NPS).

"I visited 17 National Parks and met with more than 100 NPS employees, partners and VIPs," says Ro euth.

"At first, it was just a summer job – a very fun summer job," says Ro euth. "But after meeting a number of Park professionals, and seeing their passion for our parks, I wanted to be a part of it."

Ro euth brought her niece, Sandra, to Lowell's National Historical Park, where she became a junior park ranger, and announced she wanted to be a ranger, just like her aunt.

"I'm glad to show my nieces and nephews that the parks really are as wonderful as Burns described," she says.

► **CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2009**

## ALLEGRA WILLIAMS: COMMUNITY LIAISON

She's visited more than 30 countries, and lived in five of them. She's been on committees and boards for a litany of organizations, including the Coalition for a Better Acre and the Revolving Museum. She joined the Provost's delegation on a trip to Israel and co-chaired a homeless coalition.

Her name is Allegra Williams, and she will use all of her significant experience to help Lowell become a sustainable city with healthy, vibrant neighborhoods.

"As the City's neighborhood planner, I am the liaison between the planning department and the neighborhood and residents' groups – they contact me with problems, concerns or questions, and I try to connect them with the right person or group to make things better," says Williams.

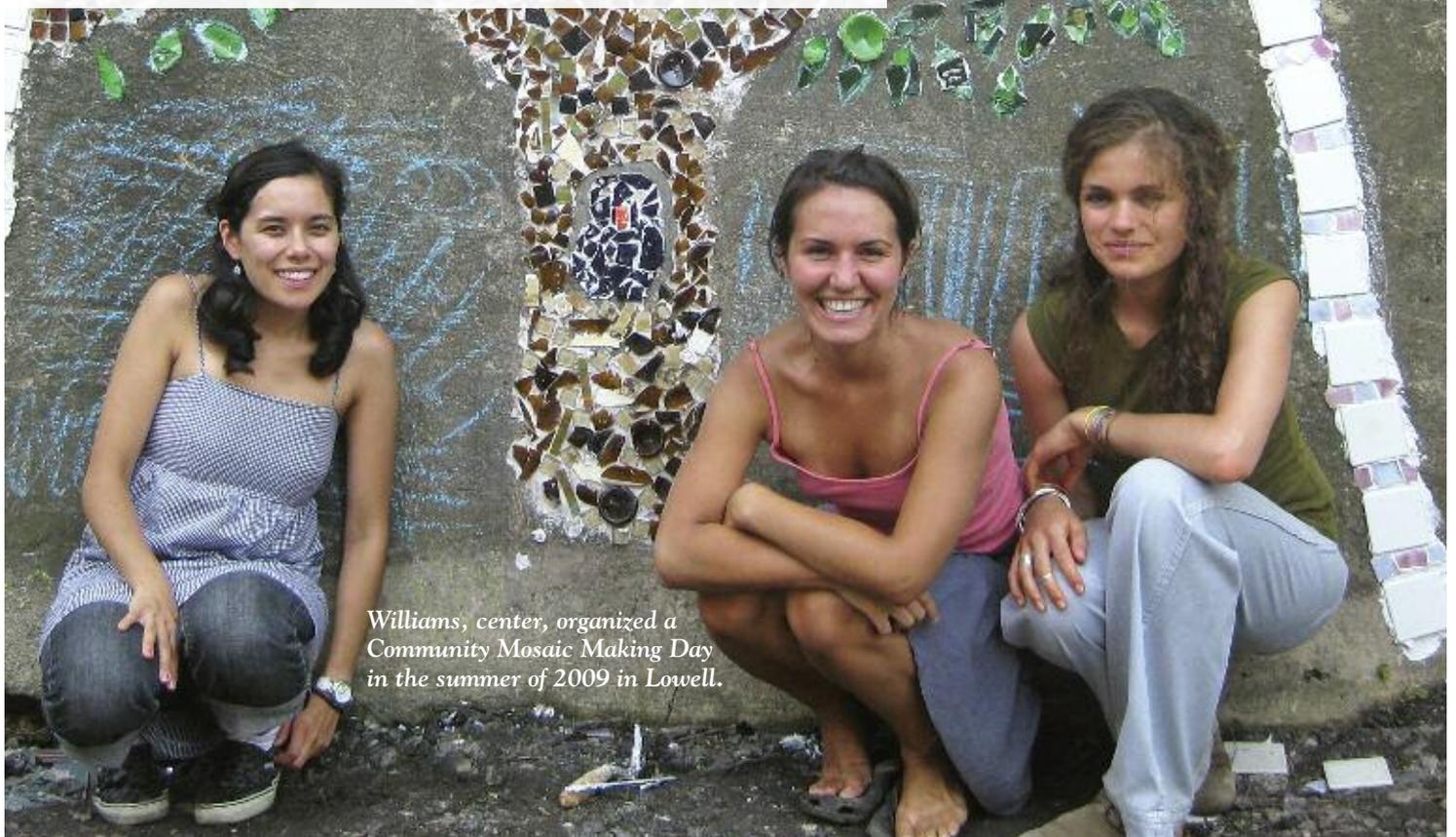
It's a little more daunting than that. Lowell is home to more than 100,000 citizens, and upwards of a dozen community and neighborhood groups, each with their own – sometimes competing – agenda items. And then there's the ever-present challenges posed by language barriers.

"People's concerns are widespread, ranging from crime worries to an annoying pothole to a desire for economic development of foreclosed properties," says Williams.

The scope of her position – and the sheer number of people, agendas, meetings and groups – doesn't seem to faze Williams. In fact, she embraces all of it with a warm smile and enthusiasm for the people and future of her adopted city.

"If people share their opinions, it really does matter."

Williams earned an M.A. in Community & Social Psychology in 2009, and has a certificate from the Regional, Economic and Social Development Department.



*Williams, center, organized a Community Mosaic Making Day in the summer of 2009 in Lowell.*

▶ CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2010

SPHERES robots float freely inside the International Space Station during a test in October 2008. Looking on from left are astronaut Michael Fincke and American space tourist Richard Garriott.



ALUMNUS WORKS ON NASA PROJECT

Smartphones can produce driving directions, make restaurant reservations, take photos — and, apparently, control robots in space. The last is thanks, in part, to Mark Micire, who received his doctorate in Computer Science from UMass Lowell last year. Micire is working on a NASA project to control a trio of small free-flying robots aboard the International Space Station (ISS) using Android smartphones.



Mark Micire '10

Micire joined Carnegie Mellon University as a research scientist after graduation and is currently working with the Intelligent Robotics Group at NASA's Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif.

The volleyball-size robots — called Synchronized Position Hold, Engage, Reorient Experimental Satellites, or SPHERES — were developed by MIT to test automated rendezvous and formation flying in zero-gravity.

During a colloquium held on campus in March, Micire talked about using the SPHERES droids in the space station to assist in human-robot activities. "Our group is using Android smartphones to provide the robots the needed sensing, navigation and planning required for remote operation from the ground," he says.

The phones will be delivered to the ISS by the four-member crew of the space shuttle Atlantis during its mission this July.

Save the date!

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2



# Fall Festival 2011

## Homecoming | Family Day | Reunions

The UMass Lowell community will welcome alumni and autumn in an event-packed **Fall Festival 2011**. Activities will include Homecoming, Family Day, live entertainment at the Tsongas Center, alumni reunions, Jennifer's Run 5K and opportunities to see the revitalized campus in action through tours and open labs.

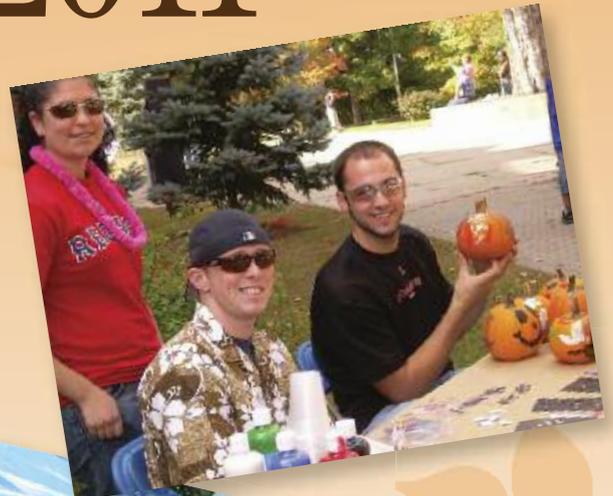
You'll want to be here!

Watch for details in the next few weeks.

For more information contact

[alumni\\_office@uml.edu](mailto:alumni_office@uml.edu) or

visit [www.uml.edu/alumni](http://www.uml.edu/alumni)



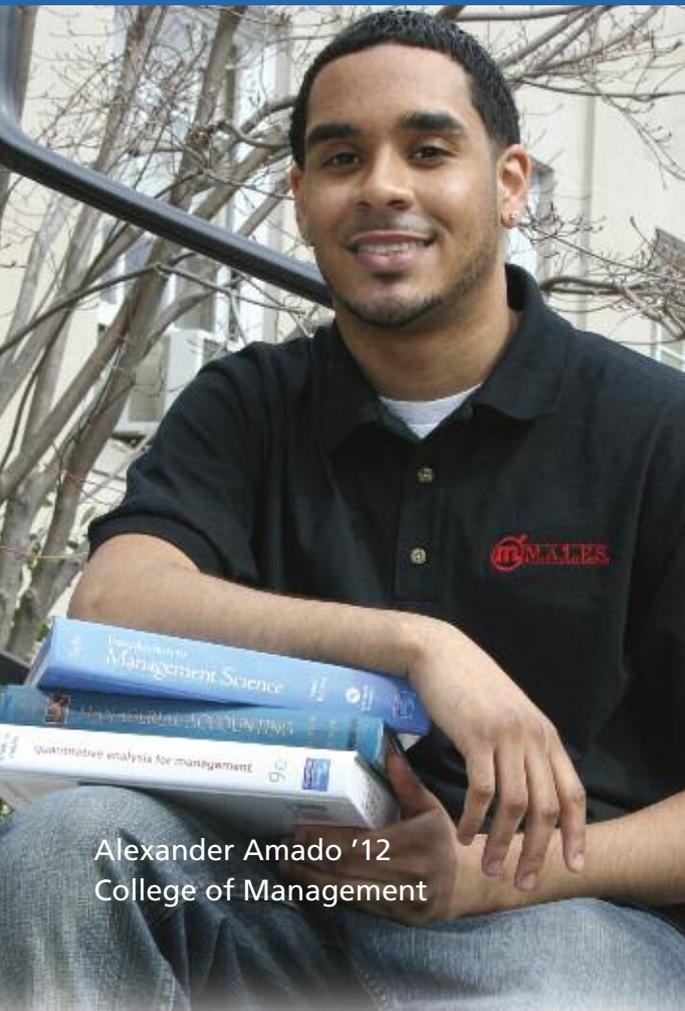


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Alexander Amado '12  
College of Management

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