The people, places and passions behind our first-ever fundraising campaign

125

Reasons Why There's No Place Like UMass Lowell

UMass Lowell
MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

SPRING 2016
A Message from
Jacqueline Moloney ’75, ’92

When you work at a university, you’re surrounded by stories. Every day at UMass Lowell, I hear stories that inspire me—about students who are the first in their families to attend college; about faculty members whose research is changing their fields; about advances our new, first-rate facilities are making possible; about athletes who overcome all the obstacles in their paths and inspire us to do the same.

You’ll find many amazing stories in this issue of the magazine, which features 125 things that make this university a truly special place. But the truth is that all of us at UMass Lowell are part of an amazing story, because we are part of a place that changes lives. Changing lives is the heart of Our Legacy, Our Place: The Campaign for UMass Lowell, which had its public launch in April. This campaign is our chance to write the next chapter in our story, by providing the support that today’s smart, hardworking students need to succeed. And by changing their lives, we will transform our region, our country and our world.

Every one of you has a place at UMass Lowell, and in this campaign. Thank you for being part of our story.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Moloney ’75, ’92
FLOW RIDERS

A group of UMass Lowell Outdoor Adventure Program student trip leaders and staff traveled to Maine for a few days of kayak touring and job training. The group members carried everything they needed—food, fresh water, clothes, tents and equipment—in and on their boats, shown here on Casco Bay. “For a few days we used our phones only to take pictures,” says Kevin Soleil ’05, assistant director of outdoor and bicycle programs. “By the end, the group was exhausted but also satisfied, refreshed and inspired—and ready to share that experience with the students of UMass Lowell.” The Outdoor Adventure Program will visit the Maine Island Trail again this May.
BIG fundraising campaigns always involve BIG numbers. That’s certainly the case for Our Legacy, Our Place—UMass Lowell’s first-ever comprehensive fundraising and alumni engagement campaign, which officially launched this spring.

Our campaign goals: To raise $125 million by Jan. 1, 2020. To become the third-largest public university in New England, with 20,000 students enrolled. To grow our sponsored research to $114 million, and our endowment to $115 million.

But here’s a secret: Our Legacy, Our Place is really all about our stories. Yours is one of them.

Maybe you were the first in your family to attend college, and you worked two or three jobs to pay your way through.

Maybe your family was newly arrived in this country, and your parents knew that college was the key to your future.

Maybe you met your mentor here—the professor or coach who inspired and challenged you and changed the course of your life.

Maybe you wrote your first software application here—or your first novel. Headlined your first concert. Won your first championship title.

Our place is made of our stories, and our stories make our place what it is—a place of opportunity and achievement, determination and innovation. And that’s been our story since our founding 122 years ago.

Our Legacy, Our Place is our chance to continue that story—to extend the proud legacy we’ve inherited to a new generation of achievers and innovators.

By investing in student scholarships, our first-rate faculty, our growing campus and our Division I athletics program, we can change lives. You are an essential part of this story, and this campaign.

On the following pages, we share 125 things that make UMass Lowell worth supporting—one for every million dollars we’re aiming to raise.

And now, in no particular order ...

Take your place today at uml.edu/ourlegacy-ourplace.
We’ve always been an ambitious university—and we still are.

Here’s Our Legacy, Our Place by the Numbers.

$125 Million
Our goal.

$78.5M
Commitments that donors have already made to the campaign—pretty awesome, right?

Campaign priorities:
• Increase student scholarships
• Invest in our first-rate faculty
• Enhance our facilities and campus
• Bolster our Division I athletics program
• Strengthen alumni engagement

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Campaign priorities:

21%
The portion of UMass Lowell’s current operating budget that is state funded.

DOWN from 70 percent two decades ago.

450
Our total number of endowed funds.
Close to one-third of them have been created in the past three years.

90%
The portion of demonstrated student need UMass Lowell currently meets. That’s a gap we can close.

62%
The increase in alumni giving since 2009. Can you feel the momentum?

2020

Also, our 2020 Strategic Plan, which articulates a vision for UMass Lowell in the year 2020 and establishes the campaign priorities that will help us get there.

12,580
Total number of donors who gave last year.

You see, every gift—no matter the size—creates an even greater legacy.
We’re certified tree-huggers

In a city synonymous with the Industrial Revolution, and on a campus comprised of century-old academic halls, historic mills and gleaming glass structures, we still treasure our trees.

In March, the university received “Tree Campus USA” status from the Arbor Day Foundation. The national program recognizes institutions that effectively manage their campus trees, connect with the community to foster healthy urban forests and engage their students with service-learning opportunities.

On National Arbor Day, observed on the last Friday every April, students work with the Office of Sustainability to plant new trees for future generations of River Hawks to enjoy.

We’re the fourth-most-underrated college in the country, according to Business Insider magazine (and we take that as a compliment).

Once you’re here, you tend to want to stick around.

Eighty-six percent of UMass Lowell freshmen continue on to their sophomore year—a higher rate than the national average of about 77 percent.

Our online programs are some of the best in the nation.

U.S. News & World Report ranks UMass Lowell’s online programs as some of the best in the United States for 2016. The university’s online bachelor’s degrees are ranked 99th among those offered by all public and private institutions in the U.S. and its online graduate degrees in education are ninth in the nation.

We know disabilities don’t limit people.

“Without your belief in me, I would not be the man I am today,” Ernesto Maurissaint ’15 wrote to School of Nursing faculty shortly after he passed the state’s nursing board exam on his first try. Maurissaint’s road to success was not an easy one. Diagnosed in elementary school with a learning disability, he struggled throughout middle and high school, feeling ashamed that he wasn’t smart enough.

However, his dream of becoming a nurse never wavered ever since he witnessed the compassionate care his mother received as she suffered from kidney disease when he was 10 years old. With support from UMass Lowell’s Bring Diversity to Nursing program—an initiative that provides scholarships, stipends, technology equipment, tutoring and mentoring to diverse students—Maurissaint recently realized his dream.

He wrote: “I chose UMass Lowell because of the supportive faculty and endless resources. I feel that you shaped me to be an extraordinary nurse and I thank you for all the kindness I’ve seen from you all.” Always seeking opportunities to improve, Maurissaint decided to continue to build his skills in the Collaborative New Post-Graduate Residency Program through UMass Lowell in partnership with Lowell General Hospital and Genesis HealthCare. “I want to be the best nurse I can be before these patients’ lives are in my hands alone,” he says.—KA

We’re the world.

Enrollment by international students has more than doubled since 2008, increasing from 504 to 1,401.

Our students can do research almost from day one.

Our research and community co-ops allow select freshmen to work alongside a professor on a significant project during the summer following their first year. Bonus: They earn money to help pay for school.

We’re honorable.

UMass Lowell elevated its honors program to an Honors College as of the fall 2014 semester. Since 2008, the number of honors students has increased from 298 to 1,280.

One word: plastics.

Plastics are said to be the most versatile materials on Earth—but there are only two accredited undergraduate plastics engineering programs in the United States. UMass Lowell has one of them.

Founded in 1954, the Plastics Engineering Department is an internationally recognized leader in plastics engineering education. Focused on research, the department offers the only ABET-accredited plastics engineering program in the country.

More than 3,000 of the university’s graduates are working in the plastics industry in leadership positions worldwide. Feedback from these alumni has been critical to helping the department stay on the forefront of plastics manufacturing and design technologies.

The department has 20,000 square feet of dedicated laboratory space. Industry leaders and university partners have supported the program through the generous donation of equipment, machines, materials and software—exposing students to all of the major plastics manufacturing, design, and testing technologies.
We’re helping make the workplace Lovely.

A bachelor’s degree in industrial management from UMass Lowell in 1992 helped Bill Lovely launch his career as an environmental scientist. For the past 13 years, he has been working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Boston office overseeing the cleanup of hazardous waste sites in the federal Superfund program. Before that, he was an environmental project manager at Gulf Oil, where he oversaw the underground storage tank program in four northeastern states.

Now he’s back at UMass Lowell pursuing a master’s degree in work environment safety and health. He earned the W. Hardie Shepard Memorial Endowed Prize. Lovely faced financial challenges to gain the award has allowed me to continue my education particularly in light of the fact that I must bear complete financial responsibility for funding my professional development,” he says. “The Hardie Shepard Prize. Lovely faced financial challenges to gain the award has allowed me to continue my education particularly in light of the fact that I must bear complete financial responsibility for funding my professional development.”

He came to the right place. UMass Lowell’s Work Environments program is considered the nation’s leading graduate program in designing safe and healthy work standards.

But Lovely wouldn’t be able to take advantage of it without the financial support he’s receiving from the W. Hardie Shepard Memorial Endowed Prize. Lovely faced financial challenges to gain the award has allowed me to continue my education particularly in light of the fact that I must bear complete financial responsibility for funding my professional development,” he says. “The Hardie Shepard Prize. Lovely faced financial challenges to gain the award has allowed me to continue my education particularly in light of the fact that I must bear complete financial responsibility for funding my professional development.”

“As a divorced father with two children, I am trying to balance my financial responsibilities as a father with my academic and career goals, particularly in light of the fact that I must bear complete financial responsibility for funding my professional development,” he says. “The Hardie Shepard award has allowed me to continue my education and avoid making the difficult decision to leave the program.”

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Our fans rock.

UMass Lowell ranks No. 8 in the NCAA for annual hockey attendance and averages more than 5,000 fans per game.

Because bowling.

During Opening Week every fall semester, the campus hosts dozens of fun events for students—including bowling in the lobby of the University Crossing student center.

We use art as a tool for peace.

The news is filled with it. Terrorism in Paris. Shootings in schools and movie theaters. Lockdowns in cities like Brussels and Boston. For children, these events can be especially frightening, and UMass Lowell graphic design Asst. Prof. Ingrid Hess is determined to use art to help young people cope and understand these dangerous days.

“Art is a particularly effective tool when educating young children about peace,” she says. “Since children can’t read, they are able to understand visual images and create their own. Exposing children to images and teachings about peace helps them become peacemakers themselves.”

This winter, Hess had a solo exhibit “Why Peace?” in Ohio, at the Dayton International Peace Museum. Founded in 2004, the museum honors the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords that ended the war in Bosnia. Her exhibit presented 22 cut-paper prints, each of which focuses the child’s attention on a subject—for example—that is accompanied by a verbal description of how a child might use the subject in peacemaking, like giving a flower to a friend.—SE

Our trading room.

One of the most anticipated features of the new Pulichino Tong Business Center is the Finance Lab and Trading Room, a high-tech space where Manning School of Business students will learn and work on Bloomberg terminals, surrounded by scrolling stock tickers and big-screen TV reporting the latest industry news.

But students don’t have to wait for the new building to open next year to get their hands on Bloomberg terminals, the industry-standard computer system that more than 320,000 business professionals in 160 countries around the world use to access real-time market data, as well as powerful analytics, news and research tools.

With the opening of the Bloomberg Center this semester in Pasteur Hall, students and faculty from across the Manning School now have access to 12 brand-new Bloomberg terminals—along with training resources to help them get the most out of the system.

“I couldn’t be more excited for our students,” says Manning School Interim Dean Scott Latham, who thanked Rob Manning ’84 for providing the financial investment is worth every penny.

According to Prof. Yash Puri, Finance Department chair, the investment is worth every penny.

“No student should be turned away from a Bloomberg terminal simply because he or she has never used one before,” says Puri. "Bloomberg terminals are used throughout the industry, and the idea was to build that into the curriculum. We want to get all students Bloomberg-certified so that when they go to an employer, they have the tools necessary to hit the ground running.”—EB
We develop life-saving technologies.

Founded in 2007 as a partnership between UMass Lowell and UMass Medical School, the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center—or M2D2—helps early-stage startups take new products and technologies from the drawing board to the marketplace. M2D2 has worked with more than 100 companies that have secured more than $40 million in external funding for their ventures.

In 2011, M2D2 opened a business incubator at UMass Lowell and expanded it in 2015 to a second location—a UMass Lowell's Innovation Hub in downtown Lowell—to serve even more entrepreneurs. The Donahue Institute estimates that M2D2's total economic impact on the region was $75 million in 2014.
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LOOK WHAT WE’VE DONE WITH THE PLACE!

UMass Lowell has invested more than $600 million in construction and acquisitions since 2007, opening 12 buildings—including six in just a year’s time. But we’ve also made extensive renovations to existing buildings, added green space, improved all signage and installed innovative classroom technology across campus.

1. UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center (2009)
2. Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell (2010)
5. Health and Social Sciences Building (2013)
6. South Campus parking garage (2013)
8. Riverview Suites West (2013)
10. Charles J. Hoff Alumni Scholarship Center (2014)
13. South Campus parking garage (2013)
16. Charles J. Hoff Alumni Scholarship Center (2014)
17. Pulichino Tong Business Center (2017)

RIP South Campus Dining

Opened in 1972, South Campus Dining provided a welcoming spot for students to nosh, study and socialize. But with the recent $34 million renovation of the McGauvran Center, the old dining hall was rendered obsolete.

Before swinging a ceremonial sledgehammer to commence the demolition of the building, Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney flashed back four decades to her undergrad days, when she wielded a spatula there to flip burgers for hungry classmates. “I had friends in Dining Services and every once in awhile they’d need extra help,” she recalls. “I had worked in a diner, so I knew all about getting behind the grill and flipping burgers.”

When the bricks and rubble are cleared and South Campus Dining is nothing but a memory, in its place will be “this beautiful mall, right up to the grand dame of all buildings, Coburn Hall,” Moloney says. “We’re very excited.”
Kids grow, but metal doesn’t. This simple truth has made prosthetic arms and legs for poor children in the developing world a dream, always out of reach. At thousands of dollars per unit, they’re just too expensive.

Erin Keaney and a few of her engineering classmates at UMass Lowell don’t accept that. What started as a project in the university’s DifferenceMaker entrepreneurship program is now a company poised to revolutionize the prosthetics industry. Using medical-grade plastics in place of heavier, more expensive metal components, Nonspec—named among Entrepreneur Magazine’s Top 10 College Entrepreneurs—plans to bring its product to market at roughly $20 per unit.

Because of its telescope design, says Keaney, “children won’t need new prosthetics every time they grow, allowing them to develop their muscles regularly, and enjoy a more normal, active life.”

Currently testing its prosthetics in India with great success, the team is determined to make an impact. “When we get to see people walking around on our limb, we can see the difference all our work makes,” says Keaney.

Our students start innovative companies.

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We love our veterans.

There are currently 1,600 veterans enrolled at UMass Lowell, a more than 300 percent increase since 2011. In 2015, U.S. Veterans Magazine named us among its top veteran-friendly schools in its annual Best of the Best awards. In the Military Times’ 2016 Best for Vets ranking, meanwhile, UMass Lowell is the only Massachusetts institution ranked among the 100 top four-year colleges and universities in the nation.

Our ROI rocks.

We are No. 1 among New England public research universities for 20-year return on investment, according to PayScale.com.

Our alumni are making the world prettier.

Our own Taniya Nayak ’97 has gone from painting a sunflower-inspired accent table for her freshman dorm room at Fox Hall to serving as brand ambassador for E.D. on Air, the new QVC home collection by Ellen DeGeneres. She’s starred on more than 100 episodes of Food TV’s “Restaurant: Impossible,” in addition to appearing on HGTV’s “Designed to Sell,” “Billion Dollar Block,” “Urban Oasis,” and “House Hunters on Vacation.”

She has her own design firm—Taniya Nayak Design LLC—where she is currently creating interior designs for a number of Ruth’s Chris Steak Houses nationwide (working with Cheryl Henry ’96, chief branding officer of Ruth’s Hospitality Group), Boston Bruins star Patrice Bergeron’s home and a plethora of restaurants—including several Boston hotspots owned with her husband, restaurant mogul Brian O’Donnell. Her design tips have appeared in Architectural Digest India, HGTV Magazine, People, Cosmopolitan, Glamour and The Washington Post, and she’s appeared on “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” “Good Morning America,” “The View,” “Today,” “The Early Show,” “The Talk,” and is regular on “Rachel Ray.”
We have a way of attracting the hardware.

For all its rigorous intensity, the Music Department’s Sound Recording Technology program has a way of paying dividends at Grammy time.

Ask Joel Plante, who is probably still reeling a bit after his 2016 win (shared with his boss, James Guthrie) for a surround sound mix of Roger Waters’ “Amused to Death.” Plante used to listen to Waters’ band, Pink Floyd, when he was a kid.

“It’s pretty surreal,” said Plante a few days after the win.

Plante came to UMass Lowell after learning about the SRT program. “Berklee was stupid money,” he says. “And I saw Lowell had this incredible program. I checked it out and it was perfect. I had to go.”

Adam Ayan ’97, a mastering engineer at Gateway Mastering Studios in Portland, Maine, has been involved in 33 Grammy-winning projects, and has a handful of personal Grammys to show for his specific contributions.

Mark Donahue ’99—a mastering engineer with Soundmirror Inc. in Jamaica Plain since 1992—has six Grammy Awards, including one from the 2016 ceremony. —DP

We're inclusive to all.

As just one example, the university is currently converting 46 rooms on campus to gender-neutral.

Our alumni put the smart in smartphone.

Rich Miner ’86, ’89, ’97, earned a doctorate in computer science here before becoming a founder of Android, which was sold to Google for $5 billion.

LOOK AT THIS ROBOT!

Valkyrie, NASA’s latest generation of humanoid robots, stands 6 feet, 2 inches tall and weighs about 300 pounds. And it lives on UMass Lowell’s campus—at least for the next two years. The R5 robot is shackling up at the university’s New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation Center—where companies like iRobot test their robots—while researchers conduct experiments on how the machine can assist astronauts in future space exploration. The project is part of a research collaboration between Northeastern University and UMass Lowell that is funded with up to $500,000 from NASA.

Our athletes are also scholars.

The university placed 175 student-athletes on the most recent America East Winter/Spring Honor Roll, the most for any of the conference’s nine member institutions. Sixteen hockey players, meanwhile, were named to the Hockey East All-Academic Team, third most in the 10-team conference. Overall, the cumulative student-athlete GPA for that semester was 3.149. What’s more, 107 of the university’s 430 student-athletes currently have cumulative GPAs of 3.5 or higher.

Our weather men and women.

Our atmospheric science students provide official weather monitoring for the Boston Marathon from five locations on the most famous 26.2-mile route in sports. Many of them have gone on to fast-paced careers in meteorology in television, like WGBH Boston’s Barbara Wroblewski ’05 and WFOR Miami’s Sarah Spieker ’07 and CBS Boston’s Barry Burbank ’72 and Danielle Nation ’09.

We’re turning scientists into STEM educators.

As a freshman, biology major Adam Pandolph was torn—should he work in industry or education? To help decide, he enrolled in the university’s UTeach program, an initiative that prepares a new generation of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teachers.

“I’m really passionate about biology,” says Pandolph, who is now in his senior year and is teaching biology at Chelmsford High School. “The UTeach program allows me to continue pursuing my biology while taking courses that also prepare me for teaching so that I can get students as excited as I am about biology.”

Director of the UTeach program and Lecturer in the Graduate School of Education Sumudu Lewis says that UTeach is a great program for science majors. “Students graduate with two career pathways— a STEM degree and a teacher certification,” she says.

There’s a lot to like about our location.

Lowell today is a creative and diverse city that’s easy to navigate and full of locally owned shops and restaurants. Most of the downtown is a national park, honoring the city’s industrial roots, and the city hosts a number of outdoor concerts and festivals each year.

There are 125 Reasons to Support UMass Lowell.
Our students get capital experience.

Scholarships help our political science and criminal justice majors spend a summer or a semester in the nation’s capital, studying at The Washington Center and interning for a government agency, elected official or local organization. This summer, we’re sending students to the Democratic and Republican nominating conventions, too.

“For students who are interested in the political experience, this is Woodstock. It’s total immersion in national politics,” says Frank Talty, assistant dean of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, who oversees The Washington Center partnership. Students will study convention history and nominating strategy, go to parties and rallies and volunteer in helping roles.

We’re bridging the gap between research and solutions that change lives.

Research expenditures totaled $66 million in fiscal year 2015, up from $36 million in 2007.

Raja Abdelaziz, a senior from Nashua, N.H., and double major in electrical engineering and computer science, was elected president of the campus chapter of the Society of Women Engineers after promising to double the number of members who could attend the annual SWE convention and job fair. Historically, they’ve been able to send only about 10 members a year.

Engineering Dean Joseph Hartman provided some of the money from a discretionary fund he uses to support student organizations and the group raised the rest by hosting bake sales, but something about that didn’t feel right to Abdelaziz.

“I’m opposed to bake sales,” she says. “It’s a terrible image. We’re trying to go for female empowerment—and selling cupcakes and cookies doesn’t fit that.”

So Abdelaziz worked with Hartman and the Office of University Advancement on fundraising appeals to engineering companies and alumni.

Last October, all 21 active members of SWE who wanted to attend the convention in Nashville, Tenn., were able to go. Many students received full-time job offers and summer internships as a result.—KW

We compete in the most elite athletics division in the country. All 18 of our teams compete in the NCAA’s Division I.
Living and learning go better with pizza and doughnuts.

For eight years, our Living-Learning Communities have been helping freshman and transfer students find friends and study partners. Now we have them for up-and-coming students, too. Faculty advisers organize evening lectures, exam review sessions, tutoring and fitness activities. They also get stipends for the little extra touches that make students feel cared for.

David Adams, who advises the Honors LLC, uses his stipend to encourage good study habits and reduce stress. He passes out coffee and donuts on snowy mornings, brings chicken wings or pizza to group study sessions and hires a bus to take students apple-picking. He holds roving office hours in Leitch Hall, passing out candy to reward students who are studying. And he invites students to join his family for dinner.

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“I want them to feel they can come to me when they have issues or problems,” he says. His personal approach has paid off, with more students in the LLCs graduating from the Honors College. That success is replicated across the board, says Joel McCarthy-Latimer, assistant dean of student affairs. Of freshmen living in LLCs last year, 90 percent returned as sophomores, compared to 85 percent of those living in general freshman housing and 84 percent of commuters. Sophomores in an LLC are also more likely to return as juniors.—KW

We bring acclaimed writers to campus.

Like Stephen King, whose books have thrilled millions of fans. (He donated his speaker’s fee to a scholarship for English majors, too.) And three-time U.S. Post Laureate Robert Pinsky (below, bottom right), founder of the Favorite Poem Project.

And then there’s New York Times best-selling novelist Andre Dubus III (above top left), author of “House of Sand and Fog” and “Townie.” Dubus, the first Jack Kerouac Writer-in-Residence, loved teaching our students so much that he’s now a full-time professor.

Steve Almond (below, bottom left), this year’s Kerouac Writer-in-Residence, is another Times best-selling author of fiction and nonfiction books, including “Against Football: One Fan’s Reluctant Manifesto.” Almond, who is also a provocative op-ed columnist, essayist and radio personality, is teaching undergraduates how to write compelling nonfiction about their passions.

Meanwhile, our expanding and dynamic creative writing faculty—including poets Sandra Lim and Maggie Draz, nonfiction author Maurice Stantin (at right, top right) and Dubus—enriches students’ lives daily while preparing them for careers in writing and teaching.—KW

Our bird.

UMass Lowell’s teams and mascot, Rowdy, have been known as River Hawks since the 1990s. The name pays tribute to the birds of various species who, like the university, call the banks of the Merrimack River home.

We produce teachers who go beyond the call.

No one asked him to do it. No one would have cared if he hadn’t.

Richard Howarth Ed.D ’12 already had the job he wanted as a biology teacher, of more than 10 years standing, at North High School in Worcester. He had his bachelor’s, his master’s and his CAGS, and the respect of both students and teachers. He was in his mid-30s by then, with a full load of classes. There seemed to be no good reason to put himself through hell.

But he didn’t see it as hell. He saw it, he says today, as “a major, very worthwhile new challenge.” And something new to learn—and I believe strongly in learning through life.”

So 10 years ago, he began committing an hour each way, several times a week, between Worcester and UMass Lowell, to earn his doctorate in education. He kept his full teaching load at North High, and took on, in addition, all the doctoral work required. It took him six years to finish. But in the spring of 2012, he was awarded his Ed.D.

There were other things, too, that he didn’t have to do. He didn’t have to take his environmental science students on a field trip to Nantucket, or to help develop the instructional tools for the district’s teachers; or to arrange a TEDx event—with a medley of presenters, including his former UMass Lowell adviser, Prof. David Lustick—at the school a year ago.

He is 44 today, in his 21st year at North High, and has his doctorate in education. He kept his full teaching load at North High, and took on, in addition, all the doctoral work required. It took him six years to finish. But in the spring of 2012, he was awarded his Ed.D.

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He is 44 today, in his 21st year at North High—and has finally received the recognition he deserves. He was named, two years ago, as Science Department lead; and a year later, picked from a trio of finalists chosen by their principals, as Worcester Teacher of the Year.

“He is a model for the North High community,” the school’s principal wrote in nominating Howarth for the award, “and demonstrates what can be accomplished when a teacher has a zest for learning and understands his students. He guides all of them on a great educational journey.”—KA

We believe diversity matters.

Students from underrepresented and minority groups increased by 117 percent since 2007. In the fall of 2015, 31 percent of undergraduate students identified themselves as being from diverse backgrounds.
Our College of Sciences has a fancy new name.

John Kennedy '70 has a long record of philanthropy and commitment to UMass Lowell, which was recently recognized through the naming of the William J. and John F. Kennedy College of Sciences. He and his older brother, Bill, who passed away in 1994, both graduated from programs in the College of Sciences. Kennedy is the retired president and chief financial officer of Nova Ventures Corp. In addition to his support for the Kennedy College of Sciences, he endowed multiple scholarships, served on several boards and committees at UMass Lowell and has helped to fund many important initiatives.

We run on kindness.

Certain things run in families. In the Chamberas family, what runs deep is running itself. George Chamberas '51 began running in 1954, and didn't stop for the next 50 years. One morning when he got up for his daily run, he found his 11-year-old son, Thomas, waiting for him. "He asked, 'Dad, can I run with you?" recalls George. "I was so touched."

The pair went out for a jog, and soon Tom was hooked—followed, in short order, by his brothers Michael '92 and Anthony. At UMass Lowell, Tom, a member of the class of 1996, ran track and cross-country all four years, and Michael co-captained the team that won the 1991 Division II cross-country championships.

But Tom's race was cut tragically short in 1994 when he was fatally shot during a workplace robbery. More than 1,000 people attended his funeral, "and everyone had a story," says his mother, Cynthia. Many were about acts of kindness Tom never bothered to mention to his family, like the time he bought a suit for an indigent Vietnam vet, so that the man could march in a veteran's parade. Or the time he paid a woman's gas bill, even though it meant he himself went without heat that month.

"He had," Cynthia says, "a kind heart."

And kind-heartedness is what runs deepest of all in the Chamberas family. In the wake of Tom's death, they were determined to keep his memory alive and, if possible, prevent similar tragedies through education. So they created a scholarship in his memory and worked tirelessly to fundraise for it. Over time, the scholarship has grown to $100,000, to fundraise for it. Over time, the scholarship has grown to $100,000, to

Our symphonic band camp

Twenty years. That's how long the Mary Jo Leahey Symphonic Band Camp has been around, reaching into the community, making kids' lives better through music. Named for founding visionary Mary Jo Leahey '37, who passed away in 2011, the weeklong summer camp makes a difference in the lives of young musicians. UMass Lowell music majors have an opportunity to work alongside faculty and staff, with 150 students grades 8-12, from across New England. It's all there for the university's future music educators—teaching, conducting, logistics, classroom management. The 20th anniversary camp session will be held this July and, according to director Debra-Nicole Huber, alumni have been invited back for a reception.

We provide opportunity for low-income students.

In March, the U.S. Education Department released a report called "Fulfilling the Promise, Saving the Need," which applauds colleges that enroll and graduate students from all backgrounds. According to the findings, only 150 four-year schools in the country enroll a significant number of students with Pell grants, federal money provided to those with financial need. Among them is UMass Lowell, which was recognized along with Amherst College, Harvard and MIT in the Northeast. UMass Lowell increased the number of its students who receive Pell grants by 10 percent between 2008 and 2013. In that same period, more than half of Pell recipients at UMass Lowell graduated within six years.

We embrace nontraditional students.

Clarissa Eaton was 44 when she decided to finish the bachelor's degree she began half a lifetime ago. She attended Boston University for three semesters before leaving at age 19 to buy a ballet studio in Littleton and get married. Seven years later, she was a single mom with two kids and two jobs: running L'Ecole de Ballet and teaching preschool. Since then, she's added a third, a part-time job with the Thoreau Society.

Now 47, Eaton will graduate from UMass Lowell this May with dual majors in English and psychology after three years of taking online and on-campus classes through the Division of Online and Continuing Education. She plans to go on to a Ph.D. program in English so she can teach college students one day.

"I have three jobs, two children and two majors," she jokes. "I don't sleep much."

Eaton is one of thousands of nontraditional students in the division, which has seen its enrollments more than double since 2007. This spring the division topped 10,000 online course sign-ups for the first time. With another 2,300 enrollments in on-campus classes, that adds up to an 8.5 percent increase over spring 2015. Total over the enrollment in the academic year, online and on-campus, are expected to meet or exceed 35,000.—KW
Our students help the community, and vice versa.

When Jennifer Viver was 6 years old, she started going to Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell, where she found encouragement and homework help so she could struggle with schoolwork that challenged Girls Inc., she joined her home to community service. Her favorite activity was the Grandparents Program, where the girls visited senior centers and nursing homes.

After high school, Viver worked her way through Middlesex Community College with a series of retail jobs, but she always returned to Girls Inc. to volunteer. When she enrolled at UMass Lowell, becoming the first person in her family to pursue a bachelor's degree, she asked Girls Inc. for a job. “They welcomed me back with open arms. I’m like the kid who never left,” she says.

Now 29, she is a graphic design major with a minor in digital media and production, an avid volunteer on campus and a program leader at Girls Inc., where she runs the “sweet” mentoring program, organizes community art projects and teaches teenagers photography, videography and social media skills.

“She’s always taking what she’s learning at UMass Lowell and reaching out to the girls,” says Jennifer Domen, the program director at Girls Inc., who nominated Viver for the university’s Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award.

Viver also brings “her” girls to campus for art exhibits, basketball games—and the annual King dinner, where she won the award. “I hope I can be the best version of myself to all these girls.”

“They’re our future generation and I want to show them that anything is possible as long as they believe in themselves.”—JW

We know Jack.

Jack Kerouac was born in Lowell and is buried here. And some of the writer’s most precious possessions—including rudimentary, handmade cat carriers he constructed for his beloved felines, travel souvenirs and his writing desk—have found a home at UMass Lowell. John Sampas, Kerouac’s brother-in-law and executor of his literary estate, donated them to the university in 2013.

We know Jack.

We know Jack.

He was a party boy. As a teenager in New Jersey in the late ’60s, living in a town just across the bridge from Manhattan, Glenn Morgan ‘76 would travel into the city on weekend. “We would visit the museums, see the shows,” he says. “It’s the way of the future.”

But it was the partying that continued. “I got into some trouble there—and you’re just left to deal with it,” he says. “Somewhere along the way, I got myself thrown out of the boarding house he was staying at, in which the only rules had been no firearms allowed and no motorcycles above the first floor. (“After I was kicked out,” he says, “they added new rules.”) Shortly after, inevitably, he flunked out.

That was the beginning of things for Morgan. “I didn’t do well at anything,” he would tell his UMass Lowell audience years later, on the occasion of being honored last spring with a Distinguished Alumni Award—“except partying.”

The turnaround began humble. He returned home to New Jersey, where he got a job installing refrigeration systems. The work was hard and dirty, the days were long. At some point, he says, he took a look at himself: “It just kind of came to me that I had a choice—either this was going to be my life or I had to see what else I could learn.”

He cut down on the partying. He enrolled at a community college, earned mostly Cs to begin with, then a couple of Bs, and along the way discovered the beginnings of what would be a lifelong love of learning.

That brought him north to Lowell, where he met with then Dean of Students Lee King and asked to be readmitted. “The dean, in time, accepted (on the condition of academic probation), then pointed the stem of his pipe at the young man across the desk. ‘I’ll be watching you,’ Morgan remembers he said.

Our growth is on fire.

We're the 10th-fastest growing public doctoral institution in the nation. Just ask the Chronicle of Higher Education.

We try to anticipate the next threat.

Our faculty in the Center for Terrorism and Security Studies research the religious and political roots of terrorism and then apply their findings to emerging threats and violence prevention. They are nationally recognized experts who have won a major government grant to counter domestic terrorism. The center’s journal, “Perspectives on Terrorism,” is the most widely read of its kind. Now the center is expanding its faculty and offering five new online master’s degrees in security studies to prepare the professionals of the future.

We're champs.

In October 2015, the men’s cross-country team won the university’s first America East Conference Championship.
We’re Olympians.

When Ruben Sanca ’09, ’10 competed at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London—running the 5,000 meters for his native Cape Verde—he spent more time in the medical center getting treatment on his bothersome right knee than he did soaking up the experience.

Now that he’s healthy (he had a non-cancerous lump removed from his knee after London), the 29-year-old Sanca wants another shot at Olympic glory, this time in the marathon at the 2016 Summer Games in Rio.

"After going through so much hardship to be healthy and to be able to train, I think it would be nice to get back there and really enjoy my experience," says Sanca, associate director of financial administration for Student Affairs.

To qualify for Rio, Sanca needed to run 2:19 at the London Marathon on April 24 (his personal best is 2:18:47). He could still receive a "wild card" entry if he fell short, but Sanca says it wouldn’t be the same.

"For me to get the Olympic standard in London would be a huge step for Cape Verde," he says, "because getting an invite and actually being a qualifier are two separate things. The country is making huge strides as far as sports and youth, and I feel lucky to be in the position that I’m in to provide motivation for younger kids." —EB

We’re hacks (the good kind).

In the debut of what students hope will become an annual tradition, the university hosted its first-ever hack-a-thon in March. Dubbed Hawkathon in a nod to Rowdy the River Hawk, the 24-hour blitz kicked off at 5 p.m. on a Friday at the university’s Innovation Hub in downtown Lowell. Over the next day, more than 100 students from around the Northeast raced to create apps and data tools, and otherwise figure out solutions to problems using technology and creativity. Sponsored by Facebook, DCU, Kronos and Hewlett Packard, the free event was run by students and cut across disciplines, pairing the tech-savvy with business or art majors. "We see entrepreneurship as the glue that connects the business majors to the engineers, and the design majors to the physicians," says university Innovation Fellow Stephen Kender, one of the student organizers. —DP

We support our students, financially and personally.

Students like Matilda Matovu of Tewksbury, who chose UMass Lowell because she was offered scholarships and work-study jobs that afforded her "the opportunity to come to school and focus on school, instead of worrying about massive loans." Matovu came here four years ago as a pre-med biology major, discovered an interest in political science, and found the perfect way to combine the two as a public health advocate, thanks to a summer program at The Washington Center and an internship with a public health advocacy group. "I found a passion for public health," says Matovu, who now plans to earn a master’s in the field before applying to medical schools.

Matovu also found—and built—a supportive community, first as vice president and president of the Association of Students of African Origin and now as vice president of the Class of 2016. She developed more confidence in both herself and her ability to promote change because she met people who embraced her for her differences, not in spite of them.

"For most of my life I was told to act like my obvious differences didn’t matter, but here I was told that they are the most important part of me," she said in her keynote speech at this year’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dinner. "I was pushed to distinguish myself and forced to learn about myself and my place in this world—and I am 100 times better for it." —KW

Jacquie.

The first woman chancellor of the university, is one of us. Not only did Jacquie Moloney earn two of her degrees here—in 1979 and 1992—she also perfectly embodies our pioneering spirit of hard work, gratitude and making a difference.

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Moniphal Bing, a senior English major in the Honors College, was born in the United States and raised in Lowell, but his parents fled Cambodia during the civil war along with his three older brothers. His sister was born in a Thai refugee camp. Bing was able to visit Cambodia last June for a study abroad program with Asian Studies Lecturer George Chigas, thanks to the university’s partnership with the American University of Phnom Penh.

Chigas sacrificed his salary to lower the cost of the program from $5,500 to $3,000 for Bing and the four other students, Bing says, adding that he also got $800 in scholarships from the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the English Department, which helped pay for airfare and incidentals.

The students studied the conditions of Cambodians aged 18 to 35, many of whom were born in the Thai refugee camps, like Bing’s sister. They also blogged about their experiences, including a visit to Angkor Wat. “The first time I arrived at those ancient temples, I was completely immersed,” Bing says. “I was completely quiet and in the moment, thinking this was my ancestors’ blood that built these monuments. I was shocked how beautiful it is, how astonishing, and how it lives today.”

Now Bing is inspired to learn all he can about Cambodian history and improve his Khmer speaking skills. He’s interning at KhmerPost USA, a widely read Cambodian newspaper based in Lowell. And someday he hopes to return to Cambodia and open a library or school for children. —KW

We connect our students with their unique heritages.

We give back.

UMass Lowell students, faculty and staff provide more than 168,000 hours of community service every year.

When Wendy Sanchez ’11 came to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic when she was 5 years old, her mother worked multiple jobs at minimum wage to take care of her and four siblings. Living near downtown Lowell in a rundown apartment, Sanchez recalls having no electricity and little food. “I remember lighting candles to get my homework done in high school. I would collect quarters and walk to Brother’s Pizza to buy French fries and soda for dinner.” The hardships she endured had an upside: they instilled in her a determination to never live the same way. With encouragement from her mother, she pursued a bachelor of science degree in nursing. She received support from the School of Nursing’s Bring Diversity to Nursing program, which provides mentoring, stipends, reference materials and technology. The goal of the program is to help diverse nursing students graduate and work in the community to deliver culturally competent care. And that’s exactly what Sanchez is doing: she now works as a registered nurse case manager for United HealthCare Group. “I will be forever grateful to the BDN program and everything that it did for me,” she says. —KA

We turn hardship into success.

Our students are professionals—before they even graduate.

In the last academic year, more than 700 students engaged in some form of co-op activity and more than 270 were hired for professional co-ops with 241 employers—including Disney, Amazon, P&G, Fidelity Investments, Pfizer and General Electric. Engineering grad Kevin Newland ’16 (above, left) accepted a full-time position at Tesla Motors when his co-op ended.

We believe in individualized attention.

Our student-faculty ratio (17:1) and class sizes (50 percent have fewer than 19 students) are intentionally small.
The two men got talking one night two years ago in Boston while watching a River Hawks Hockey East playoff game: “We were both at the concession counter, waiting for our beers, and we just got to talking,” says Bill Vaillancourt ’83, ’88, vice president and general manager of mobile connectivity at Skyworks Solutions in Andover, of running into UMass Lowell Director of Development Phil Cunningham.

“Phil was telling me about the university’s engineering summer camp. The more I heard, it just seemed like something Skyworks could get involved with.”

Last year, Vaillancourt became personally involved, when his teenage daughter, Traci, enrolled in UMass Lowell’s week-long summer camp, “Engineering for Sustainability,” open to female high school students with an interest in engineering. During her week at the 2015 camp, Traci reported, she learned valuable lessons on “the impact an engineer can have on helping to improve our environment for future generations.” The experience, she says, has definitely “influenced my decision to focus my major in an engineering field of study.”

Skyworks’ involvement will widen this summer, with the company signed on as a camp sponsor to help defray the $1,200 tuition cost for campers with financial need. Skyworks’ partnership with the university in its engineering summer-camp program is only the latest of many connections the two share. A $15 billion market-cap, Woburn-based multinational wireless semiconductor business with 6,700 employees worldwide, Skyworks has also been extraordinarily generous with its resources, recently donating more than $150,000 worth of equipment to the UMass Lowell radio frequency and microwave labs.

The company also hosts a steady stream of summer interns, and—for six years running, at a cost of roughly $70,000 a year—sponsors postgraduate students, typically through the office of Electrical and Computer Engineering Prof. Kanti Prasad, to work part-time at Skyworks as part of their Ph.D. requirements. At least two students during this period completed their doctorates by working on pHEMT device model development in the Skyworks lab.

“Skyworks is a true corporate partner,” says Joe Hartman, dean of the Francis College of Engineering. “The resources they are providing help us enrich the educational experience for our students.”

There is also a lecture series with Skyworks employees, often UMass Lowell graduates themselves, hosting periodic talks at the College of Engineering on any number of topics. In late February of this year, two Skyworks engineers, Ray Limm and Tony Quaglietta ’89, participated in a lecture sponsored by UMass Lowell Prof. Sam Mil'shtein, sharing with students a detailed overview on some of the technology they’re using. The company meanwhile is working with Prof. Prasad to coordinate the details for an upcoming fall lecture.

Other connections are more personal. Vaillancourt, one of at least 26 UMass Lowell alumni now working at the company, is a key member of the Industrial Advisory Board of the College of Engineering. His eldest daughter, Allison, a 2014 UMass Lowell graduate with a B.S. in nursing, is currently pursuing her master’s in the nurse practitioner program, while his middle daughter, Robyn, is a UMass Lowell junior majoring in public health and currently serving an internship on an opioid abuse task force.

As for his youngest, Traci, her summer camp experience last year, says her father, was a “major factor” in her applying recently for a summer internship.

“It was very impressive and intense—a week of 14-hour days surrounded by other girls her own age, all with similar backgrounds in STEM,” he says. “It was very conducive to sharing, and extremely educational. When it began, I’m not sure she really understood what engineering was. By the time she had finished, though, she had a much better grounding in what it was about, and how it would influence her career choices.”

The company we keep—like Skyworks Solutions—benefits everyone.
We're HEROES.

A joint research and development initiative of UMass Lowell and the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center, Harnessing Emerging Research Opportunities to Empower Soldiers—or HEROES—improves survivability and protection of U.S. soldiers. Whether it's better helmets, flame- and heat-resistant uniforms, or portable, lightweight power sources that can be used in the field, the group's collaborative projects are keeping the country's soldiers alive.


"I gave them the same direction. I wanted a mural that showed some of Lowell's history and had a transportation theme," says Business Manager Bob Provencher. "When they presented their sketches, it was no contest—"the students' proposal was 100 times better, so they got the job."

Overseen by Assoc. Prof. Stephen Mishol, the university team—Courtney Lemay '13 and current students Carla Pujol and Josh Rondeau—conducted research on Lowell and Ford's auto-making history.

The final mural, which is 8 feet tall and 32 feet wide, is presented in three sections, each one designed and overseen by one of the artists with ongoing collaboration on color, light and figures. Ristuccia was so impressed by the students’ dedication and skills—"Many nights I'd leave here after 6 p.m., and they'd still be up there painting away"—that he decided to do more than sponsor a single mural. He offered to contribute $3,000 annually to the UMass Lowell Award of Excellence in Painting. —DP

Our students make a difference all over the world.

It struck Rachel Paquette '14 with a vivid clarity. A junior biology major, Paquette was sitting in Prof. Robert Giles' honors class, Science and Technology in an Improvised World. She listened as a series of speakers described the ways scientific applications and inventions could help those who needed help most. One of the speakers told of contaminated water. Disease, even death, followed ingestion of unfiltered water in nations blighted by poverty. It was too common.

Paquette was inspired and decided to find a way to save lives—simply and inexpensively. Her invention, BioBubbler, is a humidifier system that uses sand, layering and simple science to remove bacteria from a water supply.

Using cheap, readily available materials, and the help of Giles, chair of the Physics Department, she took BioBubbler to Haiti. She tested it and trained Haitian residents to use and maintain the system.

Several BioBubbler are now at work in the Haitian city of Les Cayes. Giles, who has worked to support this and other university-related projects in that country, has a team of Haitian research interns tracking its success.

Paquette, meanwhile, is now trying to make a difference closer to home. A research technician at the Center for Cancer Genome Discovery at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, she'll begin medical school in August at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. —GP

We take this business seriously.

Construction is moving fast on the timely home of the Manning School of Business—the $45 million Pulichino Tong Business Center. Scheduled to open in fall 2017, the building will feature 54,000 square feet of world-class classrooms, offices and collaborative spaces, including a high-tech trading room.

"For me, the most important aspect of the new building isn't the brushed steel, soaring windows or state-of-the-art art classrooms," says MFS Investment Management. "Our goal is that we are finally able to give our students the building they deserve. Our students are hard-working, respectful and all-around wonderful people, and they deserve a world-class business school."

The building will be named for John Pulichino '67, '74 (H) and his wife, Joy Tong '74 (H), successful entrepreneurs in the travel-goods industry who have donated $4 million to student scholarships.

The Pulichino Tong Business Center will be at the heart of the North Campus Innovation District, which brings the university’s engineering, science and business programs together for students, entrepreneurs and industry partners.

In 2011, the business school was named for another successful alumnus, Robert J. Manning ’84, ’11 (H), chairman and CEO of MFS Investment Management. Manning and his wife, Donna ’85, ’91, ’11 (H), have made a multimillion-dollar commitment to the university, including an investment of more than $5 million in the school of business. —RP

The Tsongas Industrial History Center.

A partnership between the university’s Graduate School of Education and the Lowell National Historical Park, the Tsongas Industrial History Center offers grade-school students the opportunity for hands-on learning about the American Industrial Revolution through activities and tours where history—and science—happened. The Center is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Our art students are driven.

When Bernie Ristuccia was in the midst of a renovation at his Drum Hill Ford dealership in Lowell, a large, antique Ford sign went missing, leaving a gaping space in his new showroom. He reached out to both a muralist and the university’s Art Department for help.

"I gave them the same direction. I wanted a mural that showed some of Lowell’s history and had a transportation theme," says Business Manager Bob Provencher. "When they presented their sketches, it was no contest—the students' proposal was 100 times better, so they got the job."

Ristuccia was so impressed by the students’ dedication and skills—"Many nights I'd leave here after 6 p.m., and they'd still be up there painting away"—that he decided to do more than sponsor a single mural. He offered to contribute $3,000 annually to the UMass Lowell Award of Excellence in Painting. —DP

Our art students are driven.

We're creating solutions that matter.

UMass Lowell’s sharply focused research and engagement centers span every academic department and function in a truly interdisciplinary environment. Together, our researchers are:

• Searching for a habitable planet to become the next Earth.
• Protecting soldiers in battle, so they make it home.
• Detecting Alzheimer's disease earlier.
• Stopping cyber-thieves from stealing our identities.
• Engineering wind turbines that harvest more power.
• Deciding how to run a marathon, so it can be disrupted.
• Discovering healthier alternatives to toxic chemicals.
• Studying Antarctica’s ancient ice for clues to climate change today.
• Equipping robots to conduct search-and-rescue missions.
• Developing Bubblers for water supplies.
• Studying diseases that kill more people.
• Enhancing the jobs of emergency responders.
• Improving the safety of our firefighters.
• Improving the safety of our soldiers.
• Stopping cyber-thieves from stealing our identities.

And that’s just for starters.

Thus, for starters.

Thus, for starters.

Thus, for starters.

Thus, for starters.

Thus, for starters.
125 Reasons to Support UMass Lowell

We all want to be like Charlie.

There are few UMass Lowell alumni from the past 50 years whose names are better known to more recent graduates than that of Charlie Hoff ’66. And that’s because many of them owe their graduations, at least in part, to him.

Hoff and his wife, Josephine, have helped close to 2,000 students afford college over the past 25 years, at all five UMass campuses. They are known as “Hoff Scholars”—which is about all they have in common, other than financial need and a desire for an education. Their ages have ranged from 19 to over 60, their majors from music to business. The aid they receive varies widely—from $250 to more than $2,000; their life stories are all over the map. Many of them have been selected personally, by Hoff himself, according to the simplest of standards, which he described for this magazine several years ago:

“They need to be the sort of people who’ll make a difference in their communities... the sort of people who, if I were still hiring, I’d want to hire myself.”

In the spring of 2008, when Hoff, today an investor in small businesses throughout New England, was awarded the UMass President’s Medal—the system’s highest honor—several dozen of these young men and women wrote him to express their gratitude. One recalled having been a 40-year-old single father just out of a job, another the daughter of Laotian immigrants working part-time as a bank teller while trying to care for her parents. Still another, a paraplegic confined to a wheelchair, wrote to tell of how he had found the will to finish school and go on to a career as a software engineer, mostly due to “the self-confidence I gained because you, and others like you, had confidence in me.” A new mother, Carol Francis ’92, included with her letter a photo of her baby daughter: “Sophia has just celebrated her first birthday,” she wrote, “and is by far my greatest accomplishment and joy. Your gift of an education has allowed me to become a woman I hope she will one day admire: educated, self-sufficient and happy. And for that I have my gratitude.”

Hoff’s gifts to these young men and women, and hundreds more like them, now total more than $10 million: the largest privately financed scholarship program in the university’s 120-year history. Add to these an additional $1 million in scholarship funds, donated last fall to honor the inaugurations of new Chancellor Jacquie Moloney ’75, ’92 and former chancellor, and now UMass President, Marty Meehan ’78, ’83.

—GD

Our Division I athletes are also great humans.

The physical skill of the players on the men’s and women’s lacrosse teams is easy to see. But they also have great heart. Recently, both teams—every player and every coach—joined a local Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk. Hoping to raise $1,000, they blew their goal out of the water, earning more than $5,000 to combat suicide and raise awareness of mental health issues.

Our alumni discover important stuff.

While working for the pharmaceutical company Sanofi Pasteur, Adel Abou Ali ’08, ’12 was part of a team that discovered the world’s first vaccine for the prevention of dengue hemorrhagic fever. The vaccine is expected to help protect 2.5 billion people, 40 percent of the world’s population at risk of the infection.

Our students’ dreams do come true.

Sean Jordan ’14 entered the Doctor of Physical Therapy program with a dream of one day working in the field of professional sports. That day came quicker than expected when an internship with the New England Patriots turned into a full-time job offer after he graduated. He works full time as an assistant athletic trainer and physical therapist, keeping the 90-player roster healthy and ready for game day.

Patents, copyrights and trademarks—oh my.

The UMass system is 13th in the United States for intellectual property generated in the system.
Our place is every place.

Our students come from everywhere and they go everywhere, changing the world in ways large, small and surprising. So do our faculty, our alumni and our partners.

Our students come from 49 states and more than 108 nations. Our alumni live all over the world. With 136 partnerships with universities in 45 countries across the globe, UMass Lowell has expanded its international reach. Relationships with institutions in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, North America, South America and Australia offer students international academic and research experiences, internships and other opportunities for hands-on learning.

Students and faculty are advancing scholarship, research, economic development far beyond campus boundaries. They’re traveling to England to learn about Shakespeare, debating the theories of the Battle of Marathon on the site of the clash in Greece and collaborating with engineering students in India to design smart phone apps.

International partnerships have opened the door for faculty to collaborate with researchers from around the world. They are pushing the boundaries of knowledge and making an impact on a global scale.

And with over 20 regional alumni chapters all over the world, alumni are able to connect with each other no matter where they live.

UMass Lowell takes you places.

[A] Led by honors seminar instructor Julian Zabalbeasoain, a group of Honors College students immersed themselves in Cuba's culture, politics and economy during a study-abroad trip to Havana in January.

[B] Seven nursing students in Asst. Prof. Valerie King’s Global Health Experience course traveled to Chile to learn about the country’s health care system, visiting hospitals and clinics and meeting with practitioners and patients.

[C] As a Fulbright Scholar, Graduate School of Education Assoc. Prof. James Nehring visited schools in Northern Ireland to study how educators navigate the competing demands of preparing students to pass standardized tests and teaching the skills needed in modern society.

[D] Opera singer Pawel Izdebski ’86, of Germany, has sung on stages alongside such music superstars as Luciano Pavarotti and Placido Domingo. To give back to his alma mater, he came to campus to teach master classes and plans to welcome our students to study and perform in Germany this summer.

[E] Prof. Martin Mangal of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in Prague until September, serving as the Fulbright-Czech Technical University Distinguished Chair in Electrical Engineering.

[F] Lawrence Lin ’90 of Taiwan came to Lowell for the plastics engineering and polymer science program, and now runs his own multimillion-dollar injection molding company in Taiwan. “I owe this school a lot,” he says.

[G] Takayuki Takahashi traveled nearly 7,000 miles from Tokyo to campus to receive his MBA at UMass Lowell through a partnership between the university and Abitus, an executive education firm based in Tokyo.

[H] During her time as a Fulbright Scholar, political science Prof. Ardeth Mooyungthesingh spent a year in Burma conducting research on how ordinary citizens (who generally earn less than $100 a month) use various strategies to survive.

[I] Prof. Paula Rayman, director of the Middle East Center for Peace, Development and Culture, spent part of her senior Fulbright scholarship in Israel, working with women leaders on strategies for building peace and expanding women’s access to education and rights.

[J] A team of students led by Asst. Prof. Kate Swanger of the Department of Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences spent two months in Antarctica studying ancient glaciers for clues to climate change today.
The recent 40th anniversary reunion of our class took me back to my days as a student at what was then Lowell State Teachers College. And in reflecting on that time, and especially on the classes I took, I can honestly say I never knew a better one in my four years of study. Time and space prevent me from saluting them all, but I'd like here to remember a few. …

I begin with Dr. Robert (Bob) Stein, a scholar of the works of James Joyce, whose fabulous English classes met on the second floor of O'Connell Hall. His clipped analyses of these literary works he so loved far beyond our reach without his guidance, taught us how to think, and how to feel—but also not to judge.

His colleague in the English Department, Prof. Gardner Tillson, was, as far as I know, one of the first openly gay professors on the New England college circuit. Brave and unabashed at a time when gayness was a secret to be guarded, his roosterly flamboyance was a model of the encouragement he so often dispensed. ‘Just be yourself!’ I still recall his collection of felt and feather-brimmed hats you could spot that pheasant-feather plume from just about anywhere on campus.

Yet another member of the English Department, Prof. Margaret Guindon, then in her late 40s, opened our sensibilities to the poetry in the songs of Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell and the Stones, at a time when the traditional focus still remained on Wordsworth and Coleridge. A modern woman embracing a changing time, she also bravely introduced into the curriculum the works of feminists Germaine Greer, Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedman—the first wave of Women’s Lib—withstanding the sometimes-loud protestations of her superiors and fellow teachers.

Professor Christos Benteas, a surpassingly brilliant scholar of the Latin and Greek ancient masters, was the first to introduce a classics minor into the New England curriculum. Bravo and unashamed at a time when classics was a secret to be guarded, his arrogant bravado was a model of the encouragement he so often dispensed. ‘Just be yourself!’ I still recall his collection of felt and feather-brimmed hats you could spot that pheasant-feather plume from just about anywhere on campus.

And perhaps most memorable of all: my teacher, mentor and friend, the dear Dr. Robert (Bob) Stein, a surpassingly brilliant scholar of the Latin and Greek ancient masters, was the first to introduce a classics minor into the New England curriculum. Bravo and unashamed at a time when classics was a secret to be guarded, his arrogant bravado was a model of the encouragement he so often dispensed. ‘Just be yourself!’ I still recall his collection of felt and feather-brimmed hats you could spot that pheasant-feather plume from just about anywhere on campus.

I offer these remembrances in hope these men and women will not be forgotten. I think better, write more clearly, and possess a more positive outlook on life because of them and other teachers I so loved.

Unforgettable professors

M aybe for you it was Berni Taphao or lilu Mandell. Or perhaps it was Dean Bergardon, Steve Driscoll or Pat Hacket. No matter which professor sticks out your mind, chances are at least one of our alums will have made deep and lasting impressions. It can be easy sometimes to overlook this, especially lately, with all the dramatic strides the university has made. But longtime alumnus Leo Racicot ’75 reminded us recently. This Lowell native—a poet, food writer and movie critic (among many others) — sent a letter reminding us about his favorite professors. We’ve shared an excerpt, at right.

We’ve got our very own Louis Pasteur.

H. Eugenia Thomas, 59, knows the joys of teaching. She also knows how tough the job can be. She learned a lot over more than three decades she taught second and third graders in Methuen.

Still, she wanted to give back, especially to future educators who come from modest means. Just as she did. It wasn’t easy getting there. When she was in her teens, her father died. He was a 49-year-old Portuguese millworker, and left her mother to support Dolly and her brother. Dolly worked her way through State Teachers College at Lowell, graduating in 1959.

So she recently established the H Eugenia Thomas Endowed Elementary Education Scholarship, scholarship for deserving students in the Graduate School of Education. The scholarship, available to those who hail from the Merrimack Valley, especially from single-parent homes, springs from Dolly’s sense of obligation to those who follow in her footsteps.

“For me, it’s an obligation to help young people of today, and particularly those going into teaching,” says the vivacious Dolly, who enjoys an active retirement. “It’s a profession where they can have such a huge impact on young lives.” —DP

Bless their hearts—and their feet—parading around in red high heels, in the name of raising awareness for prevention of sexual violence. Every year, hundreds of male students “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” as part of the international initiative.

Our grads make good money.

With an average mid-career salary of $94,700 among graduates with bachelor’s degrees, the university ranks No. 28 in the nation and No. 1 in New England among public research institutions, according to PayScale.com. The university also ranks among the top in the nation for starting salaries, with an average of $51,600.

College is ‘worth it’ here.

Just ask former U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett, who in his book “Is College Worth It?” ranks UMass Lowell among only 150 institutions in the nation with a return on investment that is “worth it.”
We’re all charged up.
The next time you’re at University Crossing and your cell phone battery is running low, you can get a fast, free and secure one-hour boost at the new phone charging kiosk made by local startup company Veloxity.

And if you’re lucky, you might even run into two of Veloxity’s co-founders: UMass Lowell seniors Felipe Nascimento and Upkar Singh. Nascimento, a business administration major in the Manning School of Business, and Singh, a mechanical engineering major in the Francis College of Engineering, launched Veloxity in the summer of 2013 with a pair of high school friends from Chelmsford, brothers Kraan and Lucky Popov, both recent Bentley University grads.

What began in the Popov family garage, where the four young entrepreneurs produced a prototype for Foxwoods Casino in Connecticut, has quickly grown into a full-fledged business that’s provided nearly 500 kiosks for customers around the world, from London to Australia, Vancouver to University Crossing.

“It’s pretty cool to see it here on campus,” Nascimento says while watching fellow students try out the newly installed kiosk, swiping their UCards to access one of its six lockers for a free charge from one of three different USB cables. “A lot of my friends have sent me Snapchats or Facebook photos saying, ‘I can’t believe you guys are here.’ It’s nice to see that people are using it.”—EB

We knock it out of the park.
A partnership between the City of Lowell and the university, Edward A. LeLacheur Park is home to both the River Hawks baseball team and the Lowell Spinners, a minor league affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. It’s also just a short fly ball from the Campus Recreation Center and several residence halls.

We’ve got cred.
All of the university’s academic programs for which accreditation exists have been accredited by the most prestigious organization in each field.

We embrace our passions.
Aaron Rosenberg is 51 and still playing with toys.
The adjunct music professor does it so well that he was recently invited to perform his “The Crail Family, 1910” composition at the International Toy Piano Festival in St. Petersburg, Fla—a crossroads where serious composers write for and play a “toy.”

Among the instrument’s most recognizable devotees is Schroeder (from Peanuts) and among its most heralded, experimental guru John Cage. Between and beyond, B-52s, Radiohead, John Medeski, Tori Amos and Dresden Dolls have all used the toy piano to chime in to their catalogs.

“I got into it because in 2008, I was studying for my doctorate at the University of Oregon and I thought I would try to write a piece for the department, for my doctoral recital,” Rosenberg says.—DF

A fine exhibit.
UMass Lowell is home to two art galleries that host a variety of exhibits throughout the year. University Gallery hosts four to six major exhibitions every year, displaying the work of both emerging artists and seasoned practitioners with global reputations (like illustrator Edward Gorey, whose work is shown here). Mahoney Gallery showcases current artwork by students within the B.F.A. program as well as selected alumni exhibitions.

Our student ambassadors.
If you want to know what’s happening at the university, who better to ask than the students? Our students are our best ambassadors and that’s why we established a formal Student Alumni Ambassador program to foster relationships between alumni and the entire university community.

125 Reasons to Support UMass Lowell

115
We’re all about supporting startups.
The UMass Lowell Innovation Hub—or iHub—at 110 Canal St. connects the region’s technology startups and entrepreneurs to campus resources that facilitate the development, manufacturing and commercialization of their innovations. Part of the building is used as an expansion of the university’s Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (thanks, in part, to a $4 million grant from Mass Life Sciences Center) and the rest is an incubator for tech startups—with dedicated offices, co-working space, conference rooms, fabrication lab and support services.

73
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A semester’s tuition at UMass Lowell in the early 90s, as Todd Schermerhorn ’82 recalls, it, came to around $300. When you added in books and fees, it, to- tally maybe double that. Not a lot of money, even then (or by comparison with anywhere else at the time)—but there were times, he says, when it still seemed out of reach. He was the middle of five boys. They lived in Billerica, the five of them and their mother (“My father wasn’t around,” it is Todd who will say on the subject). Money was tight; the country was in a recession. College must have seemed the most natural option at the time. But they found ways, all five of them—four of the five would go to UMass Lowell—each paying his own way through his own means. “You did what you had to do,” says Schermerhorn. “You kept your head down, you worked whatever jobs you could. You worked so hard you could have a car and go to school.” When you didn’t have a car, he says—and there were times he didn’t—you stuck out your thumb on the side of the road and hoped you’d make it to class on time.

He earned his B.S. in accounting, and, two years later, an MBA from Babson. Along the way, working a summer job in Hampton Beach, he met a young woman named Kate, who was working there also—and also attended UMass Lowell. They would marry not long after, and remain together today.

In 1985, he took a job as a cost analyst at C.R. Bard in New Jersey, a medical-device company. Today the company has 14,000 employees in 20 odd countries and $2.7 billion in yearly revenue. It was the only employer he would ever work for. Beginning as an analyst, he rose to vice president inside of 10 years, then to president two years later. By the time he left, in 2000, as vice president and CFO, he was the sole manager of a large medical-device company (Spectranetics) and a former director of another (Thoratec Corp.) that was sold last year to St. Jude Medical for $3.4 billion. All fairly standard post-retirement data for a former large company CFO. But there’s more. In 2004, a young man named Sean Reilly, the son of a colleague, was gravely injured during a study-abroad college semester in Europe. He lived for five years, minimally conscious, before dying, at 25, from complications of traumatic brain injury. His family meanwhile was doubly brutalized: by worry for their son on the one hand, and, on the other, the financial hardships of caring for him—the result of serious shortfalls in health-care funding. (According to the CDC, the annual incidence of TBI is higher than that of breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury and HIV/AIDS combined—yet Medicare and Med- icaid have continued to cut funding.)

“What are these kids like I was, without access to a lot of resources, working like crazy to keep their heads above water...? I have a lot of respect for that—because I know what it takes.”

Schermerhorn explains the challenge simply. His colleague, he says, following the death of his son, “asked me to help him make something good from it.” And so together, in the seven years since, they have. The Sean Reilly TBI Fund, a tax-exempt charity, was organized to bring relief—largely by channeling funds to New Jersey’s major head-injury rehab facility, the JFK Hartwyck Center, where Sean spent the final four years of his life—to patients and the families of those diagnosed as minimally conscious or in a persistent vegetative state. The fund has raised more than $1 million, in direct and in-kind aid, to ease the load on victims and families:

“We have two or three fundraisers a year, sometimes more than that. We’ve raised money for a specially-equipped van, custom-fitted beds—you wouldn’t believe how expensive those are—wheelchairs, custom rooms, even music therapy, whatever isn’t covered by existing resources. When you see what some of these families have to go through, it becomes truly rewarding work. And there are the gifts to alma mater two endowment funds so far totaling more than $100,000, in addition to his membership on the advisory board of the Manning School of Business, at whose Honor Society dinner he was the invited speaker recently.

Our Faces of Philanthropy.

Todd Schermerhorn ’82, right, stands next to his wife, Kate, on the slopes recently in Breckenridge, Colo. With them are Jim Miraldi ’90 and his wife, Judy.
We're difference makers.

Before they even take their first class, our students are initiated into our culture of entrepreneurship through an intensive DifferenceMaker orientation. Woven into the fabric of coursework in each of UMass Lowell's colleges and schools, the program challenges students from all academic areas to create solutions to real-world problems, then lets them test their ideas through competitions such as the annual $35,000 DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge.

Our teams make an impact.

The newest member of the UMass Lowell River Hawks hockey team, brought on board officially on Draft Day last October, wears thick black glasses, stands 5 feet, 1 inch tall and loves to give high-fives.

His name is Lucas St. Onge. He is a Lowell native, and he is 4 years old.

“We’re really excited that Lucas has chosen UMass Lowell and is now officially part of our team,” said River Hawks Coach Norm Bazin at the Tsongas Center press conference that followed Lucas’s signing.

“He will bring a lot of inspiration to our team. His presence at practices and games will be great for our team chemistry,” Bazin said.

Lucas, who was diagnosed at 2 months old with an immune disorder that has left him with only 18 percent of his intestines and a non-functioning stomach and pancreas, is dependent on feeding tubes and daily treatments to stay alive—none of which stopped him from trading high-fives and playing football with team members and mascot Rowdy throughout much of the Draft Day festivities.

It all goes as planned, Lucas will travel with the team, as much a part as any player, at least through this season and next. His arrangement is an outgrowth of the work of Team IMPACT, a Boston-based nonprofit designed to enhance the lives of children facing chronic or life-threatening diseases.

Lucas is the first IMPACT child to be matched with the hockey team—two others have preceded him. And Bazin’s River Hawks aren’t the only team participating: as of early this year, at least 11 children, ages 4 through 16, had been drafted by various teams, from softball and volleyball to baseball and lacrosse, in both men’s and women’s sports.

Sicilia Campbell was the first. She was 5 years old at the time, in the fall of 2011, already three years into her fight with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, when Sean Cotter, in his second year as UMass Lowell softball coach, signed her to the team. It was a Saturday. There were balloons, an appearance by Rowdy, Paul Simon’s “Cecilia” blared from the speakers.

Sicilia is 10 today, and cancer-free—and still serves as “bat girl” at home games.

It doesn’t always end so happily, of course. Nick DeFelice, drafted by the men’s hockey team a year ago, died a year later, at home in Dracut, of the cancer he had battled since he was 2. All 27 members of the team wore T-shirts in his honor, ending a $7,500 donation drive with a benefit at Moe’s Grill in Chelmsford.

“Nick became like a little brother to our team, and pushed all of us to be great people,” former captain Riley Wetmore said of the young IMPACT draftee. “He always had a smile. “Nick became like a little brother to our team, and pushed all of us to be great people,” former captain Riley Wetmore said of the young IMPACT draftee. “He always had a smile.

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“The fox walks on the wooden dock and jumps his feet right in. He caste a hook ahead of him and begins to sit, sink, sink, sink.”

There are strings attached here.

Team of pride welled up in the eyes of agape—one music education major, Joshua Santana. As his young violin student started nervously in their chairs before their debut ensemble performance, he could hear them quietly singing to themselves:

“The fox walks on the wooden dock and jumps his feet right in. He caste a hook ahead of him and begins to sit, sink, sink, sink.”

It’s a silly little ditty that Santana knows firsthand what kind of impact the String Project can have: “I definitely see myself in some of those kids,” he says. “Hopefully I give them someone to look up to.”

125 Reasons to Support UMass Lowell
We can make concrete float.

For more than 30 years, our students have kicked butt at the annual American Society of Civil Engineers’ regional concrete canoe competition. UMass Lowell regularly bests dozens of universities from around North America in the quest to design, build and race concrete canoes weighing over 100 pounds.

Our work ethic.

“In an ideal world,” says UMass Lowell sophomore Victoria Manning, “I’d probably be in the FBI.” Meanwhile, though, she’s busy honing her bids.

She turned 18 in June two years ago—the same day she filled out the firefighter’s application at her local West Newbury department. By then, she’d already completed classes in much of what she’d need: the rescue, water rescue, barrier training, Heimlich and CPR, among other life-saving disciplines—all as part of her high school’s public-safety class. Even before the training was over, she’d come to the rescue of a school mate who’d been choking on a muffin: “One thrust,” she says, “and it out it popped.”

She’s 20 today, and a full-fledged member of the town’s fire department, or what’s known in Massachusetts as part-time. By then, she’d already completed classes in much of what she’d need: fire rescue, water rescue, barrier training, Heimlich and CPR, among other life-saving disciplines—all as part of her high school’s public-safety class. Even before the training was over, she’d come to the rescue of a school mate who’d been choking on a muffin: “One thrust,” she says, “and it out it popped.”

She’s 20 today, and a full-fledged member of the town’s fire department, or what’s known in Massachusetts as part-time. By the first few months of this year, she’d been called to three house fires and too many medical emergencies (often the result, she says, of falls by elderly townspeople) to put a number on.

“I absolutely love it,” she says. “The adrenaline is part of it, of course. But I also just love the chance you get to help people. And I have a whole new family of friends.”

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But that’s not her only job. Manning is also a full-time nanny on weekends, and a part-time medical biller and home-care worker for kids with disabilities. And oh, yes—she’s on the Dean’s List, with a double major in psychology and criminal justice. She lives on campus in University Suites, though between nannying and fighting fires, she’s home as often as she can.

She plans to graduate in two years, and to have her master’s in psychology a year after that. At this point, she says, she’s torn between criminal justice and law school. But she’s still thinking firefighters, other days and—she may just apply for both and see.

We believe in speaking up to create a better world.

When Daniel Uk ’16 arrived at UMass Lowell in 2012, he wasn’t quite sure what he wanted to major in, but he knew exactly what he wanted to do: “Get involved and make a difference.”

The Lowell native, now 21, was born a few decades too late for the 1960s, but he’s completely in synch with that era’s activist spirit and commitment to social justice. “It’s probably my favorite period in American history,” he says, “because people my age advocated for change, on college campuses and throughout the country.”

Uk has spent much of his college career doing just that. At the end of his freshman year, he was elected president of the Cambodian American Student Association, and his work to develop more inclusive programming and broaden membership helped earn the club two Student Leadership Awards.

In 2013, when the UMass Board of Trustees tightened its policy regarding outstanding balances—a change that Uk felt disproportionately impacted working-class students—he organized a petition and brought it to the attention of then-Chancellor Marty Meehan at a public forum. Meehan told the crowd he shared Uk’s reservations, and applauded him for raising awareness around the issue.

That was a really good day,” Uk says now, “because it showed me that when we speak up, we can be heard.”

It didn’t take Uk long to decide he wanted to major in political science, where he has focused on constitutional law. His political engagement continues outside the classroom. In addition to volunteering as a diversity peer educator and student alumni ambassador (and holding a part-time job), he has worked as an intern for Rep. Niki Tsongas in her Lowell District Office, and he spent the fall term of his senior year interning with the Democratic National Committee in Washington, D.C.

In the midst of the most contentious presidential campaign in modern history, Uk’s assignment was to fact-check speeches by Donald Trump, Carly Fiorina and Senators Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio. “There were,” he says with a laugh, “some late nights during the presidential debates.”

After graduation, Uk plans to focus on advocacy work, ideally with organizations focused on Asian American civil rights and public policy. His goal remains the same: “Get involved and make a difference.” This is the beauty of the American political system,” he says, “It provides us with the inalienable rights we can use to create a better world.”—JB

The best organizations in the world want our students.

In the summer of her senior year as a nursing student, Shelby Creamer ’15 landed a coveted 10-week paid internship with Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. She gained valuable real-world experience that led to a full-time nursing position in the cardiovascular surgery progressive care unit at Mayo Clinic when she graduated: “The School of Nursing professors instilled in me critical thinking skills that are vital to the job that I do every day,” she says. “They challenged me to see the mental, spiritual and physical parts of my patients which makes me a better advocate and caregiver.”

We’re blue—but green.

Solar panels, living roofs, composting, bike sharing, recycling and efficiency upgrades are cutting our carbon footprint by the ton. We will be carbon-neutral by 2050—and the outside world is noticing. In 2015 alone, the university earned more than a dozen recognitions and awards, including a MassBicycle Recycling Award, a White House Champion of Change award for climate education, a Pinnacle Award for excellence in commuter options and a Greenovate Boston Award. The League of American Bicyclists named us a “Bicycle Friendly University,” one of only three schools in the state to earn the distinction.

They like us, they really like us.

Since 2010, UMass Lowell has climbed 27 spots in U.S. News & World Report’s ranking of top-tier national universities, from No. 183 to No. 156, the third-fastest rise in the nation for that timeframe.
The UMass Lowell hockey program has produced a long line of NHL players through the years, including current pros Scott Wilson (Pittsburgh), Christian Folin (Minnesota), Carter Hutton (Nashville) and Ron Hainsey (Carolina). The latest to join that list is this season’s goali, Kevin Boyle, who was drafted by the Anaheim Ducks in March.

Another former River Hawk to recently join the pros is goali Connor Hellebuyck, who made his NHL debut this season for the Winnipeg Jets. River Hawk fans will never forget Hellebuyck’s two record-setting seasons in blue, when the All-American led the team to back-to-back Hockey East crowns and a trip to the Frozen Four as a freshman in 2013. Before jumping to the pros following his sophomore season, he won the inaugural Mike Richter Award, given to the most outstanding goaltender in Division I men’s hockey.

After spending the 2014-15 season in the American Hockey League, Hellebuyck was called up by the Jets on Nov. 27, 2015, and made 14 saves in a 3-1 win over the Minnesota Wild.

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Our alumni pay it forward.

John Cadigan ’87 is at his best when busy. He spent eight years working toward his computer science degree from the University of Lowell—only because he was so busy working simultaneously as a software engineer at Data General and SofTech.

“Learning so much working in industry and combining that with the foundational education I was getting. It was exciting to do both,” Cadigan says.

Cadigan is busier than ever today: CEO of engineering firm Andrews-Cooper; angel investor with Launchpad Venture Group; advisor to Windspur Medical, Inc.; co-owner of Barrett and Company Real Estate; oh, and Flotilla Staff Officer for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in Woods Hole.

And still he finds time to volunteer as judge and mentor for the DifferenceMaker program.

“I think dreaming and thinking outside the box is just so critically important for students and for our country,” Cadigan says. “It’s inspiring to see talented young students with such ambitious goals and ideas. I feel energized and inspired every time I set foot on the campus.”

We’re well-endowed.

(Or at least better endowed than we were.)

Since 2007, UMass Lowell has more than doubled its endowment, growing it from $37 million to $82.4 million.

Hockey. Enough said.

We’re good in emergencies.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, researchers at The New England Consortium—which is led by UMass Lowell—found that workers who were charged with the cleanup of materials and property were exposed to mold and other biological and chemical hazards.

With a five-year $7.6 million grant from the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, the consortium will expand its traditional hazardous materials training program to include workers who respond to natural disasters caused by climate change.

“Providing such services is necessary for protecting the health and safety of workers and the public as we adapt to the changing climate,” says Craig Slatin, a professor in the UMass Lowell’s Division of Public Health who heads TNEC. —KA

We meet more than 90 percent of student need (but our goal is 100).

In 2015, UMass Lowell awarded more than $160 million in financial aid, with an average of more than $15,000 per award.

The President of the United States thinks we’re good people.

The university is on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for community and campus engagement for the fifth consecutive time.

Our students attend the State of the Union.

Looking down from the House Chamber gallery at the sea of politicians and Supreme Court justices, senior math major Alexis Floss let the moment sink in as she watched President Obama deliver his final State of the Union address.

“The mood in the room was unlike anything I’ve experienced before. It was electrifying,” says Floss, who was invited to Washington, D.C., by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren thanks to their shared concern for the country’s student debt crisis.

Floss, a Manchester, N.H., native who plans to teach high school math after grad school, had twice testified about the issue in front of Warren—first in 2014 in Washington and again in 2015 during a forum at UMass Boston.—EB

The Bellegarde Boathouse.

After more than $1 million in renovations, the UMass Lowell Bellegarde Boathouse became the home of university and community boating programs. Situated on the north bank of the Merrimack River, the boathouse provides one of the region’s most spectacular views of the waterfront and sunsets.

Students have an awesome time here.

Hard not to—with more than 250 clubs and organizations to choose from.
Join us for the inaugural Women’s Leadership Conference at UMass Lowell. Keynotes by HGTV star Taniya Nayak ’97, plus author and humorist Gina Barreca. Network, boost your career and bring balance to your life. #UMLwomenlead

UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, downtown Lowell
Tuesday June 21

The Power and Potential of Women

The first member of the Class of 2016 to graduate, Brianna Gainley participated in a special Commencement ceremony held for her and about 100 family and friends on March 18. The computer science major—shown here with classmate and new husband, Ryan Hart, whom she married the day before—has a rare form of bone cancer called osteosarcoma. Gainley lost her right leg and a lung during her five-year battle—but never her determination—and she was on track to receive her diploma this May. But on Monday, March 14, her doctors delivered devastating news: The cancer was terminal and she only had a short time to live.

Four days later Gainley became the first alumna of UMass Lowell’s Class of 2016, receiving the honor in a pomp-and-circumstance-filled ceremony in University Crossing that included Chancellor Jacquie Moloney and the entire executive cabinet all in full regalia.

“I wasn’t expecting this celebration. This has just been fantastic,” said Gainley, beaming proudly in her confetti-sprinkled cap and gown as she spent nearly two hours hugging guests from her wheelchair and smiling for photos. “I don’t think I’ve ever taken so many pictures in my life.” —EB
Arriving at Lowell State in 1974, Gordon Stevenson '78 commuted up Route 3 from Woburn. Mary Grondine '78, '88, meanwhile, drove in from Dracut. Although they were both history and secondary education majors, and were both fifth graders at Coburn Hall between classes, it wasn’t until Irish Night in March of their senior year that Gordon noticed Mary. They shared their first kiss at The Rathskeller on North Campus and were both history and secondary education majors, and hung out with the same crowd at Calvary Baptist Church in Kingman, Ariz.

Edward Kaplan

William Yelle was recently appointed executive chairman of Enterox Pharmaceuticals, a biotechnology company, president of Innovation and Development, and chairman of Enterox’s board of directors. He received his degree from Columbia University and has spent several years in Japan conducting ethnographic fieldwork. He is the author of over 40 scientific papers in scholarly journals and several books, including his most recent, “Intersections of Science, Religion, and Culture.”

Linda FitzPatrick ’68

Edward B. Serpone

Edward B. Serpone works for The Engineering Group, Toluca, Okla., and was named Remodeler of the Month by the National Association of Home Builders for November 2015. An author and authority on design/build remodeling, Edward is the recipient of a Kohler National Design Competition award and a National Ornamental and Miscellaneous Metals Award for his design of a private residence.

Edward was recently certified as an aging-in-place specialist, helping older homeowners stay in their homes safely, independently, and comfortably.

Jack K. Maserejian

As a result of his efforts to save the team, he was recently named coach at Amherst College and was recently named NSCAA Coach of the Year. Although he is not an in-state resident, he has been a part of The Buckingham Group in Tulsa, Okla., and was named Remodeler of the Month by the National Association of Home Builders for November 2015. An author and authority on design/build remodeling, Edward is the recipient of a Kohler National Design Competition award and a National Ornamental and Miscellaneous Metals Award for his design of a private residence.

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1963

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2015

Edward Kaplan earned a master’s degree from Suffolk University in 2015. He is now semi-retired and is also at the recipient of New England Restaurant Association. He is also a national recognized author and black belt in karate.

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**Classnotes**

1992

Peter McCarron has been named senior vice president, commercial claims, at CNA, the country’s eighth largest commercial insurance writer. Peter joins CNA from Zurich North America, where he most recently served as senior vice president, Global Work- ers' Compensation and Accident & Health. Prior to that role, he served for 18 years in several leadership positions at OneBeacon Insurance Group. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business management from UMass Lowell and a master’s of public administration from Suffolk University.

1993


Barbara Tierney has been named treasurer collector for Townsend. For the past two years, she has been employed by the town of Clinton as payroll coordinator and assistant to the treasurer/collection accountant. Barbara’s previous experiences include 10 years as an accountant for the Academy for Science and Design in Natick, as an accountant for Remco Company Inc. in Pepperell, and as an independent financial record-keeping consultant. Barbara is a 1988 graduate of Notre Dame Preparatory School in Framingham and holds a bachelor of science in business administration with a concentration in finance from UMass Lowell.

1994

Christopher L. Carter has worked for 10 years in public safety, the last two years at Boston Madonna, where he serves as a nationally certified flight communicator and EMT. He has two sons, Ryan, 12, and Zachary, 8, who are both active in football, basketball, and lacrosse.

Kerry A. Murphy is enrolling for a doctorate in education at Northeastern University, where she earned a master’s degree in educational leadership in 2014.

Thoirflos Vougias was recently elected to the board of directors of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Manchester, N.H. Thoirflos is an attorney who specializes in trust and estate planning, including the preparation of wills, revocable and irrevocable trusts, supplemental needs trusts, power of attorney and advance directives for health. Thoirflos is a member of the New Hampshire and Massachusetts bar associations. After earning a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice at UMass Lowell, he earned a law degree at the University of New Hampshire. Thoirflos lives in Manchester with his wife and children.

2003

Aiden M. Hooper has founded a financial technical firm, CourtSage Advisor.

Roberto Velotta married his longtime sweetheart, Amy Lunney of Pittsburgh, Penn., on Friday, Nov. 13, 2015. The couple wore black in a nod to Robert’s release from St. Joseph Hospital, where he continued to fight in the ICU. "In the end, I said to Roberto: ‘One more time, you have to eat.’ The last time, he tried to eat a piece of cake. He couldn’t do it. We thought it was the end of the road,” Roberto’s mother, Mary, told the Pilot.

2004

The Influential Entrepreneur

Nigerian-born Ukeme Awakessien-Jeter earned her MBA from the Manning School of Business in 2009 and is now an intellectual property attorney at the law firm McDonald Hopkins in Cleveland. She is also one of “20 Influential African Women Entrepreneurs and Leaders in America to Watch in 2016,” according to Ladybrille Magazine.

Being a relatively new attorney, to get this kind of accolade is pretty exciting,” says Awakessien-Jeter, who earned her law degree from Case Western Reserve University in 2013. “I was surprised my name was on the list, but it’s always an honor.”

After majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of Maine, Awakessien-Jeter chose UMass Lowell for her MBA because it allowed her to take classes online while working full-time for Georgia-Pacific paper products in Arizona.

“The reputation of a good school that people actually hear, combined with the fact that you could do it conveniently with your work schedule, was great,” says Awakessien-Jeter, who last summer was appointed co-chair of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Intellectual Property Law Committee.

If all that doesn’t keep her busy enough, Awakessien-Jeter is also about to launch a new venture. Word of Mouth was formed in 2013 and specializes in providing free legal consultation on issues such as family law, immigration, landlord-tenant disputes, child custody, traffic violations, and landlord-tenant disputes. Word of Mouth’s mission: “To provide free legal consultation to the underserved communities,” she says.

The path Matt Windt ’14 has followed is not one he would have “ever imagined.” But by going where he was called, and trusting in fate and in himself, he says, “about as good as anything I ever imagined.”

He left UMass Lowell 12 years ago with a degree in mechanical engineering. It took him no time at all to find his first job: as a product engineer at Burton Snowboards in Burlington, Vt., where he spent a little over two years as part of an engineering team responsible for the development of premium snowboards. Word of his success there must have traveled—because in early 2006 came a call he “would never in a thousand years” have predicted: from Bose Corp. in Fрамingham, perhaps the world’s premiere manufacturer of audio equipment.

His background wasn’t in electronics. And at first he wasn’t sure how to respond. But in the end, he says: “The opportunity to work for such an amazing institution was just too good to pass up.”

He was there a little more than three years—by then a veteran of the Bose team. But the work he was overseeing the engineering of in-ear Bluetooth headsets, all the way to the commercialization phase. It was a unique experience, a time of both learning and high achievement: “My passions and drives were harnessed as never before.”

His next move, in the fall of 2009, was the defining one: to Skullcandy Inc. in Park City, Utah, a $550 million company that markets headphones, sunglasses, MP3 players and other audio products. He was brought in as technical staff installer, within less than three years, he had risen to the post of director of product development, the title he holds today. “This is a role that I never thought I wanted to get into,” he says.

“We’re a 12-year-old startup, not only is Windt at the top of his game in an unexpected field, he also has the best sort of mentor—his girlfriend, Kari Geddes ’09, another Skullcandy staffer, is right there with him.”

“Skullcandy was about as good as anything I ever imagined.”

At least some of the credit for those rewards, he says, belongs with some long-ago mentors:

“The thing that I learned at UMass Lowell was about a lot more than academia. They were about how to succeed at life, how to succeed at anything. You identify your challenges, find the path through them, then you go.”

And to those professors who had where you really lived that lesson,”—G0
2007

GOOD MORNING, VIETNAM

It wasn’t easy graduating in 2007, during the Great Recession, says John Ogden. “Jobs were few and far off, thus so was money, so us recent graduates had to look elsewhere,” he says. “We looked to new avenues, to new ventures, new possibilities and some of us, to new worlds. I, somehow, ended up in Vietnam.”

Ogden took a job teaching English for Schools of North America. “The degree from UMass Lowell was what opened the door for me to be able to be an educator in Asia,” he says. “I literally, overnight, I was in a different world, full of different ideas, different cultures, different people and different trials and tribulations.”

Ogden, who now teaches fifth grade English language arts and social studies at the Lowell Collegiate Charter School, says the experience led to a “wonderful journey—it was a privilege to teach in a nation so far away.”

2008

Lt. Adam Kelly, who served with the campus Air Force ROTC program, was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force after graduation. Stationed at Hanscom Air Force Base, he works as a Tactical Automated Security Systems program manager for Battle Management. Recently, Adam received the Distinguished Young AFCEA Award for his contributions to the Lexington-Concord Chapter of Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association. He received the award from Lt. General Robert Shea, USMC (Ret.), president and CEO of AFCEA International at the AFCEA West conference in San Diego.

2011

Kari Anne Olson and Matt Heggie became engaged in December. They first met in the UMass Lowell Music Department and are planning to marry in Heggie’s hometown of Salem, Mass.

2014

Kari Anne Olson and Matt Heggie became engaged in December. They first met in the UMass Lowell Music Department and are planning to marry in Heggie’s hometown of Salem, Mass.

2015

Arjun Melha began working at Barclays Bank in Delaware as a business systems analyst.

2011

Timothy A. French, Jr. is engaged to be married to Kerin E. Stewart. Timothy is employed as an attorney in Chelmsford. He earned a law degree at the UMass School of Law. A July wedding is planned.

Class Act

Woburn native and UMass Lowell graduate Danielle Bourgeois was recently nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a play. The award program, now in its 32nd year, recognizes outstanding achievement in more than 90 professional theaters across the Washington metropolitan area.

Bourgeois was nominated for her role as Kaylee Stewart in “One in the Chamber,” which was produced in collaboration with Forum Theater last August in Washington, D.C. The Awards will be held on May 23.

Winning the award was “encouraging,” Bourgeois told the Woburn Advocate. “It gives you a little hope that you might actually be able to do this whole ‘acting thing.’” Added Bourgeois, “I want to tell stories that are meaningful. I want to play great characters with great writing and, you know, health insurance would be great.”
Make Your Legacy About Education, Opportunity and Growth

Many alumni say that UMass Lowell was an affordable choice for their college education. And while the university remains an affordable choice for students, there is a substantial cost to providing the high-quality education that makes UMass Lowell a nationally ranked university.

Consider Leaving UMass Lowell in Your Will or Trust.

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For more information, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 978-934-4810 or ogp@uml.edu.
Hockey Nights

[1] Student and alumni veterans enjoy a hockey win over the University of Maine at the Veterans Appreciation Night at the Tsongas Center. From left: Allen Zohdi ’08, Student Veterans-Torkelson, Ryan Fitzgerald, Allen Lem ’15, David Tomaioli ’15, Jacqueline Bidole ’15, Latasha White and Jonathan McEachin.

[2] Senior Michael Chiauzzi, an exercise and physiology major, and his parents, Bobbie and Emil, chat with Associate Dean of Health Sciences Demitra Murphy ’00, ’04 at the Parent and Family Appreciation Night at the Tsongas Center.

[3] Student Alumni Ambassador Janice Lane ’15, left, and Beth and Ron Gyurcsik get a kick out of being photographed with Rowdy at the Electrical and Computer Engineering Night.

[4] Seven-year-old Leah Monahan, daughter of Brenda Monahan ’91, ’11, captured a great shot of Alpha Omega. Actives and alumnae gathered to connect and share memories at their Alpha Omega night at hockey when the River Hawks took on the UMass Amherst Minuteman.

[5] Barbara Armiento, far left, Dean of Francis College of Engineering Joseph Hartman, Miriam Margala and Co-Director of RURI Craig Armiento watch Chancellor Jacquie Moloney ’75, ’92 share a high-five with Co-Director of RURI Chris McCarroll ’05 during Kenneth Alumnae & Friends Hockey Night.

[6] Paul Cassidy ’51, with his wife, Frances, gives a thumbs up to Darth Vader and his Storm Troopers who joined the Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Appreciation Night alumni reception at the Star Wars themed hockey night.

Hockey Nights (continued)

[7] Dean of Education Anita Greenwood ’84, ’92, left, and Assistant Director of Enrollment and Technology Johanna Rocken ’89, Donny Dinneker ’74, Adam Carrington ’16, Thomas Bتكl, Derek Jones and Justin Azevedo ’16.

[8] Sigma Phi Omicron alumni gather for their fifth annual endowment fundraiser and alumni night at hockey. From left: Andrew Finkle, Paul King ’99, Danny Dinsmore ’74, Adam Carrington ’16, Thomas Bتكl, Derek Jones and Justin Azevedo ’16.

[9] From left: Joe Haggerty ’95, Chair of School of Nursing Lisa Alldredhe and Project Manager of Nursing Laura Haggerty ’16 enjoy an evening at hockey with fellow College of Health Sciences colleagues and friends.

[10] UMass Lowell football alumni reunion at a hockey game. From left: Brian Conolly ’75, James Nutter ’76, Jim Bender ’75 and Rocky DeAngelo ’76.

[11] Alumni reconnect with their academic advisers at the Kennedy College of Sciences Appreciation Night and witness a River Hawks win over the Boston University hockey team. From left: David Eberiel, Peter Selybn ’84 and Shawn Sill ’84.

[12] The Greek Alumni Council returned to campus to reconnect at a hockey game and raise funds for their endowment.

[13] David Travis ’80 was the proud winner of a River Hawks bobblehead. In the background are Student Alumni Ambassador Donald McConkey ’16 and Jake Evers ’79.

[14] After dying his hair blue, Dean of Francis College of Engineering Joe Hartman awards the 2016 Dean’s Cup to the engineering week’s winning team Un-CIVIL-ized with Civil Engineering Chair and Professor Pradeep Kurup. Students, from left: Alex Baten ’17, Erica Hart ’17, Michelle Fitzgerald ’17, Tim Ash ’17 and Jim Basile ’17.

[15] The new Chair of Accounting Advisory Board Thomas Conromore ’89, left, with her husband, Peter, and daughters, Katelyn and Meghan, enjoy the game at the Manning College of Business Hockey Appreciation Night.
Remembering Amber Zapatka ‘11, ‘13

Amber Zapatka was exceptional.

Long a male bastion, engineering and plastics engineering found a strong ally in the young woman who broke the mold.

After earning her engineering bachelor’s degree in 2011, she signed on as a project engineer with Nypro, in Clinton, where she had worked as a paid intern since 2009. Zapatka earned her master’s degree in (2013) at UMass Lowell at night. She was so good at what she did as a Master Molder Level III instructor, she could "train the trainers," according to Robert Malloy, chair of plastics engineering.

Zapatka died in July 2015 in a motorcycle accident in Hudson. She was 27. The death rocked those who knew best, especially within the plastics department.

In her memory, UMass Lowell established the Amber L. Zapatka Endowed Scholarship to benefit students in plastics engineering. Calling Zapatka "an inspiration in every way," Malloy said the best way to honor her is to "enable other students to carry her legacy forward."

"She was around a lot," says Malloy. "It was tough. Her family lives right up the street and she’d been here getting her master’s. We saw her a lot. She was definitely special. Women are a minority in engineering, but Amber was very hands-on, and she loved tooling. So she went into manufacturing, which was even more rare for a young woman."

She had other passions. A nationally ranked tennis player while at Lowell High School, Zapatka was in the tennis club, up at 5 a.m. for practice on the Merrimack. She ran the Reach the Beach run in September, and memorialized her this time, says Malloy. "We had T-shirts printed. And before that, there was a celebration of her at Kimbell Farm in Westford. So many people showed up."

Nypro and the Francis College of Engineering have scheduled the Amber L. Zapatka Memorial Golf Tournament for Tuesday, May 31. All funds raised will benefit the Amber Nypro and the Francis College of Engineering have scheduled the Amber Zapatka Memorial Scholarship Fund at UMass Lowell—DP

Prof. Daniel Sandman: dedicated to students until his last day

Daniel J. Sandman, Ph.D., a professor of organic and materials chemistry at the Kennedy College of Sciences and associate director of the Center for Advanced Materials, passed away unexpectedly on March 4. He was 74.

He is survived by his wife, Alma, and their children and grandchildren.

Sandman joined the UMass Lowell faculty in 1992, after a 19-year career as a scientist at Xerox Corp. and GTE Laboratories. He taught in the Department of Chemistry for 23 years and was known as a devoted teacher, working hand-in-hand with undergraduate chemistry majors and Ph.D. students. He also ran the Research & Engineering Apprenticeship Program on campus for 13 years. REAP is the Army’s annual summer outreach program for high-school students that gives hands-on research opportunities in the STEM fields. Sandman mentored dozens of talented young scientists from schools across the Merrimack Valley as part of the program.

"Dan was a brilliant scientist, dedicated teacher and researcher, and was world-renowned for his work on conjugated polymers," says Ramamurthy Nagarajan, associate professor in the Department of Plastics Engineering. "He kept doing his duty in spite of health issues. His dedication until the very last day was amazing."—EA
Researchers in “bunny suits” use the CHA Industries electron-beam evaporator system in the clean room of the Nanofabrication Laboratory to co-deposit both conductive materials and dielectrics. The lab is a university Core Research Facility housed in the $80 million Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center on North Campus.
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Higher education is prohibitive for many students. Some never make it to college, while others finance their education by working one or more jobs—missing important academic and social opportunities. But there are two ways you can help:

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2. **Establish a scholarship.** Scholarship endowments allow you to create a permanent legacy at UMass Lowell. Your gift is invested—never spent—and each year a distribution is made to benefit deserving students. To learn more, call 978-934-3689.

“**For the most part, I am paying tuition by myself. Because of the scholarship I am receiving, I can reduce my 25-hour-a-week workload and better focus on my classes and growing my leadership skills through my role as vice president of the UMass Lowell chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals for America.”**

—Edwin Naranjo, scholarship recipient

www.uml.edu/ourlegacy-ourplace