

UMass Lowell

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

SUMMER 2015

Goodbye,
Chancellor.
**Hello,
President!**



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A Message from
Chancellor Martin T. Meehan '78

In my very first letter for this magazine, I discussed my “lofty goals” for the university.

“The next few years will be a time of building,” I wrote. “We are going to take UMass Lowell to the next level.” At the time, I told anyone who would listen that the university was on verge of greatness.

That was in the fall of 2007, and today—almost exactly eight years after I assumed the post of chancellor that July—I am so proud to say that we have landed squarely on the next level. And it’s a level of greatness.

So many people have helped us get here, but as an alumnus myself, I’ve been particularly excited to witness the enthusiasm with which our graduates from all generations have rallied around the place. Your belief in our students, our faculty, our research—and, overall, our vision—has been the foundation from which we’ve grown.

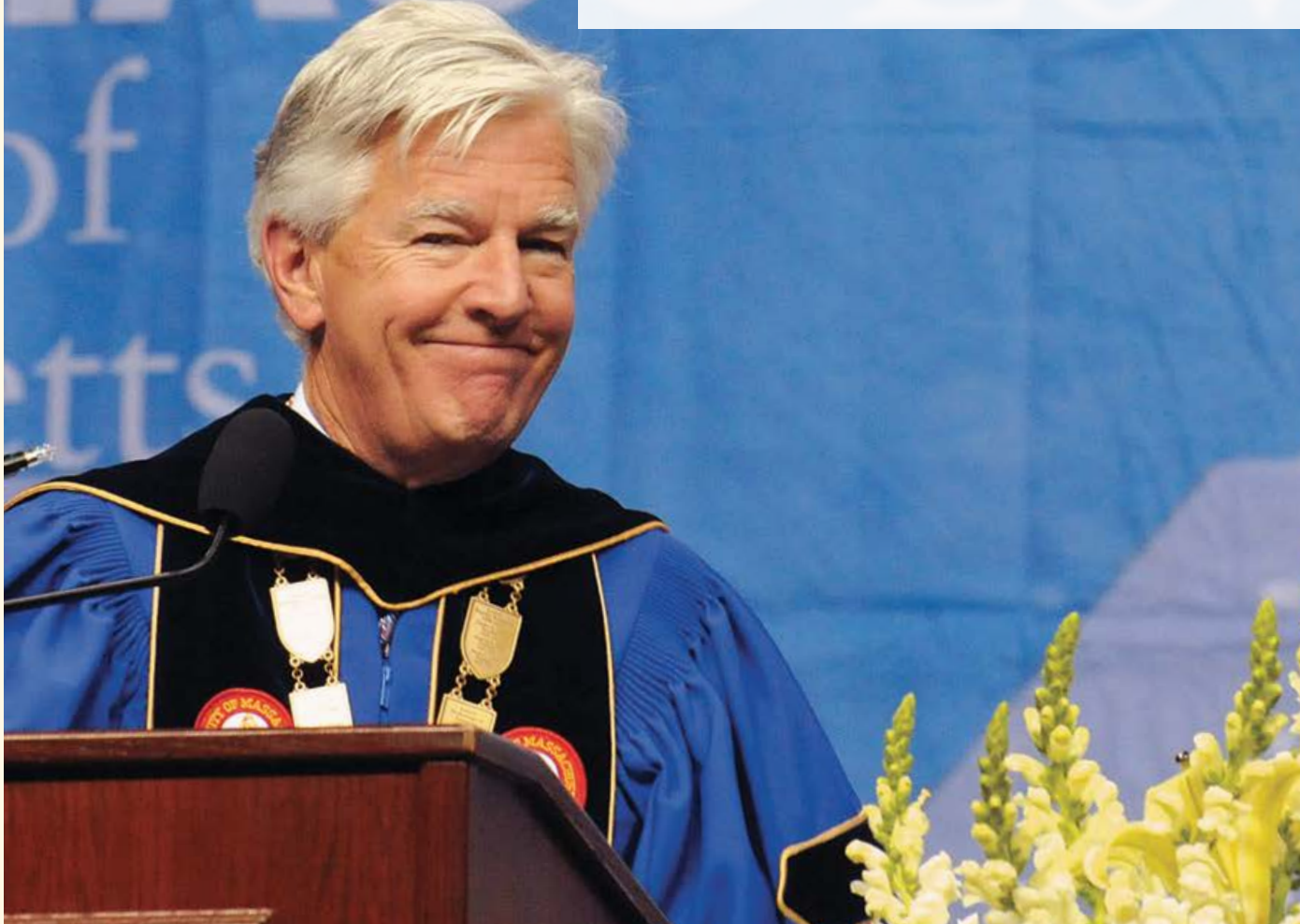
It has been a privilege to serve as chancellor during this era of growth. We’ve achieved so much in every area—from enrollment to facilities, from research to the endowment. But we’re not done.

And that makes it hard to leave this job, truly the most rewarding one I’ve ever had. But I wouldn’t be making the move to the President’s Office if I weren’t absolutely confident in the leadership team at UMass Lowell. Plus, I won’t be far—and I’ll still be very much connected to the campus.

And so in this, my final letter in this magazine, I’ll leave you with the same message I gave 23 issues ago: We are going to take UMass Lowell to the next level. Based on what I’ve seen over the past eight years, the sky’s the limit.

Sincerely,

Martin T. Meehan '78



UMass Lowell

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Cover Story



We celebrated more than 3,700 graduates this spring—and, in a manner of speaking, our chancellor was among them. We’ll miss Marty Meehan on campus, but happily he won’t be far. To be exact, it’s just 32 miles to Meehan’s new office on Franklin Street in Boston. And as of July 1, that’s where he’ll settle in to his new role as the 27th president of the University of Massachusetts. He’ll bring with him a whole lot of momentum and memories. In these pages, we pay tribute to both. Or, as we like to call them, The Marty Years.

GOODBYE, CHANCELLOR. HELLO, PRESIDENT!

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Cover Photo: Tory Germann

EDITOR’S NOTE: Please send comments to Editor Sarah McAdams Corbett at Sarah_Corbett@uml.edu. Submit class notes at www.uml.edu/advancement/classnotes.



The UMass Lowell Magazine for Alumni and Friends has been honored with multiple Hermes Creative Awards, a Silver Bell Ringer, a CASE District I Silver Excellence Award, an APEX Award of Excellence, a Higher Ed Marketing Award and honorable mentions in the PR Daily Awards and the PR Daily Nonprofit PR Awards.

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LOWELL TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE • MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE AT LOWELL • LOWELL STATE COLLEGE • UNIVERSITY OF LOWELL

CROSSING OVER.

Shortly before receiving his bachelor's degree in exercise physiology in May, Ross Mungeam '15 took this photo of the Aiken Street Bridge at sunset. Mungeam, who graduated summa cum laude from the Exercise Physiology program, is starting the doctorate of physical therapy degree program this summer. See more of his photos on Instagram: [@rossmungeam](#).

Campus Life

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Class of 2015

OUR WORLD

'READING RAINBOW' CREATOR TO CLASS OF 2015: 'MAKE YOUR MARK!'

They cheered as one—the Class of 2015, proud, thankful, minds already turned to what comes next. On May 16, the largest class ever—3,716 students from 42 states and 85 countries—to graduate from UMass Lowell filled the Tsongas Center for commencement.

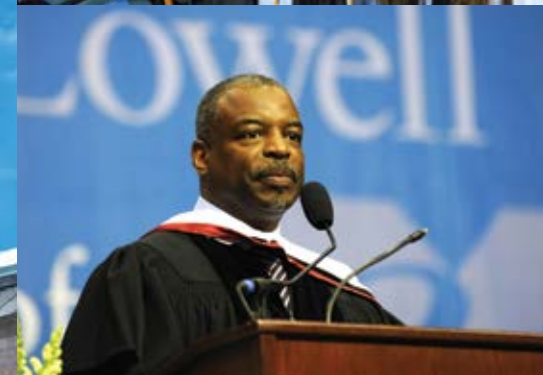
"Every single day I have been motivated by you, the men and women who come to this university looking to work hard and get the tools that you need to achieve," said Chancellor Marty Meehan '78.

Actor, entrepreneur and education advocate LeVar Burton delivered the commencement address and accepted an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the university. Best known as host of the long-running PBS children's series "Reading Rainbow" and for his role as Lt. Commander Geordi La Forge in "Star Trek: The Next Generation," Burton told graduates to "be bold, be fearless in the pursuit of your dreams because your dreams matter.

"I stand before you as living proof that dreams do in fact come true. I could not have imagined the life I lead now when I was at the juncture you now stand."

Also receiving honorary doctorates were Carole Cowan, president emeritus of Middlesex Community College; Barry Perry '68, former chairman and CEO of Engelhard Inc.; John Sampas, literary executor of beat generation icon Jack Kerouac's estate; and Donato Tramuto, founder, CEO and chairman of Reading-based Physicians Interactive.

The university presented its Distinguished Alumni Award to Lorenzo Cabrera '94, founder and chairman of the board of Cabrera Services Inc., a company that specializes in radiological and environmental remediation and radioactive and mixed waste management. ■





CHANCELLOR'S CELEBRATION PUTS THE ARTS ON A PEDESTAL

In a celebration attended by world-famous Broadway producers, a bestselling novelist and a prize-winning actress, television star and writer, students from the university's English, art, theatre and music programs showcased their work in a scene reminiscent of a Hollywood premiere, with spotlights, a red carpet, uniformed waitstaff and 500 proud parents, faculty, staff and community supporters.

The first Chancellor's Celebration of the Arts was an evening dedicated to the power of the creative work done on campus within the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences—the largest at the university.

Student artists' works were peppered throughout Allen House, turning the space into a one-night art gallery, with sculptures, paintings, digital media and other works on display. Under a party tent adjacent to Allen House, three student poets read original work to a hushed audience of supporters.

Addressing the crowd, Chancellor Marty Meehan said, "You don't become a world-class institution without investing in the arts."

Following the reception, which featured a reading by bestselling author Assoc. Prof. Andre Dubus III, guests walked past twinkling lights and across a red carpet to witness firsthand the talents of theatre arts and music students inside Durgin Hall.

Bonnie Comley '81 and her husband, Stewart Lane, are Broadway producers, writers and directors, and longtime supporters of the arts at the university, most notably through the Comley-Lane Theatre. In recognition of their tireless support, Chancellor Meehan conferred the first Champion of the Arts Award on them.—SE



Broadway producers and UMass Lowell supporters Stewart Lane and Bonnie Comley '81 received the university's first Champion of the Arts Award.



University can call Manchester a friend

For three days in the spring semester, Grammy-winning pop singer-songwriter Melissa Manchester was in residence at UMass Lowell, mentoring music department students in songwriting and vocal technique.

On her last day on campus, students performed versions of Manchester's songs, then Manchester treated the crowd of 600 to a 75-minute set, rendering her hits and selections from her new (and 20th) album, "You Gotta Love the Life." It all wrapped up with 100 or so performers onstage, and a larger-than-life, all-ages rendition of Manchester's un-recorded "Plant a Seed." Nearly two dozen students from the String Project performed, along with dozens of choir members from Lowell public schools.

Manchester came to the university at the behest of her lifelong friend, Music Department Prof. Gena Greher, the university's Nancy Donahue Endowed Professor of the Arts. The concert raised \$13,000 for the Joyce Pang String Scholarship Fund, in honor of the alum and former UMass Lowell String Project student and teacher who died last year.—DP

ARNO GETS A GUGGENHEIM!

Arno Minkinen is no stranger to accolades.

His photographs are collected in world famous museums including New York's MoMA, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston and the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris. Seven solo monographs of his work have been published, and he's earned numerous awards, including the 2013 Lucie Award (photography's Oscar) for Achievement in Fine Art. His screenplay, "The Rain House," produced as a fundraising demo trailer, was screened at Lincoln Center, and his work has been featured in over 100 solo exhibitions and 200 group shows.

And then, in April, he won a Guggenheim.

"The Guggenheim is like Mecca for an artist—it's as good as it gets," says Minkinen, who recently became professor emeritus after teaching art at the university for 28 years.

"This was my last hurrah," said Minkinen, who applied twice before, and is, at 69 years old, "so honored the foundation believes in the work I've yet to do."

While he could easily have made his application a highlight reel of 40 years of work, he made a conscious effort to use recent work—showing his continued prolific creation.

"The Guggenheim isn't a 'lifetime achievement' award at all," says Minkinen. "Quite the opposite—the award is specifically designed to support new works, and as a guy who's closing in on 70, well, it's a very special honor."

Each year, The Guggenheim Foundation receives between 3,500 and 4,000 applications, awarding about 200 fellowships.—SE



Plastics Engineering turns the BIG SIX-OH

Plastics research at UMass Lowell has led to advances in biomedical devices, parts used in space exploration, 3-D printing and advanced materials that better protect soldiers.

In March, over 350 students, alumni and corporate partners gathered in Florida to celebrate the department's 60th anniversary, a milestone it hit the previous year.

The department started as eight students and a keen insight into the world to come.

Plastics engineering did not exist as a field when Prof. Russell Ehlers started the plastics program at Lowell Technological Institute with eight students in 1954. Before World War II, products made of plastics were not mass produced. During the war, plastics came into great demand for military purposes as substitutes for materials in short supply.

What to do with all the new knowledge and technology about plastics production once the war ended? Enter Tupperware, Formica counters, Naugahyde chairs, acrylic taillights, Saran wrap, vinyl siding, squeeze bottles, Barbie dolls, Wiffle balls, sneakers and countless more plastic products.

The emerging industry would need engineers to improve production equipment and processes, develop new materials and design new products. Ehlers hired a strong team of creative faculty to develop a curriculum and laboratory facilities to give students both theoretical and practical experience.

Today, the Plastics Engineering Department at UMass Lowell is an internationally recognized leader in plastics engineering education and research. More than 3,000 graduates are working in the plastics industry in leadership positions worldwide.

At the celebration in March, a new Plastics Sustainability Research Lab at UMass Lowell was dedicated, established by the Plastics Society of Engineers.

"The lab will address issues with electronics, carpet recycling and other items that are not being recycled today for economic or technical reasons," says Robert Malloy '79, '83, '88, chairman of the department.

The event also marked an opportunity to thank the alumni, friends and corporations who have endowed more than 60 scholarships.

Recently retired faculty member Prof. Steve Orroth '66, '74 was honored at the event with the Professor Russell W. Ehlers Lifetime Achievement Award. Orroth joined the department in 1962 as a student and became a dedicated and beloved faculty member until his retirement last year. Over the decades, he played a key role in the education of over 2,000 students.

"When I asked people to sum him up in a few words, everybody kept coming back with same responses: kind, caring, selfless," says Malloy. "If there was a line of students outside his office, even if he had a meeting to get to, he would make sure he spoke with everyone. If it wasn't for Steve they might never have finished school." — CD

UMASS LOWELL HONORS OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

UMass Lowell recently honored seven outstanding graduates who have gone on to career and personal success while demonstrating leadership in their communities and commitment to the campus. The honorees:

- **Bryce Anderson '04** of Newburyport is the principal of Coffey Design + Build Co., which is involved in all aspects of commercial construction projects in the Boston area. He has been a generous supporter of UMass Lowell, including serving as a judge for the DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge and attending men's soccer alumni events.
- **Kathryn Carter '78** of Nashua, N.H., is UMass Lowell's vice provost for graduate and international affairs and strategy, following 16 years as dean of the Manning School of Business. A generous supporter of the school, Carter is committed to its culture of providing business education and research that are relevant in the global economy as well as building strong industry partnerships.
- **Wendy LaBate '96** of Nashua, N.H., is senior vice president of operations for the Northeast area for Genesis HealthCare. She serves on the advisory board of the College of Health Sciences and has donated her time to programs such as the university's DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge.
- **Lawrence Lin '90** of Cupertino, Calif., and Taiwan is president of Grand Dynasty Industrial Co. Ltd., an injection molding company in New Taipei, Taiwan. He established the Dr. Lawrence C.H. Lin Taiwan Students Endowed Scholarship Fund in the Department of Plastics Engineering.
- **Glenn Morgan '86** of Belmont is the co-owner of SkyWorld Interactive, which provides web development solutions and services. Morgan founded the Creative Venture Competition in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and also established the Richard J. Morgan Memorial Scholarship Fund, which assists students who demonstrate community leadership.
- **M. Margaret "Peg" Palmer '73, '77** of South Dartmouth is president of Surface Solutions Laboratories Inc. and CEO of Coatings2Go LLC, which provides coating products for medical devices used worldwide. Palmer, a generous supporter of the College of Sciences and the Department of Chemistry, has worked with the university's Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center, which provides expertise in business, engineering and medicine to startup companies.
- **Molly Sheehy '60, '82, '00** of Lowell was the dean of Middlesex Community College's Lowell campus before her retirement in 2012. She has generously supported UMass Lowell's Graduate School of Education, including serving on its advisory board.



WHITE HOUSE DEEMS PROF. LUSTICK A 'CHAMPION OF CHANGE'

Assoc. Prof. David Lustick was honored at a "Champions of Change for Climate Education and Literacy" event at the White House recently. The event celebrated Americans who are doing extraordinary work to enhance climate education and literacy in classrooms and communities across the country.

Lustick teaches in the Graduate School of Education, where he conducts research on adult learning and climate-change communication. As principal investigator on two informal-science learning projects, he leads a team of interdisciplinary professionals who are dedicated to engaging communities with climate science.

Cool Science displays K-12 student artwork about climate change in and on the city buses in Lowell. ScienceToGo.org is a multifaceted learning campaign on the Boston subway featuring "Ozzie the Ostrich," who engaged Bostonians with the reality, relevance and hope associated with climate change. Both projects use signs and social networks to engage commuters with science-learning opportunities during their daily routines.



GOOD SERVICE

Thanks to nearly 189,000 hours of service recorded by our students this year, UMass Lowell was named to President Obama's Higher Education Community Service Honor move for the fifth year in a row. We're also a recipient of the prestigious Carnegie Foundation classification as a "community-engaged campus." The University of Massachusetts was one of only two public systems in the U.S. with all campuses making the Carnegie list.

SCHOOL OF NURSING NAMED NATIONAL GERONTOLOGICAL CENTER

The School of Nursing has been selected as a National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence, a designation that recognizes the school's strong commitment to gerontological nursing.

"Only 35 schools of nursing were designated from over 725 representing baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs in the nation," says School of Nursing Interim Dean Karen Devereaux Melillo. "We are very excited and honored to be recognized."

As the population ages, it has become critical to build a strong nursing workforce that is knowledgeable about the unique health-care needs of older adults. This designation connects the School of Nursing faculty to leaders in other top schools and provides access to leading innovations in education and research.

UMass Lowell's strength in gerontology began in 1975, when former Chair and Professor Emeritus May Futrell established the first master's gerontological nurse practitioner program. Since then, faculty have researched and published hundreds of papers on elder issues including wandering, health promotion, physical activity and exercise, cognitive health, depression, delirium, raising grandchildren and more.—KA



UNIVERSITY OBSERVES 20TH ANNUAL DAY WITHOUT VIOLENCE

UMass Lowell’s continuing commitment to promoting peace was on display at the 20th annual Day Without Violence observance.

Featured speaker Shibley Telhami, professor for peace and development at the University of Maryland and a senior fellow at the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution, shared his research about how shifting public opinion on the Middle East is reshaping foreign policy.

Telhami, who advised Congress during the Iraq War, told a packed auditorium in O’Leary Library Learning Commons that survey data has revealed changes in how Arabs view the United States and how Americans perceive Arabs over the past decade and a half. In the U.S., Telhami said, public opinion around the Israel-Palestine conflict has shifted dramatically over the past 18 months as diplomacy has failed to bring peace to the region.

“There’s a creeping pessimism,” he said.

Longtime bipartisan support in the U.S. for Israel has shifted and a growing divide between Democrats and Republicans over Middle East policy will make peace efforts even more challenging, he said.

The Day Without Violence is observed on college and university campuses nationwide in honor of King’s work in advancing social justice. Previous Day Without Violence speakers have included South African anti-apartheid leader and 2014 UMass Lowell Greeley Peace Studies Scholar Albie Sachs, Nobel Peace Prize-winning African activist Leymah Gbowee, former Boston Police Commissioner Edward Davis III and human-rights activist John Prendergast.

The dialogue on non-violence and its implications continued at a second public event, a discussion hosted by the university’s Peace and Conflict Studies Institute.

Guest speaker Michael Patrick MacDonald, an anti-violence activist and author, suggested resolving conflict peacefully requires a strong dose of empathy.

“If we want to promote peace, we have to understand someone’s desire to pick up a gun. It’s only in understanding that mindset, created by violence, that we can move the world forward,” MacDonald said.—JG

RAYMAN PUTS PEACE RESEARCH TO WORK

The future of peace depends on women and education, says Prof. Paula Rayman, director of the Middle East Center for Peace, Development and Culture. Rayman spent her recent senior Fulbright Scholarship sabbatical in Northern Ireland and Israel, working with women leaders on strategies for building peace and expanding women’s access to education and equal rights.

Equality, economics and education are primary topics in peace studies, says Rayman. And research bears that out: As women’s literacy and rights grow in a country, so does its gross domestic product, which improves economic security for all citizens, according to United Nations research. Rayman says that without economic security there can be no peace. Therefore, education of women must be an early step in peace-building, she maintains.

“We have a responsibility to answer the question of ‘How do we envision peace?’” says Rayman, founding director of the Peace and Conflict Studies program. “Since there is such conflict in the world, we have to count on education to help people find a way to combat it. I believe there is still a nonviolent alternative and that women have to play a key role. It’s not going to happen without them.”

In addition to teaching as a visiting professor at the university’s international partnership institution, Queens University in Northern Ireland and Haifa University in Israel, Rayman worked with women leaders in both countries to design National Action Plans to implement U.N. resolution 1325. Passed in 2000, the resolution classifies rape as a war crime, requires that all peace accords brokered by the organization must have at least 50 percent women delegates and specifies that the accords target decreased violence against women, including direct forms such as domestic violence and indirect forms, including situations where women are barred from education or voting.

“This is a real watershed around women’s rights as part of human rights. This resolution says that it’s not OK anymore to make women invisible in the world,” Rayman says. “Women all over the world are engaging in this project.”

In Northern Ireland, Rayman met with women who led grassroots marches in the 1990s, spurring government movement toward peace, and others active in non-violent leaders in the country. The women are Catholic, Protestant and secular from across the country, but they decided to create a single NAP instead of divided plans.

While Israel and Palestine are at a different stage in their peace efforts than Ireland, Rayman met with a diverse group of women leaders to discuss their plans for NAPs. The women representing both sides of the conflict and others in the region decided to write a single action plan, which Rayman will return to help them write using Ireland’s document as a template. While in the region, Rayman also led non-violent conflict resolution trainings for women leaders of all backgrounds and shared her experiences working with others like them across the world.

“Women in that region have been so devastated by continuing cycles of violence that they just look inward and don’t realize that’s there’s a large global arena where women all over the world have acted very courageously in the name of peace,” says Rayman. “I want to help connect them to that larger reality.”

Rayman’s students at UMass Lowell are gaining an international perspective on gender and peace studies by participating in this research, a vital step in building a better future, she says.

“These projects give me hope that you can go beyond the research that stays on a shelf,” says Rayman. “So many of our students have a commitment to making a difference on the local, national and international levels. They want to have a voice as leaders and change agents.”—JKG



The university’s popular Community Garden Program is one of the many environmental efforts supported by the new Office of Sustainability.

NEW OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY TAKES ROOT

UMass Lowell’s commitment to sustainability is nothing new. What is new is the university’s Office of Sustainability, which was launched this spring to provide a centralized, campuswide resource for those longstanding efforts.

As one of its first initiatives, the office submitted an application to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, receiving a “Silver” rating and joining the likes of Princeton University, Boston University and Carnegie Mellon University.

Managed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, STARS measures the sustainability performance of more than 700 colleges and universities in 21 countries around the world.

The university was measured across four categories: academics, engagement, operations, and planning and administration.—EB

NOT SO TRASHY

As new buildings sprout up across campus and enrollment climbs, it seems inevitable that the university would produce more trash.

But thanks to energized efforts in recycling, composting and food donations, the opposite has proved true: Since 2008, solid waste has plummeted by 46 percent while single-stream, or unsorted, recycling has soared by more than 200 percent.

Those figures were two key reasons why UMass Lowell received MassRecycle’s 2015 University Recycling Award. The university topped Holy Cross and Lesley University to win the “Institution/University” category.—EB

PEDAL POWER

The university’s commitment to pedal power isn’t just changing the way people get around campus, it’s being recognized as a model for other institutions across the state.

Thanks to Campus Recreation’s increasingly popular Freewheelers Bike Share program, UMass Lowell was named a Spotlight winner at the fifth annual Excellence in Commuter Options Awards, held March 26 at Fenway Park.

Hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the ECO Awards honor employers across the commonwealth for their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through decreased “drive-alone” trips while encouraging employees to travel to work by transit and carpools or by bicycling and walking.

MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack lauded the university’s efforts after presenting the “Leadership in Commuter Options: Bicycle” award to Transportation Services Manager Ruairi O’Mahony and Campus Recreation Director Peter Murray.

“I think what the university is doing with bicycles and bike sharing is a real model for other colleges,” Pollack said. “College students are naturals for bike use, and the program makes it so easy for them to take advantage of that.”

The Freewheelers program, which began in 2007, features a fleet of 30 bicycles that students, faculty and staff can check out, free of charge, at five locations across campus. According to Murray, an average of 500 bicycles are checked out each month, or about 1,500 each semester.

The university was one of nine Spotlight winners, joining the likes of Harvard University, Staples, Mass Mutual, Converse and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

For the fourth consecutive year, the university was also named a Pinnacle Award winner in recognition of overall excellence in commuter options. Fellow recipients include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard, UMass Amherst and Tufts University.—EB

GREEN LIGHT FOR \$27M ENERGY- SAVINGS PLAN

An energy-savings plan to upgrade 32 buildings on campus is expected to reduce UMass Lowell’s energy and water bills by nearly \$1.5 million annually. The \$27 million, three-year project, which was announced by Chancellor Marty Meehan and state officials during the campus’s Earth Day Sustainability Festival on April 22, is part of the state’s Accelerated Energy Program.





Every UMass Lowell student has a back story. Nicholas Finocchiaro's is that 10 years ago, he hit a home run in the Little League World Series.

"It's something that changed my life," says Finocchiaro '16. "I hit the home run on my first at-bat, and on my mom's birthday, against Louisiana. The first pitch, I think I had swung and fouled it off straight back, and I was going up there hacking. Next pitch, I hit foul, and I think I hit it farther than the ball I hit out. Then they threw me a curveball and I just put it out in left field. I couldn't believe it."

The 2005 Westbrook, Maine, Little League team was honored during Little League Opening Day ceremonies in their hometown this spring.

While the team didn't bring home the trophy a decade ago, Finocchiaro (then a Westbrook pitcher, shown above) says the memories are almost as good: "I flipped the bat a little bit and I was running the bases like it wasn't even going out."

These days, he's more concerned with code than curveballs. The computer science major is working on the Trident missile project as part of a software engineering co-op at Draper Laboratory.

THEY SHOOT, THEY SCORE

FROM WHEELCHAIRS PARTICIPANTS LEARN, RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY

Physical therapy and exercise physiology students recently competed in a basketball game against the New England Blazers, a local professional wheelchair basketball team.

It's a fun event, but it also helps students understand the competitive abilities and struggles of people using wheelchairs.

The Blazers, an affiliate of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, donate their time and provide specialized wheelchairs for the game so that the students can experience the challenges of playing basketball in wheelchairs. And every year, the result is the same: PT students lose to the pro team.

"The athletes we play against come in smiling and ready to have a good time and end up really embarrassing us," says Jessica Hopkins, a second year physical therapy student.

"Future patients include those who want to return to activities like marathon running, tennis, boating, skiing and basketball," says Physical Therapy Lecturer JoAnn Moriarty-Baron. "This game allows our students to experience the physical and physiological demands that wheelchair mobility places on the body, giving them insight into treatment options."—KA



Physical therapy students, from left, Cristian Jimenez, Michelle Couture, Molly Zuccaro and Shawn Grace, compete against the New England Blazers.



PHYSICAL THERAPISTS STROLL TO VICTORY

Touting their hydraulic walker's simple design and wide-ranging benefits, Peter Klausmeyer and Ryan Andrews walked away with \$5,000 and the top prize at the third annual DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge.

"I'm just ultimately humbled by this whole situation," says Klausmeyer. He and Andrews both graduated in May with doctorates in physical therapy.

Ten teams competed in the finals, whittled down in previous competitions from 60 that represented all six colleges and over 30 departments. In all, \$35,000—donated by alumni—was at stake. In each of four categories, first and second place teams won \$4,000 and \$2,500, respectively.

The winning walker has hydraulics that allow users to navigate stairs, something that walkers currently on the market do not do. Designed for the elderly, for those recovering from hip and knee replacements and other surgeries, the walker would afford people greater mobility and improve safety, Klausmeyer told the judges.

The team's goal was to create a walker that is "simple and affordable." During the design process, Klausmeyer's engineer-turned-sculptor father advised him to try to create a product that could be "put together with a screw driver and wrench." —DP



MUSIC MAJOR SABRINA PONTE: THE NEXT MISS MASSACHUSETTS?

Music business major Sabrina Ponte represented Boston in the Miss Massachusetts 2015 Pageant June 28. Ponte, 19, captured the title of Miss Boston at the Miss Boston/ Miss Cambridge Pageant in February. "I won!" the North Reading resident exclaimed in a text shortly after landing the crown. With the win comes a \$1,500 scholarship, a scholarship and prize package worth more than \$10,000 and an opportunity to promote a cause important to her. Her cause is Project Paws: Helping Hands for Needy Paws.

Ponte was busy during spring semester: in addition to taking nine classes, she worked on an opera production at the university and sang the National Anthem before the Feb. 6 UMass Lowell/Boston University hockey game.—DP

GETTING THE JOB DONE.

OUR STUDENTS GET GREAT JOBS

AS MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2015 took a collective giant step on their career or graduate school paths, they can do so with an added measure of confidence. According to a recently released internal report from UMass Lowell Career Services & Cooperative Education Center, 94 percent of undergraduates from the Class of 2014 were either employed or continuing their education by the end of 2014. Two-thirds were employed by Dec. 31, 2014, while 28 percent were pursuing a graduate degree.

1. Joseph Sullivan '16 puts his improv skills to the test as he makes a presentation at Liberty Mutual during his music video performance.

2. Engineering students, from left, Kevin Newland, David Cacciola and Amy Tibbets interning at Tesla Motors in California.

3. An internship at the Mayo Clinic helped Shelby Creamer '15 land a full-time job there as a cardiac nurse.

4. Manning School of Business senior Juliane Dykiel feeds Rocio, the wild horse she is training for the Extreme Mustang Makeover competition.

5. Rachel Paquette '14 says her summer internship at S.A.R.D.I. Research helped her land a full-time gig at Dana Farber.

BUSINESS STUDENT CORRALS PASSION FOR HORSES

“I’ve been kicked in the face. It’s not fun,” says Juliane Dykiel, who just graduated from Manning School of Business, referring to the dangers of horse training, which is both her life’s passion and future career. She says it nonchalantly while feeding hay to Rocio, a 600-pound vanilla-and-chocolate-colored mustang that arrived earlier that day at Windflower Farm in Acton.

This summer, Dykiel is domesticating Rocio, training her to walk, trot and canter under saddle. It’s all part of a unique competition called Extreme Mustang Makeover, held annually by the Mustang Heritage Foundation to promote the adoption of wild horses living in the Bureau of Land Management’s corrals.

Dykiel has already started her own freelance business traveling around the area to train horses.

HOW NOT TO LAND A JOB

The job interview was going nowhere from the moment Joseph Sullivan stepped from the elevator at Liberty Mutual’s Boston headquarters.

He wasn’t wearing a tie, let alone a dress shirt. His résumé was stuffed in his back pocket. He rolled his eyes at questions and casually checked his iPhone. He even put his feet up on the conference room table.

Fortunately for Sullivan, a junior in the Manning School of Business, the nightmare interview wasn’t real. It was all part of his acting performance in a light-hearted rap music video called “Rockstar Interview” produced by the insurance company to provide practical job interview tips to college students.

The gig was not only a unique way for Sullivan to get his foot in the door at a major corporation, but it also dovetailed nicely with the Medford native’s extracurricular interests in music and acting.

Sullivan had recently completed an internship at Signiant, a software company in Burlington. He says that experience served him well when it came time to improvise his way through a presentation in the video.

STUDENTS LEARN SCIENCE OF JOB SEARCH

Empirical evidence is essential in science. And as 75 students discovered at the recent Life Science Career Night and Networking Session at Olsen Hall, empirical evidence is also essential in finding a rewarding job.

“You’re going to find more value in ruling things out,” said panelist and alum Dr. Chris Ianelli ’89, founder and CEO of iSpecimen Inc., a supplier of clinical materials to research industries. “You’re going to have to test and keep readjusting. You’ll realize very quickly if you don’t like doing something. Move on from that and find something you do like.”

Co-sponsored by the Department of Biological Sciences and the Career Services and Cooperative Education Center, the event provided students with an opportunity to hear from a dozen industry leaders—many of them alumni—from fields including pharmaceuticals, health care, biomedical sciences and biotechnology.

One year after attending the event as a College of Sciences senior about to hit the job market, Rachel Paquette ’14 was back, this time as a panelist speaking about her research associate work at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Paquette said that while some may believe this generation of college graduates just “assumes that we’re going to get a job and assumes that we’re going to be good at it,” that doesn’t hold true from her experience. “UMass Lowell tends to not really be like that,” she said. “You learn to really work for what you want, and when you get there to work even harder to continue.”

Other panelists included Heather Merhi ’13, energy analyst at Woodard & Curran; Bob Corcoran ’94, vice president of quality at Merrimack Pharmaceuticals; Maria Giovino-Doherty ’89, quality systems manager at Provia Laboratories; Mike Morin ’76, chief security officer at Onkaido; Andrew Sanginario ’14, researcher at Pfizer Corp.; Lisa Thurston ’96, ’97, director of business development, sales and marketing at Base Pair Biotechnologies; and Martin Sanders, head of safety pharmacology at Vertex Pharmaceuticals. ■



SEEING DOUBLE? DOUBLE?

It may be possible to engineer twins—but it’s definitely possible for twins to engineer. Just ask the three sets of ‘em in our School of Engineering.

New graduates **Bhavan and Bhuvan Machaiah Somayanda '15** came to UMass Lowell from India for graduate degrees—drawn by the worldwide reputation of the Plastics Engineering Department. “Our department is the best in the United States,” says Bhuvan (below, left; we think!). Adds his brother: “The fame of UML Plastics Engineering Department is well known back in India. ... The dedicated faculty and the excellent research facilities have molded me into a real plastics engineer.”

Rising senior plastics engineering undergrads and lacrosse players **Elizabeth and Laura Kender** both hope to pursue a career making sports equipment that enhances and protects an athlete’s game. They’re already working on prototypes, thanks to the university’s DifferenceMaker entrepreneurship program. “I never thought I would love a college as much as I do,” says Elizabeth. Her sister agrees: “From academics, to athletics, to DifferenceMaker, to the campus life, I could not be happier.”

Marisel and Marisely DeJesusVega are doctoral students—in chemical and plastics engineering, respectively. They say the combination of research, teaching and real-life experience offered at UMass Lowell has been invaluable. “As a student you are not only studying in the classroom, you get a lot of hands-on experience in the laboratories and you also get to go outside and show people what you do,” says Marisely. “I also get the opportunity to go to conferences to present my work and learn about other people’s work.”



PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



He led the River Hawks with five goals and 12 points, while leading the conference with 61 shots in the regular season.

Murphy's name appears seven times at the top of the track-and-field record book, four times individually and three times as a member of a relay team. She was also among the top four on the America East Indoor Performance list in the 60 meters, 200m and 400m, breaking her own school record in the 400. In the spring, the senior won the 100m and 200m at the Brown Invitational and set her seventh school record as part of the sprint medley at the Penn Relays.

At the Athletics Department's Senior Salute in May, Wuilito Fernandes and Taelour Murphy took home the Lester H. Cushing Outstanding Athlete Awards.

Fernandes earned NSCAA All-East Region First-Team, America East All-Conference First Team and ECAC Division I Second Team honors. The sophomore back was also named the America East Men's Soccer Fans' Choice Player of the Year.



THANKSGIVING IN BELFAST
Hockey Team to Play in 'Friendship Four'

The River Hawks are headed to Northern Ireland.

In April, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh joined Councillor Arder Carson, Lord Mayor of Belfast, Northern Ireland and representatives from the hockey community to announce "The Friendship Four," an international men's college hockey tournament to be held in Belfast on Thanksgiving weekend.

UMass Lowell will be competing at the Belfast Giants' Odyssey Arena against Northeastern University, Brown University and Colgate University for the Belpot Trophy.

Last September, Mayor Walsh traveled to Ireland and signed his first sister city agreement with the City of Belfast. "During my time in Ireland, I saw firsthand how sports, and hockey in particular, play an incredible role in bridging communities," says Walsh. "I am thrilled to announce the first tournament for the Belpot Trophy this fall."

"Giving our student athletes and our fans this opportunity is an excellent way to keep providing everyone with life experiences through hockey," says UMass Lowell Head Coach Norm Bazin.

The City of Boston is working with Secretary of State John Kerry's Office of Global Partnerships and the Belfast Giants to incorporate educational components to the tournament weekend, including having student-athletes visit classrooms in Belfast.

UMass Lowell has strong ties to the city of Belfast through its Center for Irish Partnerships. Since 2009, the university has collaborated with Queen's University Belfast through faculty exchanges, facilitation of business and government partnerships and unique projects such as the Irish-American Heritage Archaeological Program. UMass Lowell also has a medical device development research partnership with Northern Ireland's University of Ulster and has collaborated with St. Mary's College in West Belfast on programs involving educational research.

Interested in cheering on the River Hawks in Belfast? Contact Alumni Relations Director Heather Makrez at Heather_Makrez@uml.edu.



HELLEBUYCK ROCKS
WORLD STAGE

Former UMass Lowell goalie and current AHL ice caps' tender Connor Hellebuyck helped the U.S. Men's National Team bring home the bronze medal at the 2015 IIHF World Championships in the Czech Republic in May.

Hellebuyck, who rewrote the UMass Lowell goaltending record book, led all netminders at the World Championships with 1.37 goals against average and a .948 save percentage. His second shutout in the tournament, a 3-0 win against the Czech Republic, earned the U.S. team the bronze medal. Hellebuyck is the first alumnus in program history to receive an IIHF medal from top-level competition. He is the seventh alumnus to wear a Team USA sweater and second player to represent Team USA on multiple occasions (the other is Ron Hainsey.)

"Connor's our best player night in, night out," said teammate Trevor Lewis, who scored one of the Americans' goals in the Czech game. "He was there to stop pucks for us, and clear rebounds. We knew if we had a breakdown he was going to be there. He was a calming presence for us. I can't say enough about him."

In all, Hellebuyck turned in a 7-1 record. The seven wins tied a U.S. record for most in a single tournament set in 1939. The tournament performance is the final exclamation point on a terrific first season as a professional. The former River Hawk set Ice Caps team records for games (58), wins (28), shutouts (6) and save percentage (.921.)—all of which earned him a spot on the AHL All-Star team.

HEY, YOU:
THANKS FOR SHOWING UP.

More than 100,000 fans attended River Hawks ice hockey and men's and women's basketball games in the 2014-15 season—a new record.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

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BY ED BRENNEN



A Legendary FRIENDSHIP



COACHES **JIM STONE**, **BILLY RILEY** AND **GEORGE DAVIS**
LAID THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM'S FOUNDATION, FORMING
A LIFELONG BOND IN THE PROCESS.

H

ow's the weather up there?" Jim Stone asks in all sincerity by phone from his home in North Fort Myers, Fla. As a native New Englander who coached baseball at the university for nearly 40 years, Stone knows perfectly well what the weather can be like in Massachusetts in mid-March; it's why he and his wife Pat had the good sense to move to Florida 11 years ago. Nonetheless, he is genuinely sympathetic to hear it's still snowing. "You don't want to know what it's like here," he says, trying his best not to rub it in. "Close to 80. Slight breeze. Not a bad life."

Not a bad life indeed for one of the university's all-time coaching legends, a man who, since flying south for retirement in 2003, has kept tabs from afar on the growth and success of the athletic program he helped build. "We had three sports when I started: baseball, basketball and tennis," Stone recalls, "and it has grown tremendously. It's been a nice thing to be involved with. It makes me proud, absolutely."

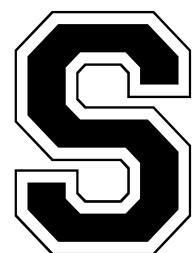
While Stone keeps in touch with many of his former players, he also remains good friends with two of his fellow coaching legends: Billy Riley (hockey) and George Davis (track and field, cross country). Combined, the three men coached at the university for a mind-boggling 92 years. "We came in just about the same time," says Stone, who along with Riley and Davis went from being Lowell Tech Terriers in the 1960s to University of Lowell Chieftains in 1975 to UMass Lowell River Hawks in 1991. "We've been through all the name changes, not that I'm writing a résumé." *Continued*



The athletic program that brought Stone, Riley and Davis together nearly a half century ago looks completely different today, of course, with 18 men's and women's teams now competing at the Division I level. But the trio's early efforts, followed by decades of dedicated mentoring, recruiting, fundraising and van driving, will always be remembered. That hit home for Stone recently when he met Chancellor Marty Meehan at an alumni function before a Red Sox spring training game in Fort Myers.

“We owe you guys for helping to build the athletic program to what it is now.”

“I shook hands with Marty and told him he's doing a great job,” Stone says. “And he said, ‘We owe you guys for helping to build the athletic program to what it is now.’ That was kind of nice to hear, you know?”



Stone was the first one in the door, becoming head coach of the Lowell Tech baseball and men's basketball teams in 1967. “I guess I'm the veteran,” says Stone, who grew up in Easthampton, Mass., and graduated from Springfield College in 1960.

Stone stepped down as basketball coach in 1975 but remained in the dugout until 2003, amassing 801 baseball wins over his 37-year career. In that time, 21 of Stone's teams earned postseason berths, including back-to-back trips to the Division II College World Series in 2001 and 2002. He was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2010.

“It was fun,” says Stone, who watched two of his former players, Mike LaValliere and Matt Tupman, make it to the major leagues. “We enjoyed going to work every day because of the group of people we were involved with.”

Riley came aboard two years after Stone, in 1969, as head athletic trainer. He also coached the fledgling varsity hockey team (which practiced on an outdoor rink at the time) and the men's soccer team.

“It was a close coaching fraternity because we all worked together in the physical education department,” says Riley, a native of Medford, Mass., who played hockey at Boston University and earned a degree in phys ed in 1968. “In those days physical education was a required course for freshmen. You couldn't graduate without learning how to swim.”

By 1972 Riley was coaching hockey full time and serving as associate director of athletics. His 22-year career included NCAA Division II Championships in 1979, 1981 and 1982. When Riley hung up his whistle in 1991 he had 363 career wins, 27 NHL draft picks, nine All-Americans and two Hobey Baker Award winners to his credit.

Davis joined their coaching fraternity in 1970 when he was hired to start Lowell Tech's varsity track and field program and coach its existing cross country team. A 1963 graduate of Plymouth State College, Davis had been teaching phys ed and coaching high school track in nearby Salem, N.H. He also played on a local softball team with Stone, who recommended him for the Lowell Tech job.

“He was a great influence on me getting the job,” Davis says of Stone. “He knew me and what my high school people had done. I really enjoyed teaching physical education—in my mind I was as good a teacher as I was a coach —so that helped me a lot because Coach Stone was inside helping to explain me to the people who were hiring. So we were instant buddies.”

It's safe to say that Davis was an excellent hire. During his 33-year career he coached 78 All-Americans and 34 New England champions. In 1998 he coached Jane Servi to a Division II national championship in the indoor high jump and in 1991 his men's cross country team won the NCAA Division II Championship. That crown earned Davis Division II national coach of the year honors.

All this success occurred without a home track or cross country course, which meant every meet was on the road. “There was a dirt track when I got there but they tore it up after my third or fourth year, so we were the road warriors,” Davis says. “We never thought of ourselves as challenged in any way, other than getting better and beating people. We loved to beat the big schools with all their facilities. We carried that chip and it worked out very nice for us.”



Riley is described as the “mover and shaker” of the group, the one who saw on-ramps where others saw roadblocks. After bouncing around local rinks for several years, Riley knew the hockey team needed a permanent home. So he worked with a pair of state senators and coaxed the commonwealth to purchase the Billerica Forum, where ULowell began playing in 1980.

“With that I was able to have a license to sell beer and wine under the stands, similar to Tsongas Center today,” says Riley, who created the Blue Line Lounge, complete with one of the area's first cable TV feeds “just as an added incentive.” Riley arranged for Stone and the baseball team to run the lounge on the home side of the rink while Davis and the track team got the visitors' side. The lacrosse team got the snack bar.

“The baseball team owes a debt of gratitude to the hockey program,” says Stone, whose teams used the Blue Line Lounge money to help pay for their road trips to Florida each spring. “That's all thanks to Billy.”

“That helped us get our feet on the ground and get going,” agrees Davis, whose teams also used the funds to pay for road trips. “There weren't many places you could do fundraising, and so the hockey situation was really a saving grace. I don't know what we would have had to come up with without that.”

Riley, whose uncle Jack coached the U.S. Olympic team to the gold medal in 1960, also ran a hockey camp each summer in Tyngsboro. He remembers the summer he convinced Stone to start a baseball camp.

“Stoney was working for Nabisco in the summertime, but he had a bad back and didn't know if he could work, not that it's heavy lifting when you're lifting crackers,” Riley says with a chuckle. “I said, ‘Listen you damn fool, you should run a baseball camp and you won't have to worry about a summer job.’ I showed him how to do it, getting the addresses from the Little League coaches, sending out flyers, and it took off.”

Davis, who shared an office with Riley for more than a dozen years, says he constantly picked his friend's brain about his hockey playing days at BU to learn how he could take the track and cross country programs to the next

level. “He was a Division I guy and I was a Division III guy in college, and so he brought things forth like the thought pattern that Division I coaches and athletes go through. It just sharpened your imagination and put a little fire under you. And that opened up the horizons for me.”

“It was a lot of blood, sweat and tears, and I'm so happy the school is doing as well as it's doing.”

Unlike Stone, who gets to enjoy those 80-degree winters down in Florida, Davis and Riley still call New England home and frequently see each other at hockey games and other university events. Davis and his wife, Jean, split their time between Manchester, N.H., and Ossipee, N.H. Riley, meanwhile, lives in Chelmsford and works part-time as a consultant for the hockey team. “It definitely keeps you young,” says Riley, who recruited and coached his current boss, River Hawks coach Norm Bazin.

Stone comes up to visit family every August “when it's unbearable here” in Florida, and he's always just a phone call away. “I usually talk to Coach Stone two to three times a year,” Riley says. “He always calls to congratulate Lowell for something. I've got him on my speed dial here.”

When the three coaching legends, who are all members of the UMass Lowell Athletic Hall of Fame, do catch up, the conversation invariably turns to the success of the athletic program they helped build.

“It was a lot of blood, sweat and tears, and I'm so happy the school is doing as well as it's doing,” Riley says. “It's great to see Lowell grow by leaps and bounds.”

“I love what's happening, and I'm very proud of being part of UMass Lowell,” adds Davis, who won't go so far as to label himself a “pioneer,” however. “I was just doing the job that people wanted me to do—and what I expected out of myself. We were very fortunate with the type of students that we attracted. They would work so hard with so little.”

“It's nice to have been a part of it,” Stone says as he wraps up the phone call from Florida. “I'm sure Billy and George feel the same way. Say hi to those two buzzards for me.” ■



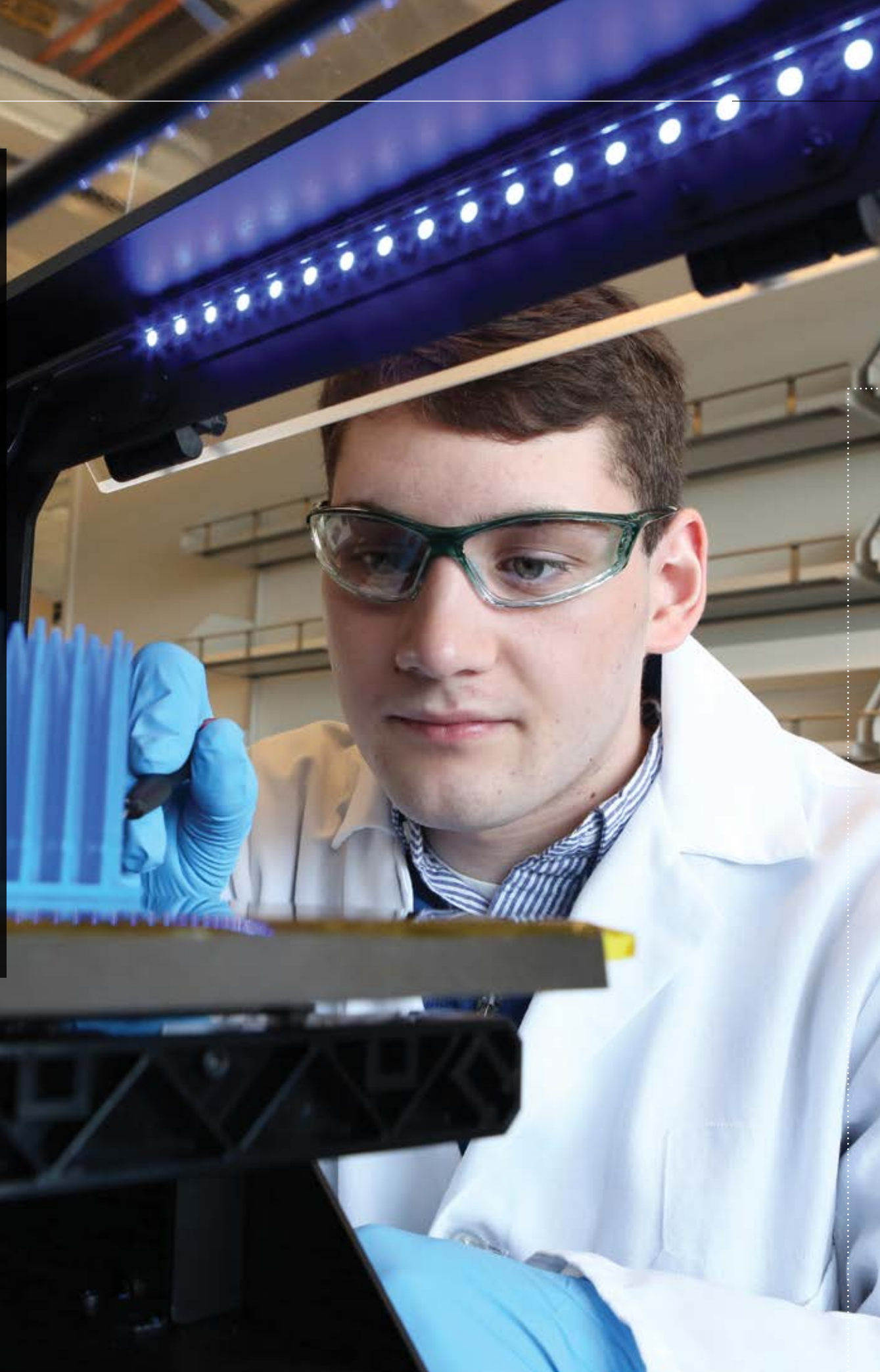
Need a new laptop? Just print one out.

A bandage that alerts you when it's time to remove it. Shrink-wrap on a bridge that electronically detects the tiniest of cracks. A soup can label programmed to display a dozen different languages.

It may sound like the stuff of sci-fi movies, but the future of printed and flexible electronics is closer than you think. And thanks to a \$4 million grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, that future is taking root at UMass Lowell.

Gov. Charlie Baker announced the four-year MassTech grant, which will fund the university's new Printed Electronics Research Collaborative, on campus recently. Under the direction of Craig Armiento, professor in electrical and computer engineering, PERC will connect Massachusetts businesses big and small with the expertise of university researchers, providing students with experiential learning opportunities.

Matched by \$12 million in industry support, the grant will outfit laboratories and research space at the Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center, home of the Raytheon-UMass Lowell Research Institute.—EA



AND SPEAKING OF 3-D PRINTING...

Did you know it's possible to print out a prosthetic leg for a dog? At least now it is, thanks to five UMass Lowell mechanical engineering students whose design won a \$25,000 competition. Taylor Breau, Anthony Ferrara, Jonathon Fournier, Johnathan Lawson and Patrick Semeter won the 2015 Souely of Mechanical Engineers Direct Digital Manufacturing Design Competition. The team, advised by Prof. Stephen Johnston, designed a 3-D-printed prosthetic for a dog. The \$25,000 award was presented in Long Beach, Calif., in May.

MAKING IT REAL IN A NEW SPACE



What do you do with an old bookstore? Re-make it for makers. What was once a North Campus bookstore will soon become a honeycomb of student activity and a lure for the university's engineering students.

"This is transformative," says Joseph Hartman, dean of the Francis College of Engineering, of the maker space that is taking shape in the basement of Falmouth Hall.

The still-unnamed maker space is unrecognizable as its previous incarnation (the bookstore relocated to the new River Hawk Shop on the first floor of University Crossing): ceilings have been taken down, walls pulled back.

The space will hold eight 3-D printers and work stations for electronics and machining. There's room for 100 students at a time, says Hartman, and it will be available to students 24 hours a day.

In the 8,500-square-foot space, concepts will come to life.

"This is really about making things real," says plastics engineering Prof. David Kazmer. "All the time, students learn equations and math and how to do things. This maker space will let students at all levels realize their ideas."

Hartman and Kazmer both envision a space that will hum with the trial and error of students testing out ideas. Working in teams or individually, students will be able to build prototypes.

The maker space trend, which parallels a renewed interest in manufacturing in the U.S., has become a hot item and a lure to prospective students, notes Hartman.

The space will also be open to other university departments, says Hartman, and it dovetails with the university's growing DifferenceMaker effort.

"The engineering maker space will support UMass Lowell DifferenceMakers as they invent new solutions and new products for the 21st century," says Steven Tello, associate vice chancellor of entrepreneurship and economic development. "This space reflects the College of Engineering's commitment to integrating innovation and entrepreneurship into the engineering curriculum." —DP



Fulbright Scholar James Nehring presents research results to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Nehring’s Fulbright message in Belfast: **Memorizing facts and figures is a waste of kids’ time**

Having taught history in secondary schools for 25 years before moving to the world of research and higher education, Graduate School of Education Assoc. Prof. James Nehring is a teacher at heart—and that’s how he approached his visits to four secondary schools in Northern Ireland.

Nehring, a Fulbright Scholar, spent three months visiting, observing and interacting with four high-poverty schools to study how educators are navigating the mismatch between teaching curriculum necessary for succeeding on standardized tests and teaching students the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in modern society.

“The knowledge that’s required today to work and live in a modern economy and society is substantially different from what mainstream schools have been teaching for many generations,” said Nehring at the Parliament Building in Belfast, where he presented his research to an audience of educators and influential legislators. “Having students memorize facts and figures to pass standardized tests leaves little time to teach students real-world skills such as problem-solving, collaboration, leadership, initiative, self-direction, intellectual openness and reflection.”

Pressure for test performance is especially strong in schools serving communities with high poverty levels, suggesting that the learning gap is widening even further on important skills that go unmeasured, he says.

The research is an extension of similar studies that Nehring is leading with Graduate School of Education colleague Stacy Szczesiul in the United States and Israel—countries with a wide variance in educational outcomes between privileged and marginalized groups.—KA

LAZONICK WINS HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW AWARD

Economics Prof. William Lazonick recently earned top honors from Harvard Business Review for an article that looks at the long-term impact of stock buybacks on the nation’s economy. Lazonick’s article, “Profits without Prosperity” was recognized with the McKinsey Award as the top article published in the Harvard Business Review in 2014. Lazonick concludes that the practice is damaging job growth and wages and undermining the country’s economic health.

Lazonick analyzed years of data from publicly traded companies. According to his analysis, the 449 companies in the Standard & Poor’s 500 that were publicly traded from 2003 to 2012 used 54 percent of their earnings, or a total of \$2.4 trillion, to repurchase their own stock. This, he says, cut deep into resources that could have instead been invested in innovation, production capabilities or higher wages for workers.

“Trillions of dollars that could have been spent on innovation and job creation in the U.S. economy over the past three decades have instead been used to buy back shares for what is effectively stock-price manipulation,” the article states.

Lazonick’s research is already generating discussion, especially among lawmakers, at think tanks in Washington, D.C. and from media worldwide. “It’s opened people’s eyes. It’s been gratifying,” he says.—JG



NEW LAB TAKES ON NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY

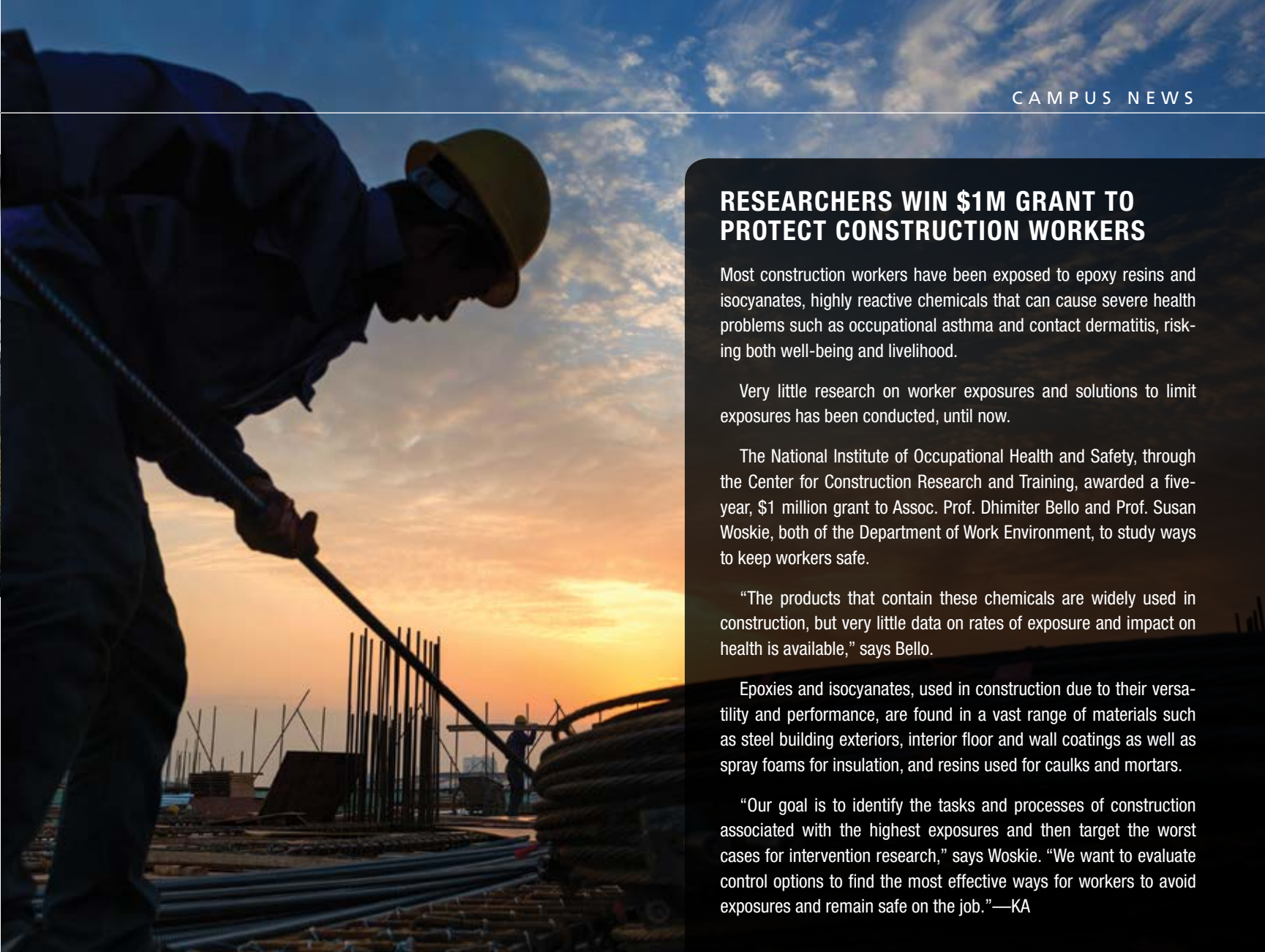
With the threat of nuclear terrorism facing the world, nuclear safety and safeguards are more critical than ever.

In response, the university has established the Integrated Nuclear Security and Safeguards Laboratory, which brings together a multidisciplinary group of experts from across the campus.

“We provide a platform for faculty, scientists and students to explore the interplay between technical and social science disciplines associated with nuclear security” says nuclear engineering Assoc. Prof. Suresh Aghara, who is the lab’s director.

“The INSSL is developing research, education and training tools to solve complex problems associated with global nuclear security and safeguards,” The INSSL works with academic research centers and government and industry partners, including the university’s Center for Terrorism and Security Studies, Radiation Laboratory and global studies program, as well as Canberra Industries, a Meriden, Conn.-based company that provides nuclear measurement solutions.

In March, Aghara was part of a delegation of experts, including those from the U.S. State Department and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, who visited Saudi Arabia to present technical talks on nuclear security culture, insider threat and synergies between nuclear safety, security and safeguards. That same month Aghara also participated in a disarmament verification working group meeting in London.—EA



RESEARCHERS WIN \$1M GRANT TO PROTECT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Most construction workers have been exposed to epoxy resins and isocyanates, highly reactive chemicals that can cause severe health problems such as occupational asthma and contact dermatitis, risking both well-being and livelihood.

Very little research on worker exposures and solutions to limit exposures has been conducted, until now.

The National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety, through the Center for Construction Research and Training, awarded a five-year, \$1 million grant to Assoc. Prof. Dhimiter Bello and Prof. Susan Woskie, both of the Department of Work Environment, to study ways to keep workers safe.

“The products that contain these chemicals are widely used in construction, but very little data on rates of exposure and impact on health is available,” says Bello.

Epoxies and isocyanates, used in construction due to their versatility and performance, are found in a vast range of materials such as steel building exteriors, interior floor and wall coatings as well as spray foams for insulation, and resins used for caulks and mortars.

“Our goal is to identify the tasks and processes of construction associated with the highest exposures and then target the worst cases for intervention research,” says Woskie. “We want to evaluate control options to find the most effective ways for workers to avoid exposures and remain safe on the job.”—KA

\$4.2M from the National Institute of Justice is helping Researchers address sexual violence and victimization

Human trafficking. Sexual assault. Child sexual abuse. They are some of the most serious issues society faces today and the U.S. Department of Justice has turned to UMass Lowell faculty to conduct research needed to address those problems.

The National Institute of Justice—the research, development and evaluation agency of the Department of Justice—has awarded three grants totaling nearly \$2 million to UMass Lowell faculty to conduct research that will guide federal and state policy in these and related areas. With the latest grants, UMass Lowell has received \$4.2 million from the NIJ to support eight research projects addressing pressing topics including terrorist behavior, police discipline and the control and monitoring of sex offenders.

The latest grants are:

- \$1 million to conduct the first-ever comprehensive nationwide assessment of sex offender registration and notification systems. The study—driven in part by a congressional mandate in the 2006 Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act—is led by Assoc. Prof. Andrew Harris of the School of Criminology and Justice Studies, one of the nation’s leading experts on sex offender registries. Working with Harris will be Joshua Dyck of the Department of Political Science and Vinod Vokkarrane of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
- \$498,000 for research into the factors that influence the prosecution of child sexual abuse cases, led by Stephanie Block of the Psychology Department and Linda Williams of the School of Criminology and Justice Studies.

- \$490,000 to research the effects of new forensic-testing policies and protocols on the outcome of sexual assault cases, including the impact of state laws that require such testing. The research will be conducted by Williams, along with fellow School of Criminology and Justice Studies faculty members Melissa Morabito and April Pattavina.

All of the research efforts are designed to offer solutions to sexual violence and victimization, according to Harris, associate dean for research and graduate programs of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

“These are not merely academic exercises,” says Harris. “They are driven by our commitment to generating knowledge that will make a difference and enhance the safety of our society.”—JG

Medical device start-ups pitch ideas on campus

Drawing more than 60 applicants from as far away as Israel, and a crowd that spilled into the hallway in University Crossing, the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center's (M2D2) New Venture Competition in April was a sure sign of the program's growth and ingenuity.

The competition, the fourth one held to date, is where innovations in medicine and engineering intersect and fledgling businesses try to find legs in the marketplace.

"It used to be that we had a hard time getting people to come up from Boston," said Steven Tello, an M2D2 director and the associate vice chancellor for entrepreneurship and economic development. "But now that's not the case. I think people see the companies we've worked with have been successful and people have wondered, 'Let's see what is happening up there.'"

M2D2, a UMass Lowell-UMass Worcester collaboration that helps entrepreneurs advance their ideas for medical device products, offers prototyping and product development help, regulatory and business development assistance as well as lab and office space.

In the venture competition, the pool of 64 applicants was winnowed down to 15 finalists, who then served up four-minute pitches to a panel of six judges, including John Kummall '96 (plastics engineering), senior manager of corporate engineering for Boston Scientific. At stake was more than \$100,000 in in-kind services from sponsors, including legal, business and regulatory support, lab and office space and more.

Taking home first place—and \$35,000 of in-kind services—was PixelEXX Systems, a Chicago-based imaging company that aims to shrink pixels to improve endoscopy and better diagnose cancer.

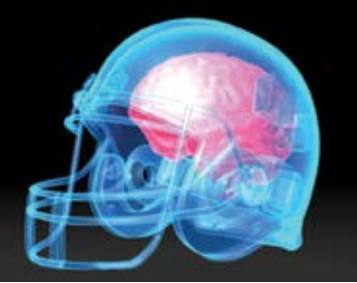
Renee Carder, PixelEXX's vice president of technology, called the quality of the presenters, "phenomenal," and said first place "was just the icing on the cake."

Carder says she looks forward to working further with M2D2, as well as Boston Scientific and Smith & Nephew, contest co-sponsors. "Their insights will be particularly valuable as we continue to refine our commercialization and product strategy," Carder said.—DP

CONCUSSION CONSCIOUSNESS

Concussion awareness is at an all-time high, yet so much is still unknown when it comes to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of those most affected—athletes and soldiers. To facilitate multi-disciplinary discussions and identify current gaps in concussion research, the university hosted the 2015 Concussion Prevention and Diagnosis Workshop in June.

More than a dozen panelists from the fields of helmet manufacturing and testing, neuroscience, biomechanics, nutritional biochemistry, sports medicine, public policy, mental health services and Veterans Affairs discussed the current state of knowledge of concussions.



"There's research being done in many different areas, and we wanted to bring all the players together to leverage the advances being made," says workshop moderator Patrick Drane, assistant director of the university's Baseball Research Center.

The workshop comes on the heels of a \$35,000 planning grant that James Sherwood, director of the Center, and Constance Moore, associate professor of psychiatry and radiology at the UMass Medical Center, received from the UMass President's Science and Technology Initiative Fund for a multi-disciplinary initiative to study concussions.



\$1.2M grant helps middle schoolers fight cyberbullying

A recent study indicates that 9 percent of students in grades 6 to 12 had experienced some form of electronic bullying.

According to StopBullying.gov, which released the report, the abuse can happen 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and kids who are victimized are more likely to use alcohol or drugs, skip school, receive poor grades, have lower self-esteem and experience more health problems.

In response, students in a class at McGlynn Middle School in Medford are trying to address the issue through computer programming, with the help of Assoc. Prof. Fred Martin of the Computer Science Department.

"The students are anxious to develop mobile apps that would help fellow teens deal with cyberbullying and its effects," says McGlynn art teacher Debbie Corleto. "The apps would help them know the warning signs of cyberbullying and how to seek help. The students have also brainstormed ideas on how to deal with other types of bullying such as physical, verbal, social and emotional abuse."

The project is one of the unique apps being built in the "Middle School Pathways in Computer Science" program headed by Martin, who was recently awarded a three-year \$1.2 million grant by the National Science Foundation to create a partnership between the university, the Tri-City Technology Education Collaborative and the school districts of Medford and Everett that would bring project-based, socially relevant computing experiences to middle-school students.

"We want to give all middle-schoolers in the partner districts a taste of what computer science is about," says Martin. "In the bigger picture, we want kids to realize they can use computing to make a positive change in the world."—EA

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LOWELL 2024

WHAT A BOSTON OLYMPICS WOULD MEAN TO UMASS LOWELL

BY ED BRENNEN



IT'S THE SUMMER OF 2024. The presidential race is tightening up and the world is riveted by NASA-Red Bull's first manned orbit of Mars. You swipe on your iWall at home and there, in stunning ultra 4-D, you see sweeping aerial shots of the Merrimack River and the historic mills of downtown Lowell. As the familiar Olympic fanfare trumpets in the background, the ageless Bob Costas welcomes viewers to the campus of UMass Lowell, which is festooned with colorful international flags and the Boston 2024 Summer Games logo.



One year ago such a scene may have seemed impossible to imagine. But in January, when the U.S. Olympic Committee chose underdog Boston over Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., as its contender for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the scenario suddenly became a very real possibility. A key component of Boston's Olympic bid is the use of existing venues at area colleges. Under the latest version of the Boston 2024 plan, UMass Lowell would host nine days of fencing and four days of taekwondo at the Tsongas Center and 14 days of rowing and canoe sprint events on the Merrimack River.



"The university is very excited," said then-chancellor Marty Meehan, voicing his support for the bid during a public forum at Lowell City Hall in March, the first of 20 community meetings scheduled across the state by Boston 2024 organizers. "If you look at all the universities that are participating in this, and you look at the fact that we have students that come from over 200 countries around the world, that's what the Olympic Games are all about."

In addition to the potential financial benefit of housing athletes, officials and media members in the university's dorms before and during the games, Meehan says the Olympics would also spur upgrades to the Tsongas Center and construction of expanded facilities along the Merrimack, a legacy that would last long after the world has gone home. "I'm a real believer that development of the university on the river is important," Meehan says. "The river is symbolic in that it's the reason the university is here. It's the reason the communities around this river are here."

Beyond the tangible benefits, Meehan sees an even bigger upside to being linked to the world's biggest sporting event. "I think it's a wonderful opportunity for the University of Massachusetts Lowell to enhance its reputation internationally," he says. "The idea that we would host something like fencing and taekwondo at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell, what a fabulous opportunity that is for getting the word out about the university throughout the world."

Continued



There's still a long way to go, of course, until the International Olympic Committee chooses its host city in the summer of 2017. In addition to competition from the likes of Paris and Rome, Boston faces an even bigger obstacle from within its own city limits. With public support waning over fears of cost overruns and commuting nightmares, Boston 2024 organizers have agreed to sponsor a statewide referendum on the bid. It will appear on the ballot in November 2016, just two months before the city's final paperwork is due to the IOC. That plot twist has some observers wondering whether Boston will be dumped in favor of a scorned runner-up like Los Angeles, something USOC officials have denied.

So the Olympic bid is far from a done deal, but one thing is certain: Both the university and the city of Lowell are in favor of bringing the games to Boston and beyond in 2024.

"TOURISM IS OUR THIRD LARGEST INDUSTRY IN MASSACHUSETTS, AND THE CITY OF LOWELL CAN BENEFIT TREMENDOUSLY BY BEING ON AN INTERNATIONAL STAGE."

—Sen. Eileen Donoghue



“FOR OUR KIDS TO BE ROWING ON AN OLYMPIC COURSE, YOU KNOW THAT YOU’RE GETTING THE ABSOLUTE BEST QUALITY OF ROWING EXPERIENCE THAT YOU CAN.”

LOWELL CONNECTOR

How did the university land such a prominent role in the Boston 2024 plan? Well, it didn’t hurt that state Sen. Eileen Donoghue of Lowell was a driving force behind the bid. Inspired by a conversation she had with a Massachusetts College of Art and Design student from Dracut named Corey Dinopoulos, who did a project envisioning a Boston Olympics, Donoghue filed a bill in 2013 to create a feasibility commission. After a series of public meetings in early 2014, the commission released a study suggesting that Boston should go for the gold.

“We looked at it from all angles: transportation, facilities, hotel rooms, all of those things you need to house the international community,” Donoghue says. “We also looked at, as an overlay, the 10-year plans already in place in the state as to infrastructure and transportation. And we found great alignment between what the state was planning and what may be required if the Olympics came here.”

The nonprofit Boston 2024 organization was created to navigate the bid process, tub-thump support and raise the private funds needed to help cover the projected \$9 billion Olympic budget, half of which would be covered by broadcasting rights and ticket sales. Then-UMass President Robert Caret and Donoghue were among 21 local leaders appointed to Boston 2024’s executive board, which is chaired by Suffolk Construction CEO John Fish.

“It’s almost dizzying in terms of where it has gone from the early days when I filed the bill,” says Donoghue, whose

original goal was to simply start a discussion about hosting the games. As more and more skeptics became believers, Donoghue says it became clear just how big an impact the Olympics would have throughout the region—including at the university in her home district.

“UMass Lowell has gone through a lot of changes and development over the past seven or eight years,” Donoghue says. “I think this could be a real transformative aspect and crowning jewel for the university.”

RIVER OF DREAMS

Since one of the Boston bid’s goals is to make the games as walkable and sustainable as possible, the natural first choice for rowing events was the Charles River, home of the annual Head of the Charles Regatta. But Olympic rules stipulate that rowing events cannot pass under bridges supported by piers, so that ruled out the Charles.

“The next serious contender was, of course, Lowell,” says Donoghue, who knew the Merrimack was already home to major rowing events like the Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival, which draws 60,000 visitors to the riverbanks each August. The only caveat to the plan is that the Rourke Bridge, which was built as a “temporary” span nearly 30 years ago, would have to be replaced by a bridge without piers. Donoghue believes the Olympic bid would serve as a catalyst to accelerate the project.

Katherine Lumbard, interim head coach of the UMass Lowell men’s varsity club rowing team, has been rowing on the Merrimack for more than a decade. She says the 2,000-meter course (about 1.25 miles) would be ideal for the 20,000 spectators lining the river each day in temporary stands. “The best thing is the spectating ability. We have such a huge stretch of the river that you can actually see the course from, and I think that’s really unique to us,” Lumbard says. “You can see the second half of the race as you walk along the river, so it’s a favorite course for a lot of visiting teams.”

The university’s Bellegarde Boathouse would be at the midpoint of the course, making it quite literally a centralized hub for the 550 Olympians expected to compete in the 14 rowing events. “It is such an amazing opportunity for our student athletes and rowers in the area to get that close to rowing at the highest level. It’s unbelievable,” Lumbard says.



“For our kids to be rowing on an Olympic course, you know that you’re getting the absolute best-quality rowing experience you can.”

YOUTH MOVEMENT

One of the greatest distance runners in UMass Lowell history, Ruben Sanca ’09, ’10 will never forget walking into London’s Olympic Stadium for the opening ceremony of the 2012 Summer Games. With 900 million people around the world watching on TV, Sanca was the proud flag bearer for his native Cape Verde. “It was a pretty amazing experience,” says Sanca, who competed in the 5,000 meters. “The people of London were very welcoming. Everywhere you went, people reached out to you, asking about the games, asking for your autograph. You could really feel the olympic experience in the air.”

Sanca, who is now business manager in the university’s Office of Student Activities and Leadership, would love for New Englanders—especially youngsters—to experience the same thing in 2024. That’s why he agreed to share his story and promote the bid as part of a Boston 2024 committee comprising local Olympians.

“I think the Olympics would have a major impact on kids living in Boston,” says Sanca, who immigrated to Boston at age 12 and fell in love with distance running after attending his first Boston Marathon. “Boston is a huge sports town, but I think we get a little lost in the professional sports. We forget the basic advantages of doing sports, especially in schools, having kids learn about goal-setting, healthier lifestyles, eating right. I think that’s what we need to bring to kids in Boston. Seeing the Celtics and Patriots win, that’s great, but it does not have the true Olympic spirit behind it.”

Sanca, who hopes to qualify for the 2016 Rio Summer Games as a marathon runner for Cape Verde, knows that the Olympics gets a black eye every time a host city like Beijing or Athens overspends on venues that gather cobwebs once the Games are over. Given Boston 2024’s commitment to using existing facilities, Sanca doesn’t see that happening here.

“It’s almost as if Boston was designed to host the Olympic Games,” he says. “The IOC is looking for innovation, they’re looking for ways to save money, because they don’t want the Olympics to be known as a debt note to the host. It’s not about bringing in debt, it’s about improving the lives of the people that live in those regions, and I think the Boston Olympic committee has that as their vision.”

GOOD AS GOLD

UMass Lowell softball coach Danielle Henderson is another former Olympian who can attest to the undeniable spirit of the games. As a 23-year-old pitcher, she won a gold medal with the U.S. softball team at the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia.

“It was a dream come true,” says Henderson, who beat Cuba, 3-0, in the preliminary round. “You get out there in front of 10,000 fans and you can’t believe it’s really happening. Then winning a gold medal, you’re on the podium, it’s surreal.”



Danielle Henderson

A native of Commack, N.Y., Henderson attended the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, where softball made its debut as an Olympic sport. (Though softball was nixed as an Olympic sport after the 2012 games, Henderson is hopeful it will be reinstated for the 2020 games in Tokyo.) Sitting in the stands in Atlanta, Henderson dreamed of winning a gold of her own. After an All-American pitching career at UMass Amherst, she was selected for Team USA in 1999. The next thing Henderson knew, she was on the medal stand in Sydney.

While the athletes’ village was on the outskirts of Sydney, Henderson says she and her teammates would go down to Sydney Harbour on their off days to see the sights. “Downtown was packed with fans from all over the world, but it didn’t feel crowded,” says Henderson, who believes Boston would have the same feel as visitors explored by foot and used public transportation. “I would be excited to see Boston have it.”

INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH

If Olympic events are held in Lowell in 2024, it would be quite a prelude to the city’s bicentennial celebration in 2026. Given the city’s natural connection to the university, Lowell Mayor Rodney Elliott sees the games as a win-win situation.

“In terms of economic development, you’d have people driving here, parking, eating. It’s a great opportunity to showcase the city for spectators coming to watch,” Elliott says. “It’s also an opportunity for the city to reap benefits for infrastructure improvements with help from the federal government.”

Besides the Rourke Bridge project, Elliott says an investment could be made to extend the city’s trolley line from Gallagher Terminal to the Tsongas Center, enabling a seamless flow of transit from Boston. “Getting people on the commuter rail and then hopping on the trolley would be a significant draw,” he says. “It would benefit the city both in the short and long term.”

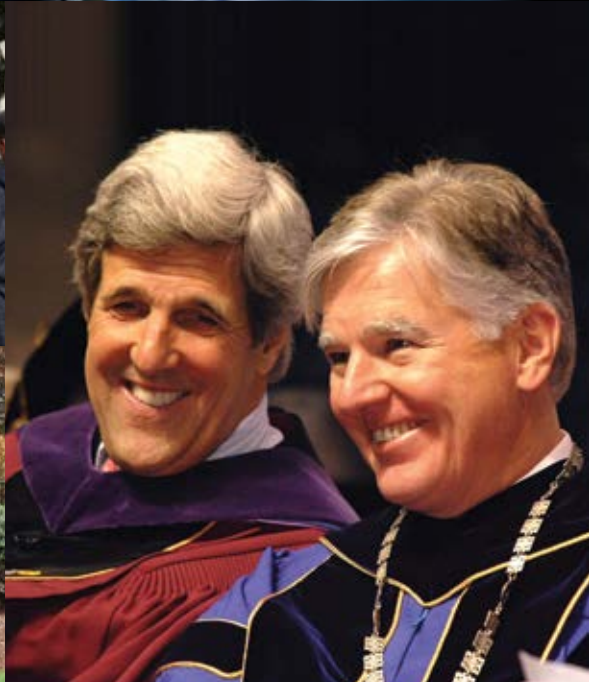
Which is exactly what Boston 2024 organizers hope to achieve by bringing the games to Boston. Donoghue points to the rebirth of Barcelona following the 1992 Summer Games as an example of what could happen in Lowell, albeit on a smaller scale.

“Tourism is our third largest industry in Massachusetts, and the city of Lowell and the entire Merrimack Valley region can benefit tremendously by being on an international stage,” she says. “The Olympics are about storytelling, and being able to have that spotlight, that stage, all across the world ... we’ve never had that opportunity before.” ■



“I THINK THE OLYMPICS WOULD HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON KIDS LIVING IN BOSTON.”

—Ruben Sanca ’09, ’10



Goodbye, Chancellor. Hello, President.

BY BRIAN MOONEY





MARTY MEEHAN peers out the window of his office at University Crossing toward the Richard P. Howe Bridge, the new span over a postcard-pretty stretch of Merrimack River rapids between the North and East campuses.

“At the bridge opening, (then-Lowell City Manager) Bernie Lynch ’78 said: ‘I can’t believe that everybody thinks that this is your bridge,’ ” Meehan chuckles.

Opened in the fall of 2013, the \$32.5-million bridge was a state-funded project on the drawing boards long before Meehan became chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Lowell in 2007.

Meehan can’t take credit for the bridge, but he can for much else that bears his imprint at the university he is leaving to become president of the five-campus University of Massachusetts system.

By almost every measurement imaginable, UMass Lowell has grown, improved and in many ways been transformed on Meehan’s watch. Much is tangible: the year-old University Crossing and the other nine buildings opened; 200,000 square feet of new research space; improved office space for faculty; and upgraded housing, classrooms and activity areas for students. The rest transcends bricks and mortar: a rise in national rankings, stature and the pride that comes with it; elevation to Division I athletics and the America East Conference; a change in the culture of a community that now can imagine even greater possibilities.

Change presented opportunity, and the former congressman envisioned a reconfigured campus of the future arranged around the new bridge, which replaced a century-old span and straightened a jog in the route between North Campus and downtown Lowell.

As usual, Meehan concerned himself with the detail.

“When construction started, I probably knew more about what the bridge was going to look like than anyone else in Lowell,” Meehan says. “I talked to folks in the state Department of Transportation about it and we planned the campus around the bridge. It was the smart thing to do. It’s the reason the Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center is where it is, and it’s the reason why University Crossing is here.”

The two modern complexes are the bookends of the stunning redesign and growth under Meehan of UMass Lowell’s three campuses.

Behind both projects are stories that provide glimpses into the Meehan *modus operandi*—thinking strategically, imagining scenarios likely to play out down the road and taking advantage of them.

The Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center, an \$80 million research and instructional facility, was a product and legacy of Meehan’s predecessor, William T. Hogan. But the plan was to tuck it behind existing buildings toward the Riverside Street side of North Campus. Additionally, cost estimates were ballooning 50 percent above budget as plans tried to incorporate the research wishes of the faculty who would use it. An extra \$40 million in debt would have foreclosed the possibility of many future capital projects which the university so desperately needed to grow.

Meehan, however, saw the imposing structure as an opportunity to make a symbolic statement about what UMass Lowell should become. The site was moved to prominence above VFW Highway near the bridge and the build-out of two floors was pushed back until the university found external funding, including closing its deal with Raytheon Co., which over the coming years will contribute up to \$5 million for a groundbreaking research partnership at the Saab Center.

Across the river is the even more striking \$95-million University Crossing, a gleaming glass-fronted student services center that rose from the footprint of the defunct St. Joseph’s Hospital. For \$6.3 million, UMass Lowell in 2011 bought the largely empty complex of six deteriorating buildings.

At the hinge of the North and East campuses and not far from South, University Crossing consolidates in one 230,000 square-foot complex the bookstores, student services and administrative offices that had been scattered across the various campuses.

“This building in many ways completes the merger of Lowell State and Lowell Tech in the sense that it truly is a building where all our students are present,” Meehan says today, 40 years after the state merged two institutions that were separated by a waterway and academic missions.

“This building gave us the opportunity to have a world-class bookstore, be accessible to the public for political debates and other events and it’s very useful for students,” Meehan says. “But it’s also a statement about who we are, highlighting the Merrimack River with its beauty and its symbolism as the reason why Lowell and this university are here.”

“The university is on a roll.”

The St. Joseph’s deal that made University Crossing possible was the last of three major acquisitions engineered by Meehan in high-stakes negotiations that established foundational pieces for UMass Lowell’s future. The others were: the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center (\$15 million in 2009), a failing 252-room downtown hotel that was converted into a 500-bed dormitory and function facility with 31 guest rooms for the public; and the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell in 2010 from the city of Lowell for \$1 and related land swaps and purchases. With \$10 million in improvements, the university transformed a declining, money-losing venue into a showcase for public and campus events, including commencement and River Hawks hockey.

“The hockey coach (Norm Bazin) came up to this office a month after I moved in and asked if he could bring recruits by here because the sight from this office is as high quality as you’ll see at any university in the country,” Meehan says, gazing out over the Merrimack.



As an eighth-term congressman bearing a résumé laden with government and political credentials, Meehan was an outsider of sorts when he arrived in 2007. His arrival was viewed warily in some campus quarters.

He knew Lowell, his hometown and political base, and the university, which he attended as an undergraduate. The campus culture was another matter, however.

“He didn’t come from a traditional academic background, but he knew a lot about the faculty and the students and their hopes for the university,” says Jacqueline Moloney, whom Meehan named executive vice chancellor when he took over.

“He brought a different perspective and a keen ability to envision the possibilities. He set the place on fire with his passion and determination to make this university great,” says Moloney, who has served UMass Lowell for more than 30 years, much of it establishing its entrepreneurial culture, including the Division of Online and Continuing Education, an early and nationally decorated leader in the field.

When Meehan arrived, the university was starved for resources, limping through years of chronic and large budget deficits. UMass Lowell’s fortunes were hopelessly tied to the vagaries of the annual state budget-making process. It needed to grow.

There hadn’t been a new building constructed in more than three decades—since Meehan was an undergraduate. Faculty offices, amenities, dormitories and the physical plant needed attention.

His predecessor, Chancellor Hogan, had built a world-class faculty and an institution with high academic standards, helping to transform two small, insular and very different institutions into a comprehensive research university. He also guided the university to accreditation for every professional school and displayed courage, overcoming the naysayers, as he began to forge a new identity for the institution which became UMass Lowell in 1991.

“Some faculty members were somewhat skeptical when Marty was appointed,” Moloney says.

Meehan began to win the confidence of the faculty before he took over, she recalls, at an annual gathering of faculty at the home of criminal justice professor Eve Buzawa, a well-regarded senior member of the faculty.

“It was a month before he started, and they invited him to a social gathering and he gladly accepted,” Moloney says. “He flew in from Washington, as he was balancing wrapping up his congressional term while taking on the chancellor role. There was no formal program, but he wasn’t worried because he was going to be himself.”

The campus was roiled by infighting over the fate of some programs that Meehan would have to resolve. First up was the hockey program, which was part of the university’s identity but an expensive appendage to its academic mission; the plan was to chop it in a budget move.

The chancellor-elect tackled it head on that evening with “authenticity and candor,” Moloney says:

“He was pacing back and forth, talking about his vision. The faculty asked innocuous questions and, after about 45 minutes, he looked at them and said, ‘No one’s asked me about hockey. Bring it on. You all have to have some opinion about this hockey thing, and I know I have to deal with it. What do you think?’ ”

“By the end of it, he had won them over,” Moloney says.

The hockey program survived; he hired Norm Bazin and the rest is history.

Meehan believes he won the trust of the academic staff the following year during a budget crisis precipitated by the onset of the brutal recession in 2008. Spending had to be slashed. A small but controversial non-academic program led by a well-connected political figure was an obvious but delicate choice.

“It was recommended to me that I couldn’t do it because there would be hell to pay,” Meehan recalls. He cut the program anyway. “That decision probably helped me with the faculty more than any other because they recognized I was making decisions based on the merits and risking political retribution to preserve our academics.”

Meehan, one of the most successful fundraisers in Congress, never had trouble raising campaign cash from political activists. But connecting with alumni posed a different challenge.

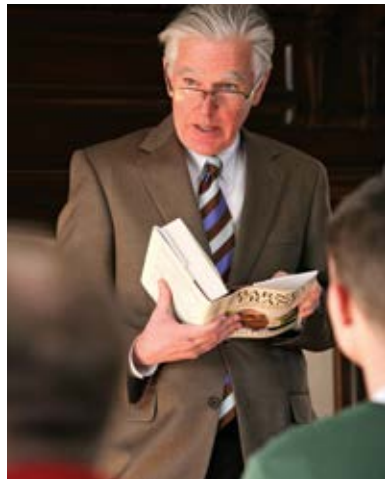
Over time, through persistence and persuasion, Meehan won his fellow alumni over. Fundraising swings through Florida each March were critical. Each year, the crowds grew, from about 15 at an event the first year at a steak house in Naples to dozens and even scores of attendees, often at elegant winter homes in the Sunshine State.

“Alumni appreciate all the changes, the transformation of the campus and they want to be a part of it,” Moloney says.

Meehan says his success is a variation on his political fundraising method.

“When you are a political candidate, people don’t want to invest in you unless they think you are going places,” he says. “The same thing is true for a university. People want to feel

Continued



“HE SET THE PLACE ON FIRE WITH HIS PASSION AND DETERMINATION TO MAKE THIS UNIVERSITY GREAT.”

—*Jacqueline Moloney*



“One of the reasons I demand we provide the best for our students is that I was one of those students.”

A LESS OBVIOUS ASPECT OF THE MEEHAN LEGACY IS THE CULTURE HE INSTILLED—COLLABORATIVE, STUDENT-CENTERED, WITH PRUDENT RISK-TAKING.

the university is going in the right direction and know what your strategic plan is. You have to tell them why it's important to invest in a public university. I give them the statistics of how little the state provides and compared it to the years they attended when the state contribution was much more.”

Roughly three quarters of the alumni Meehan reaches out to return to the campus, often for the first time in many years, to behold the physical transformation.

Under Meehan, the university's endowment has more than doubled to \$78 million. When he became chancellor, UMass Lowell had a single million-dollar donor. Today, there are 18 who have given or pledged more than \$1 million to the university.

With students—many of whom he taught in his popular class on Congress—Meehan had a natural rapport. He viewed their experience through the lens of his own undergraduate years at the university.

“I have a passion for this place that would be hard to imagine anyone having without being an alumnus,” he says. “One of the reasons why I demand the best that we provide for our students is because I was one of those students.”

“There have been times in the last eight years when I heard people talk about an academic program or services for students—any aspect of this university, really—where I felt there was a lack of passion. That's when I get involved.”

At forums with students, he won them over by taking every question, addressing every concern and reminding them that he once stood where they did. At these events, the chancellor would be accompanied by his senior staff and cabinet members who would be called on to address student concerns.

“Where else does that happen?” Moloney asks.



A less obvious aspect of the Meehan legacy is the culture he instilled—collaborative, student-centered, with prudent risk-taking to achieve specific, measurable and strategic objectives.

Elevating Moloney, an alumna with deep institutional knowledge, sent an early signal. A national search brought a proven provost, Ahmed Abdelal from Northeastern University, which he had helped guide to national prominence.

Joanne Yestramski, an alumna who had succeeded in business and at the University of Maine System office, became the chief financial officer. They joined a successful leadership team that includes Vice Chancellor of University Relations Patricia McCafferty, who already had been heading campus communications, and Vice Chancellor for Advancement Edward Chiu, who hailed from Providence College.

“Each had a different type of background and expertise, but at the same time, they were all entrepreneurial,” Meehan says.

This experienced leadership team managed the campus day-to-day—but also became Meehan's chief advisers and sounding board. Because they each were mature and accomplished—and did not view UMass Lowell as a career stepping stone—stability was the result.

The culture on campus changed, too. The austerity of the Hogan era gave way to a calendar full of events, celebrations and observances on North and South campuses, at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center and the Tsongas Center. Faculty and staff from different campuses were encouraged to mingle on each other's turf or on common ground.

Students and the curriculum were often in the spotlight.

“We recently had a gala to celebrate the arts on campus,” Meehan notes. “There was a time when this university's strength was considered to be in engineering and sciences and some of the professions, but not fine arts, the humanities and social sciences. I think we've changed that.”

Meehan made an emphatic statement about the perception of a campus pecking order by initially locating the offices of chancellor and much of the executive team in Allen House, the stately South Campus mansion, rather than Cumnock Hall, the traditional administrative hub on North Campus.

Salary equity and a balanced, measured program between the campuses for new construction and resource allocation were also morale builders.

So was the media attention that Meehan adeptly attracted through career-long contacts, and an ease and disciplined demeanor on the public stage. The Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell was the site of a nationally publicized debate in the U.S. Senate race between Elizabeth Warren and Scott Brown.

Author Stephen King and actress Meryl Streep were glamorous stars of the new Chancellor's Speaker Series, which raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for student scholarships.

It created a virtuous circle. Positive publicity about substantive improvements attracted a larger, more accomplished and diverse student body and faculty. Greater achievement reinforced the “upward trajectory” message, which brought more coverage.

UMass Lowell began to appear and then rise in the rankings of U.S. News & World Report and other publications.

The university, Meehan asserts, “is on a roll.”

“When there's a lot of buzz about a university, people are talking about it, and it increases your visibility, your stature, your average SAT scores, freshmen success and graduation rates,” he says. “You build momentum and people hear about it. That makes dean candidates want to come here; it makes faculty want to come here.”

“People on campus are proud of it, they like the direction of the institution, and to the extent there can be total buy-in, there's buy-in here,” Meehan says.

“Every decision we made, it was all strategic.”



On his desk, Meehan has a copy of the Michael Watkins book “The First 90 Days: Critical Success Strategies for New Leaders at All Levels.” As he did when he became chancellor, he will distribute the book to his leadership team in the UMass President's Office in Boston.

As president of the UMass system, Meehan intends to set ambitious goals for the system with 72,000 students and more than \$600 million in annual research.

One of his first objectives is to establish a long-term strategic plan along the lines of the so-called Saxon Commission report of 1989. Named for its chairman, University of California President Emeritus David S. Saxon, the 19-member panel issued a report “on the future of the University of Massachusetts.” Composed of political, business and academic leaders, the commission's blueprint paved the way for the autonomous University of Lowell and Southeastern Massachusetts University to become part of an expanded UMass system as UMass Lowell and UMass Dartmouth, respectively.

“One of the reasons we need to do it is that it's a great way to get buy-in from all the stakeholders,” Meehan says. “I want a vision of what we want this university to be in 10 or 15 years and I want buy-in by the governor, the legislature and the business community. ... We need to bring in some of the experts in public higher education from around the country and look at the best practices nationally for public research universities. There are some great ones in this country, and we ought to emulate those in their areas of strength.”

A study commission would reprise one of Meehan's successes at UMass Lowell—establishing a long-term strategic plan with input from faculty, alumni and staff and using it to guide future initiatives. At Lowell, he added the dimension of transparency and accountability with the annual “Report Card,” a publication measuring progress toward goals in 25 statistical areas, or “strategic indicators.”

“I know enough about all the various campuses to know they all have different needs,” says Meehan. “I may work on a particular problem on one campus but not to the exclusion of the others.”

Systemwide, Meehan says increasing research and the dollars it brings in will be a priority along with expanding online education, which attracts more students and critical revenues. The campuses at Dartmouth and Boston, in particular, should expand online offerings, he says.

“I'm not going to be that far away, and I'm going to be sure that Lowell continues to make progress.”

The new president also cites needs at specific campuses: an improved law school and bigger enrollment for UMass Dartmouth; a steadier revenue stream for the medical school at UMass Worcester; help in building new dormitories to produce a “transformational effect” for UMass Boston; and membership in the prestigious 62-member Association of American Universities to raise the research profile of UMass Amherst.

Meehan says he will also be a booster of Amherst's efforts to increase its national rankings in publications like U.S. News & World Report.

“Amherst is where the UMass brand comes from,” Meehan says. “The more UMass Amherst rises in the rankings, the better it's going to be for all the other campuses.”

Meehan, who told the search committee that the president of UMass is “the second most important job in this state, next to Governor,” also pledges to become the most prolific fundraiser in UMass history to raise enough money to broaden the university's impact.

“I don't think Massachusetts, with an innovation economy, can afford to have a second-tier public research university,” Meehan says. “Massachusetts will not prosper.”

“Most people don't know that UMass, as a system, is a close third behind MIT and Harvard in research expenditures in the state and don't know what research is all about and what it means to a state's economy.”

“The fact is that most of the elite universities in Massachusetts take far fewer students from the state, and the trend is continuing,” Meehan observes. “Most of the elite private universities in Massachusetts no longer educate the workforce. We educate the workforce, and that's why the state needs to make it more of a priority.”

Tying up loose ends as he prepares to leave for the president's office, Meehan says he would renew his River Hawks tickets for the 2015-16 hockey season at the Tsongas Center.

When asked what he would do when the River Hawks play their rivals, the Minutemen of UMass Amherst, in Hockey East competition, Meehan doesn't hesitate.

“If the game is in Amherst, I'll root for the Minutemen. If the game is in Lowell, I'll root for the River Hawks,” he says.

With the leadership team he assembled, the Lowell campus is in good hands, he says.

“I'm just a part of the puzzle in terms of Lowell's advancement, and all the other parts of the puzzle are going to be here,” Meehan says. “I'm not going to be that far away, and I'm going to be sure that Lowell continues to make progress.” ■



YOU CAN TAKE THE BOY OUT OF LOWELL...

BY BRIAN MOONEY

As his eight-year chancellorship at UMass Lowell wound down, Marty Meehan revisited the Lowell neighborhood where he grew up. He talked about the people, places and events that shaped his early years and the role of the university. These are excerpts from a conversation as he drove his sport utility vehicle to his boyhood home at 22 London St. and then to other nearby haunts from that time in his life.

The recollections date back 35, 40, even 50 years.

Before turning right off Gorham Street onto London, he points out the building where, walking to the Lowell Sun to pay his paper route bill, he used to see Efthemios Tsongas, father of the late Senator Paul Tsongas, at his dry cleaning business; one of his childhood schools, the Butler; the market once owned by Edward A. LeLacheur, the former state representative for whom LeLacheur Park is named; and the home of one of his lifelong friends, now a successful home builder and real estate developer.

He parks in front of 22 London, set a few arms-lengths from slightly smaller homes on either side. It's an eight-room, single-family house among facing rows of solid, well-kept homes in a blue-collar enclave. It was built in 1890. He lived there with his parents, Martin T. (Buster) Sr., who died in 2000, and Alice (Sissy), who died in 2008. Marty is the third oldest of seven children and oldest of the three boys.

He is asked if the statue of the Virgin Mary out front was there when he was a boy.



“Yeah, she was. I remember when that was put in. My father built that with Jim Donahue, the guy next door who was a firefighter ... I bet I was four or five when that was put in.

“[The street] hasn’t changed much at all. Mrs. Leary lived across the street and we used to rock with her in her rocking chair on her porch ... and I remember her watching my mother run around the neighborhood with no shoes on, and she’d say: ‘Look at Sissy, she’s like one of the kids over there.’

“(My mother) had seven kids and she was very active.

“I lived here until I graduated from college [then the University of Lowell]. I lived here while I commuted ... up to South Campus, you know; usually carpooled. I think it was about two miles.

“It’s a wide street, so we used to play football games in the street. And we used to get our baseball gloves and throw a ball up against this [an 18-inch concrete retaining wall in front of his house]. We had a way to judge whether it was a single, double, triple or home run.

A woman opens the front door.

“I grew up in this house,” Meehan tells her.

“Marty Meehan,” she shouts. She tells him her name is Tejanie Mercado. She is 25 and has lived here since Meehan’s parents sold the house in 1998.

“Your sister [Kathy] actually taught me at the Butler. She taught us right: ‘Show respect. Get home early.’ She was an awesome lady. ... You sold the house to my mother.”

“Does it still have one bathroom?” Meehan asks, grinning. “Imagine nine people trying to get ready in the morning at once. A lot of stress.”

Tejanie’s mother, Juanita Santos, parks her car and approaches the house.

“I know you; I bought the house from your parents,” she says, pointing out some of the work she has had done and is in the process of doing. They reminisce for a bit, and then, back in the car, Meehan drives slowly up London Street, recalling the families in most of the houses.

“The Durkin family lived there. Brendan Durkin still lives there. We’re all still best friends with the Durkins. We were closer than being related.

“John Lee lived in this house here. He sold me his paper route. It was always a little nicer up this end of the street. ... John F. Carney of the School Committee lived there. The first time I gave out political things was for him. His yard abutted my back yard. I’ll bet I was 7 or 8.”

Later: “This is Swede Village. My mother’s parents lived here [on Lundberg Street]. The area I grew up in was called Ayers City. All of it around where I grew up was ‘Spaghettilville’ because when Prince (the pasta company with a plant nearby) put all the signs up on the bridges, then it really became ‘Spaghettilville.’ ...

“This is Sacred Heart Parish, really. Our life was really centered around this parish. This was a really strong parish; it kept its identity [after the church closed]. It’s very tight and ‘the churchyard boys’ of Sacred Heart established a scholarship for UMass Lowell. [Six alumni, contemporaries

of Meehan, provide a scholarship for first-generation college students from Lowell who have financial need.]

“They feel pride about what’s happened at UMass Lowell and they feel they should give something back. It’s amazing how many people in this neighborhood attended either Lowell Tech or Lowell State. ...

“This is where I played baseball. This is the Olivera Little League. It was the Chambers Street Little League then. Jimmy Olivera was in the same grade as me in the second grade and he hopped a train not far from here and fell under it and died. I remember his funeral.

“So my sons [Robert and Daniel] played here. There were all these kids jumping on Jimmy Olivera’s stone over there and I always made the kids stop it and I told them the story.

“I want to tell a story about my father. He left coaching when I was 10 because he started working at the Billerica House of Correction. He was working two jobs.

“When I was nine, I was on the White Sox and we lost every single game. We were 0 and 18 and my father was the coach and what he used to do—and this is before they mandated that everyone had to play—everyone played.

“There were kids who weren’t very good and he’d say, ‘OK, Jimmy, you’re in right field,’ and Jimmy would say, ‘Mr. Meehan, we’re winning and I’m not sure I should go out to right field.’ And my father would say: ‘Jimmy, right field.’

“And we’d end up losing the game. He felt everyone should play and it wasn’t so much if you won or lost but that everyone should be playing. I like to think I learned some lessons. And as embarrassed as I was as a kid that we were 0 and 18, as I got older, I was kind of proud. But, yeah, [if I were coach] I probably would want to win more than he did.

“My father had a real impact on me. He didn’t graduate from college. He spent some time at Lowell Commercial College, learning the skills he needed to be a linotype operator at the Lowell Sun.

“He was really well read, though. In his bedroom, he had, oh there must have been 700 books, lined up all over the place. He was really committed to us getting an education.

“He had a rule that we had to go to college. ... Most of us grew up wanting to be teachers. I have four sisters and all four sisters are teachers. I got my undergrad degree in education, did my student teaching at Lowell High.

“He liked politics but wasn’t directly involved ... I think my political interest came from him. When I was a kid, after President Kennedy was elected and Kennedy started doing press conferences, everything stopped in the house because my father had to watch the president and we were upset because our programs were off. ...

“Lowell’s a tight-knit community, with many big families, close families. Loyalty is really important and most families are striving to get a better life. For some, that’s about finding a job out of high school; for others, it’s about going to Greater Lowell Technical High School and getting vocational skills.

“But for a lot of people, it was attending Lowell State or Lowell Tech. That was upward mobility.” ■

“LOWELL’S A TIGHT-KNIT COMMUNITY, WITH MANY BIG FAMILIES, CLOSE FAMILIES. LOYALTY IS REALLY IMPORTANT AND MOST FAMILIES ARE STRIVING TO GET A BETTER LIFE.”

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

BREAKING THE ALZHEIMER'S CODE

UMASS LOWELL TAKES HOPEFUL STEPS TOWARD PREVENTION

*She lives on A Wing.
Elevators that never open for her
Bring him there through backdoors
Every afternoon...*

*She is hunched.
Bones that hold less than before
Curve into the chair beneath her
And every day he comes...*

*It's been 67 years.
She smiles and he smiles back.
Every afternoon, clockwork ...
She lives on A Wing now
And every afternoon they fall in love.*

The poem at left is titled "A Wing"—which stands for the Alzheimer's Wing in the D'Youville Senior Center in Lowell, where Ryan Stevens, the UMass Lowell nursing student who wrote it, first met this man and his wife two years ago.

"He would come every afternoon around one o'clock," she remembers, "and sit there next to her. On their anniversary he came in a suit and tie. She didn't speak anymore, but they held hands the whole time, and she would smile. She usually fell asleep, and sometimes he would, too. I thought it was one of the most beautiful things I'd ever seen."

Stevens had no plans to be a nurse. "The idea of it terrified me," she says. But over time, seven or eight years ago, spending time with her grandfather in the Alzheimer's unit of a nursing home in Concord, she had a kind of epiphany: "I felt such a strong connection with him, with all of them there, like I'd never had before in my life. I came to love them, I really did."

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“There’s a kind of stigma around the disease. People don’t understand it, I think. They’re afraid of the people who have it. I’d like to try to help change that.”

She had been a preschool teacher. Suddenly that seemed less important. “There are many people who go into teaching with a passion for children,” she says, “not nearly as many who have that same passion for the elderly. I came to realize that the connection I have with them is unique, that if I didn’t at least try to become a nurse I’d be wasting a valuable talent.

Stevens enrolled at UMass Lowell four years ago as a nursing student, then worked a sophomore-year internship in the A Wing in the D’Youville Center, where she met, among many others, the couple she refers to as “the gentleman and his wife” for whom she wrote her poem. She sat with the patients, planned their days, sometimes played her flute for them—which often, she says, made them cry. She came away feeling blessed: “I so treasured being allowed to be a part of their lives at the end. They had lived long lives. They honored me with their memories. I had such deep respect for that.”

Stevens graduated this spring with a nursing degree. For now, she hopes to find a job taking care of the elderly. Longer term, she says, she’d like to be a teacher.

“There’s a kind of stigma around the disease,” she says. “People don’t understand it, I think. They’re afraid of the people who have it. I’d like to try to help change that.”

Alzheimer’s. It is probably the costliest, least understood, most dreaded disease of the modern world: 5.3 million victims in the U.S. alone—projected to grow to 7 million in 10 years, 15 million in 30 years—with millions more, most of them family members, dedicated round-the-clock to their care. More than \$220 billion will be spent this year to treat it; by 2050 the number will be \$1.1 trillion, an amount, in the words of at least one expert, that “will break the health-care bank.” And the misery, of course, is incalculable.

If there is any good news at all, it is that there are more Ryan Stevenses out there than there have ever been, and more every day. Some, like Stevens, or Janet Benvenuti ’77 (see accompanying story), are men and women who have been touched personally, and seek to lighten the suffering of those left behind, or prepare the next generation. Others are behind-the-scenes soldiers: biologists, neuroscientists and researchers, trained in the science of the disease, alarmed by its mounting costs and often funded by grants to help fight it, who toil, mostly without fanfare and often for years without measurable success, in the world’s hospitals, labs and universities.

UMass Lowell Assoc. Prof. Garth Hall is one such figure. A former research associate at Harvard Medical School and a member of the university’s Biological Sciences Department for the past 18 years, he has spent more than two decades studying the cellular makeup of the Alzheimer’s brain. His goal lately, as he explains it in layman’s terms, has been to isolate the “fingerprint” of Alzheimer’s disease in the still-undamaged human brain in an effort to predict—and thereby hopefully prevent, or at least slow—the disease. He does this, he explains, by comparing the proteins secreted in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of deceased Alzheimer’s victims with those secreted in brains still unaffected by the disease.

One of these proteins—the one most commonly identified with Alzheimer’s—is the so-called tau protein, though there are literally thousands of others. It is likely, he says, that the secretions begin in the Alzheimer’s victim even before the disease makes itself known. If so, the level and type of the proteins secreted might serve as an early predictor of Alzheimer’s, a “fingerprint,” which would then permit the affected person to seek a drug regimen to slow the disease.

“There’s currently no cure,” Hall says. “Finding a cure is going to depend on first finding the diagnostic. You can only prevent something—or slow it—if you know it’s there in the first place.”

Lately, he says, in the wake of the recent spate of publicity that has connected head injuries (especially those of football players) with later-life dementia, he has been working with tissue samples from victims of head trauma to see if the pattern of protein secretions is consistent with that of those who suffer from Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia.

“It looks like there’s clearly a message there, that there’s evidence of a window,” he says. “It’s a tedious process. It takes time. You just have to work to connect the dots.”

Over the past 20-odd years, Hall has published or co-published several dozen articles in scientific journals—The American Journal of Pathology, The Journal of Biological Chemistry, many more—much of it relating to the role of the tau protein in the early detection of Alzheimer’s. He hopes, he says, to be submitting his most recent research, on the “fingerprint” mix of proteins secreted in CSF, for publication in the next several months.

“These results could not only help with early diagnosis of the disease—which could extend the lives of people who have it—they also could offer clues toward an eventual cure,” he says. “It’s important work on multiple levels.”

Biology Prof. Tom Shea, another UMass Lowell researcher with Alzheimer’s in his crosshairs, is taking on the disease from a wholly different angle. As with Garth Hall, his immediate objective is prevention, or at least deterrence. But where Hall goes at the disease from the standpoint of intelligence-gathering—almost as a kind of code breaker—Shea’s approach is closer to a frontal assault.

It began more than 20 years ago when he arrived at UMass Lowell from Harvard Medical School and started working with other researchers, including fellow professors Eugene Rogers and Robert Nicolosi, to test the theory that certain compounds of naturally occurring elements—vitamins and antioxidants—could be useful in the treatment of dementia. The group’s premise was the starting point for more than a decade of trial and error, much of it funded by grants from the National Institute on Aging and the National Science Foundation: endless mixing-and-matching of vitamin combinations—resulting in a final proprietary formulation (a mix of vitamin B12, folic acid, vitamin E and three nutritional supplements)—and countless experiments on genetically engineered mice, all leading to Phase I clinical studies funded by UMass Lowell.

“It was a long road, I’ll tell you that,” says Shea. “There were times when it seemed like it might never end.”

Things continued to move slowly—but they moved. In 2008, Shea was awarded a three-year grant from the Alzheimer’s Association to conduct Phase II studies. The formulation was licensed from the university by a Waltham firm, Sevo Nutraceuticals, under the brand name PERCEPTIV, in September 2012. A little more than a year later, in December 2013, Shea and doctoral candidate Amy Chan-Daniels won a patent for its ingredient-mix.

The results of the Phase II studies were published in March of this year in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease.

And they were conclusive: After three months, the 100 participants receiving the formulation showed improved cognitive performance, memory and mood, while those receiving a placebo did not. When the test subjects on the placebo were then switched to Shea’s formulation, they also improved—and continued to over the course of a year, “with no serious adverse events.”

But perhaps the best news of all, at least for the rest of us: these benefits apparently aren’t limited to Alzheimer’s patients alone. During its earlier, Phase I trial, when the formulation was tested on 93 subjects with no known or suspected memory problems, the improvements in mood and cognition were the same.

“There’s a benefit there for just about anyone,” says Shea, who says he takes PERCEPTIV twice-daily himself.

“These results could not only help with early diagnosis of the disease—which could extend the lives of people who have it—they also could offer clues toward an eventual cure. It’s important work on multiple levels.”

“Those with early-stage [Alzheimer’s] have seen a radical improvement; for late-stage people, it’s had more of a stabilizing effect. As for you or me, we’re able to perform better and more accurately, and we’re in a better mood.”

The beauty of the compound, he says, is the extra time it buys.

“We’re born with the same neurons we’re going to die with—we don’t get a replacement set,” he says. “And we’re living so much longer than we used to, it’s natural that some of those neurons are going to give out. But if we can delay that erosion by five or 10 years, if we can shorten the slope of decline—well, that’s the next-best thing to a cure.”

More and more people, it seems, are coming to see it that way. Sales of PERCEPTIV – which come in 60-pill bottles at roughly \$1 a pill, and are available through GNC, independent pharmacies and on the web—are going through the roof, says Shea, who serves as a non-salaried scientific adviser to Sevo and receives a small royalty for every bottle sold (as does the university, he says).

“Sevo had sold nearly as much in the first three months of this year as in all of 2014,” he says. “But it’s not about the money—it’s just good to see that people are picking up on the idea that nutrition does help, that it can actually be an answer to things.”

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Two years ago, several months after her UMass Lowell internship had ended, Ryan Stevens returned to the D'Youville Center to leave her “gentleman” a copy of her poem. But when she arrived at A Wing, she says: “I was told that he had passed away. His wife was still there.”

It is hard to comprehend a deeper loneliness. A wife of 67 years, her mind vacant but for the knowledge of a particular hand in hers, left now with only darkness. Yet it seems, perversely, a near-perfect mirror of this cruel disease: the savagery it inflicts on families, the terrible isolation it creates. Thirty-five million people are said to be victim to it: 35 million people for whom there can be no sure diagnosis (except after death), no known means of prevention, no certain cause and no cure. It is a disease that robs the mind, and finally effaces the person—that “not only steals from you,” as one writer has put it, “but steals the very thing you need to remember what’s been stolen.”

It is a scourge like no other. Of the 10 leading causes of death in the U.S., it is the only one for which there is no effective treatment. By the middle of this century, 115 million people—more than a third the current population of the U.S.—will suffer from it. And unless something changes in the meantime, not one of them will survive.

But there are signs that change is coming. The past couple of years have seen a major spike in the money and resources being invested in the disease. A recent public-private partnership, known as the A4 Study, has combined teams from the NIH, Eli Lilly and several philanthropies to examine the effect of drugs on brains with the Alzheimer’s “fingerprint” (similar to the work being done by Hall). Another partnership, this one teaming the British government with several of the world’s major pharmaceutical firms, has committed \$100 million to funding treatment research—whether it be Hall’s code-breaking, Shea’s formulations or studies by the NIH.

So there is reason for hope. Sadly, it comes too late for Ryan Steven’s gentleman and his wife, and for the millions of others who will already have been lost by then. But perhaps not for their children, or for Ryan herself. Or for us. ■

When Alzheimer’s strikes: ‘There’s no reason to feel alone’

Janet Simpson Benvenuti '77 knows something about life-changing decisions.

Once already, when her parents had fallen ill—her father with cancer, her mother with Alzheimer’s disease—she had turned her life upside-down: moved her family (including two children under age 7) 250 miles north to care for them. Ten years later, both of them had died, and she was doing it again.

It was 2004. The last decade had been an endless succession of health-care hurdles: doctors, nurses, nutritionists, pharmacologists, home helpers, legal decisions, financial decisions—whatever was required to sustain two failing elders in their home. Now in her late 40s, Benvenuti was facing what she would come to call the “watershed moment” of her life.

“I felt like, for all those years, I’d been living as a sort of embedded journalist in the health-care system,” she says. “I’d learned so much, seen so much—the mistreatment [of elders], the overuse of drugs, all sorts of mistakes and abuses. I realized I was in a unique position to help other families plan for the sorts of decisions that need to be made. The question was, What do I do now?”

To start with, she wrote a book—“‘Don’t Give Up On Me!’ Supporting Aging Parents Successfully”—which was published five years ago. She launched a blog and a newsletter. But that was only the start.

Benvenuti teamed with an attorney to get a grip on the legal end of things, read up on the financial and housing needs of elders, the psychological challenges faced by families. She met with clinicians and researchers to better understand alternative medicine, as well palliative-care options and the brain science of dementia. Her University of Lowell training—both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in chemistry—plus four years in the late 1980s as head of a global-quality program at Bristol-Myers Squibb, gave her a leg up on the medical end of things. “I’m a scientist by training,” she says.

In 2009 she founded a company, Circle of Life Partners, based in Concord, an advisory practice on aging that offers family consultations, delivers seminars and interacts with other businesses to develop services that will benefit elders and their families.

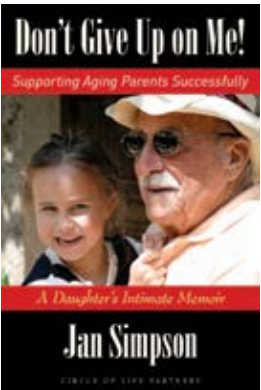
It began with presentations to local schools, libraries, churches and hospitals. Then, six years ago, came an invitation from Harvard Business School to speak at a reunion. Many doors opened after that: “I do quite a lot of public speaking these days,” says Benvenuti, “financial advising, medical conferences, personal coaching. I guess you could say I swim in lots of different pools.”

Her target audience, she says, is the “middle-stage” demographic, those adults from 40 to 60 who “find themselves sandwiched between caring for their children and their parents. They’re pressed, they’re not sure how to handle things. And they’re apt to be spread all over—one sibling on the West Coast, say, another in Virginia, a third one somewhere else. It’s hard to come to decisions that way.”

In her own case, she says, both parents were able to remain at home, even moderately active, throughout the course of their illnesses—her mother, with Alzheimer’s, for 17 years—owing in part to help from a sister. Though homecare is normally ideal, Benvenuti would tell you, it isn’t always possible—and there are some [eldercare] communities that do a wonderful job.”

The key, she says, is knowledge. With 42 million people in the U.S. over 65 today, and the number projected to rise another 70 percent by 2030, “if families are going to be able to take the right care of their parents, wherever they’re living, they’re going to need to broaden their understanding of things—legal, financial, medical, emotional, social, all of it,” she says. “They’re going to need to understand what they’re facing, and what the options are. That’s the No. 1 priority.

“And there’s help out there. There’s no reason to feel alone.”—GD



Since 2013, the university has been in the quiet phase of its first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign.

Our Legacy, Our Place: The Campaign for UMass Lowell will build on the tremendous growth in size, scope and reputation the university has experienced in recent years. We’ve been busy laying groundwork for this historic campaign; we’ve just been very quiet.

All that changes this fall when *Our Legacy, Our Place* officially goes public. Our goal: To raise \$125 million to support student scholarships, our first-rate faculty, our growing campus and our Division I athletics program. Put another way, this is our chance to change lives.

So join us in October, and let’s make some noise.

To learn more, please visit www.uml.edu/ourlegacy-ourplace.



‘I Loved Working Here.’

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

Surely somewhere else in New England there is a university professor who has given 51 years to his institution—but probably not as half of a couple who have given nearly 90. That distinction, almost as surely, belongs to the Shapiros alone.

Bernie and Yana Shapiro visit with just three of the dozens of students they’ve helped.



In the Classroom and Outside It, a Legend of Caring and Longevity

They met in the early 1950s, neither one remembers just when or where: “He was from Lowell,” Yana remembers, “I was from Haverhill, we were just part of the crowd of kids that ran around together.” They married in ’58, two years after his Lowell Tech graduation, 57 years ago this summer. Three kids, one boy (Mark) and two girls (Stevi ’83 and Judi), would soon follow.

After four years as an undergraduate, Bernie ’56 spent 34 more here teaching math (1962-96) and another 13 years (1996-2009) as part-time supervisor in Continuing Ed. His wife, Yana, spent 34 years (1975-2009), most of it full-time, as department administrative assistant, also in Continuing Ed. It would be a tough team-total to equal.

Bernie’s first job was in what was then Lowell Tech’s department of Economics and Management; he joined the math department four years later, where he developed match courses for the school’s new business administration major—and where, some still recall, he was known fondly to students as “Boom-Boom,” for a voice that made itself known.

Over the years he taught where he was needed: math, business, economics, engineering. In the early ’80s, just a year or so following the launch of the first IBM PC—clearly primed to the winds of the future—he ushered in the university’s first computer courses, often lobbying his business majors to declare a minor in the field. It must have seemed radical at the time.

One of those students, Rob Manning ’84, ’11 (H), today a former chair of the UMass Board of Trustees and chief benefactor behind the newly named Robert Manning School of Business, has a crystal-clear recollection of the day he was buttonholed by his prof: “He literally tackled me in the hall” with the forms to sign, Manning told a campus audience earlier this year. But the story doesn’t end there.

Two years later, Manning recalled, applying for his first job, as a junk-bond analyst at MFS Management in Boston, he was the only applicant in the room able to complete the computer-programming challenge assigned. He landed the job—and is today chairman and CEO of the company, now a \$450-billion global asset manager.

His former professor, Rob Manning told the room that day, “had the vision.”

But vision—or keen instincts, or whatever you want to call it—was only one of Prof. Shapiro’s many gifts. And perhaps not even the one Manning’s story mirrors most clearly.

“I enjoyed offering the students advice,” Bernie

says today. “I enjoyed learning about their lives—their challenges, their problems—sometimes even poking my nose in when they’d let me, hopefully for the better. I think it was my favorite part of the job.”

“It didn’t even matter if they were his students or not,” Yana puts in. “He just liked meeting with them, advising them—he’d go into the office at 7:30 in the morning, not get home until late. I remember one kid coming over to the house at 10:00 at night, looking for help.”

And he was happy to give it.

“He saw it as his job, and he loved it. He loved going to work. Never had a sick-day in 34 years.”

And the students themselves? How did they receive all this free advice? Rob Manning and his story aside, what has been the legacy of all those years of nose-poking? Here’s Yana again on the subject:

“Oh, we run into it all the time, almost anywhere we go—we were at a hockey game not long ago, and this former student of his comes up to us: ‘Aren’t you Professor Shapiro?’ And then he says to me, ‘You know, I was going to quit school, I probably would have if it wasn’t for that guy.’ Another time, we’re at the doctor’s office and we run into somebody else: ‘I used to hate math,’ he says to Bernie, ‘you were the only one who ever made it palatable.’

“Honestly, I think he probably saved some academic careers.”

But he didn’t limit his energies to the students alone. Looking back on his career, in fact, it would be hard to assess whether they, or the university itself, was the greater beneficiary.

Less than a decade into his teaching career, he was named as the first-ever faculty representative to the Lowell Tech Board of Trustees; a few years after that, following the merger with Lowell State College, he was picked by his colleagues to serve as chair of the ULowell Faculty Organization, a post he held for four years. And his contributions weren’t only to academics: in 1970, largely as a result of his efforts, and of his personal history (in his senior years as a student, he had captained the Lowell Tech lacrosse team), the men’s lacrosse program for the first time gained varsity status; a year later, he was named chair of the University Athletic Committee, a job he held for the next 15 years.

His energies seem almost without limit. And they haven’t stopped at the campus edge. Some 30 years ago, smitten at the time by a fascination with solar energy, he audited a course in it at the university—on the face of it, not a radical thing to do. But then he hired the course’s teacher to help

him build a solar home. Which he did, adding on to it over the years with a solar-powered hot-water system, then—eight years ago, by then technically retired and into his 70s—solar roof panels which, he claimed, cut his heating bills by two-thirds. “I’ve always felt that if I could be energy-efficient, that’s what I’m looking to do,” he told a reporter at the time.

He ran five Boston Marathons and later developed a passion for hiking. In the late 1970s, he bought the Heritage Farms ice-cream shop on Pawtucket Boulevard, and ran it for several years. (“My brother, my sister and I—we all worked there those summers,” remembers daughter Stevi ’83 with a laugh. “It was his thing, you know?”)

“He never does anything halfway,” says Yana. “No matter what it is, running or teaching or selling ice cream, his only way is all-in.”

These days, much of his attention goes to the couple’s two “beautiful granddaughters,” Yana says.

But the university—its students, its curricula, its politics, and lately its future—has always been near the top of the Shapiros’ list. Even now, in what they call retirement.

In the nearly 20 years since they both officially stepped down, Bernie’s and Yana’s time and energies have been gradually supplanted by their dollars. Three separate scholarships, one each to benefit students in business, mathematical sciences and Continuing Ed—“the three areas we gave our time to,” says Yana, “it seems most fitting that way”—are awarded yearly, on merit.

“The students and the university,” says Bernie, “they gave us both a fantastic career. “So this is our way of saying thanks.”

The gratitude, it seems, works both ways. Few, if any, UMass Lowell faculty members, at least in the modern era, have been as frequently, or as variously, honored as has Bernie Shapiro in the two decades since he departed the classroom. In addition to the boards and chairmanships to which he has been elected or appointed, he has been the recipient of the Francis Cabot Lowell Award for Alumni; an Honors Fellowship Award conferred by the honors program; membership in the UMass Lowell Athletic Hall of Fame for his “contribution to athletics;” and—most recently, in 2013—the university’s prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award.

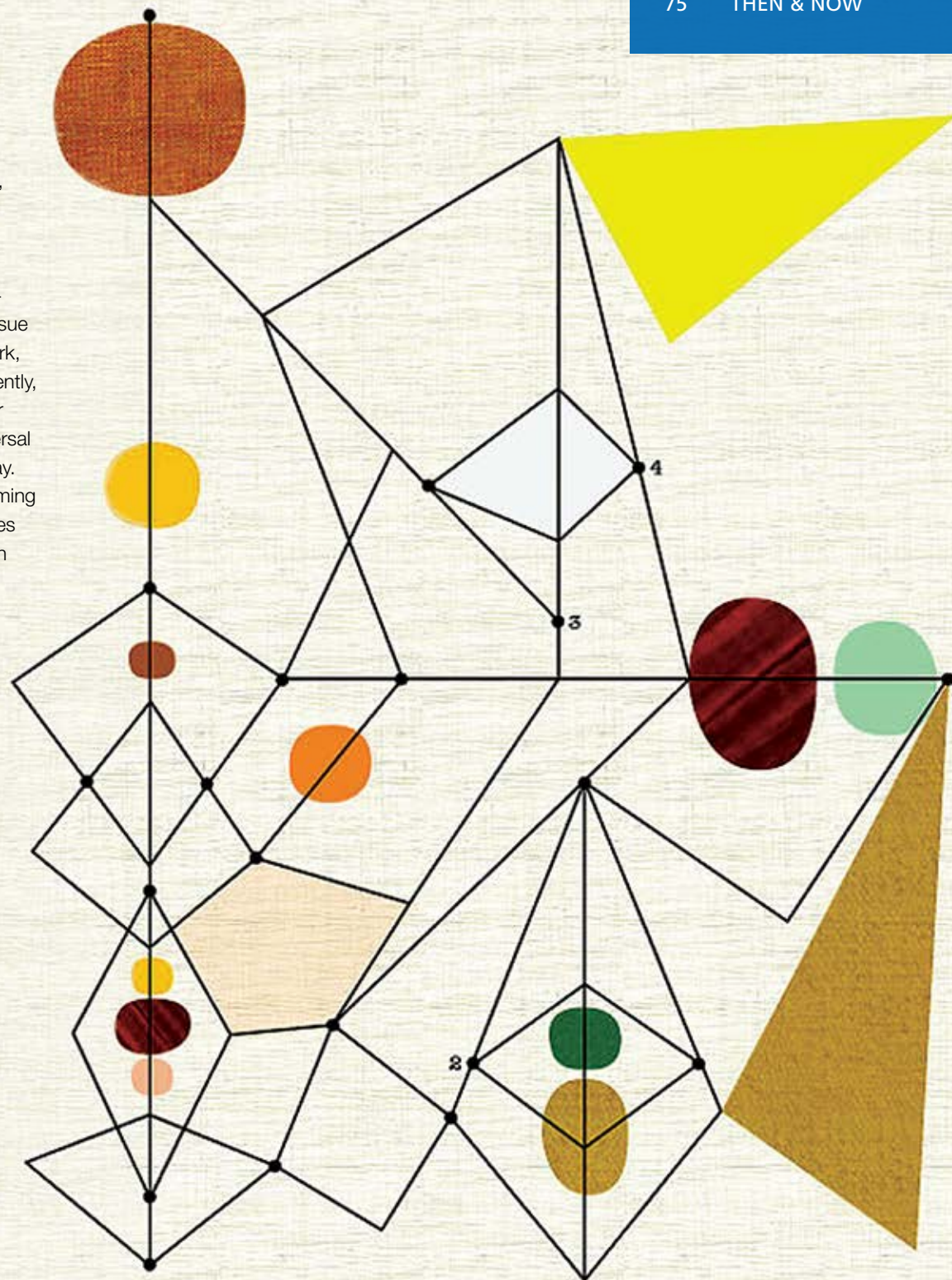
But probably none of it, in his mind, would come close to the quieter, more durable honor he received every day, from students and colleagues, in simply coming to class:

“I have loved working here. No one could have been happier in his career than I was at UMass Lowell.” ■

Alumni Life

ARTSKI!

Design alumna and Somerville resident Jennifer Skoropowski '05, who markets herself as Jenn Ski, has licensed her work for use in commercially available products—greeting cards, scrapbooking supplies, wall art, children's books, tissue boxes—for companies like Hallmark, Scotties and Hood Milk. Most recently, her artwork was commissioned for display in the hotel rooms of Universal Studios Orlando resort Cabana Bay. Jenn Ski, who has a fabric line coming out in July, has also created a series of best-selling mid-century modern coloring books for adults.



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THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

When his son Jack was diagnosed with neurofibromatosis, alumnus Jake Burke discovered the power of UMass Lowell friendships

BY ED BRENNEN



ALUMNI LIFE

UNIVERSITY of MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL



Sitting at an empty table in a quiet corner of the crowded Tsongas Center function room, Jake Burke scans the familiar faces of dozens of fellow UMass Lowell alumni and friends. A lump builds in his throat.

“It’s very humbling,” says Burke ’89, ’90, ’92. “It’s hard not to get emotional.”

River Hawks hockey coach Norm Bazin, whose team is about to take on the University of Michigan in a televised Homecoming Weekend showdown, just dropped by to say hello to Burke’s two young sons, Jack and Luke. “Are you kidding me?” Burke says after the coach heads back to the locker room. “It’s a big night for Norm Bazin and he comes up to say hi to them. What a great guy.”

Jack and Luke, meanwhile, are in grade-school-boy heaven. Decked out in their UMass Lowell gear, they dart in and out of the function room full of boring adults, sneaking bites of chicken fingers and swigs of water before returning to the bustling arena concourse, where the pep band’s brass horns and the smell of popcorn fill the air.

“I try to bring the boys up once a year to connect them with the university a little bit,” says Burke, who now lives in Atlanta with his wife, Beth, the boys and a young daughter, Grace. He is vice president of sales for Handshake, a career services management platform. “It would be great if they came to school here, but I just try to show them how important a college education is.”

As the puck drop nears, the pregame party—officially called the “Residence Life, Student Leaders and Friends Reunion of the 1980s and ’90s”—starts to wind down. Burke, who was an RA during his days at Leitch Hall and a member of the Student Government Association, corrals the boys for a group photo with three of his longtime friends: Joanne Rizzotto ’89, Diane Amerault ’89 and David Stordy ’90, MA ’93. All four grew up just outside of Boston in the working-class city of Medford, becoming good friends in high school before moving on together to UMass Lowell.

With so many shared memories, the quartet was destined to remain lifelong friends. But now, given the personal battle Burke and his family are facing with young Jack, those friendships mean more than ever.

Jack Burke was 2 years old when he was diagnosed with neurofibromatosis, a genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow in the nervous system. During a routine checkup, Jack’s doctor noticed “café-au-lait” spots on his skin, a telltale sign of the disorder that’s found in approximately one in 3,000 people.

Neither Jake nor Beth had ever heard of neurofibromatosis, and what they quickly learned frightened them. “We went home that night and looked it up on the website, and it literally brought us to our knees,” Beth says. “You see the words ‘deformities,’ ‘cancer,’ ‘brain tumors’—more than that—and you read the words ‘no treatment,’ ‘no cure.’”

While some children develop benign tumors and live almost unaffected by NF, others can develop cancerous tumors and become severely disabled. Things remained steady with

Jack until he was 4, when he began experiencing vision problems in his left eye. It was being caused by a plexiform neurofibroma, a complex tumor, growing in the eyesocket. He underwent surgery when he was 6 to reduce the size of the tumor, but it could not be removed completely.

Two years later, during a routine MRI in 2013, doctors in Atlanta discovered another tumor, this one called a glioma, on Jack’s brain stem. The Burkes were rushed to specialists in Washington, D.C., where they learned it was inoperable and the only effective treatment was a 48-week course of chemotherapy. Doctors implanted a port in Jack’s chest to administer the weekly doses of chemotherapy medicines. And so began a new way of life.

Since NF affects nearly 100,000 people in the United States, the Burkes assumed there already was well-funded research and established resources to support those living with the disorder. But that wasn’t the case. So in 2009, when Jack was 4, they created CureNFwithJack. “We weren’t going to sit on our hands,” says Burke, who hoped to raise not only awareness, but also funds for the Children’s Tumor Foundation, by making their story public.

The response blew them away.

“I’m a pretty cynical guy because I grew up in Boston and that’s just how it is. But when Jack got sick and we decided to share his story, people who I have not spoken to or seen for decades just stepped up and donated and spread the word. And it’s everything,” says Burke, who chronicles Jack’s story on the website curenfwithjack.com.

CureNFwithJack has raised nearly \$800,000 for the Children’s Tumor Foundation through annual golf tournaments and a nationwide event called “Cupid’s Undie Run,” where teams run one mile in their “bedroom best” through the winter conditions. This year the Boston team, which featured 40 runners with ties to the university, raised a national-best \$96,000 running through the snow at Fenway Park.

Burke estimates that two-thirds of that money came from UMass Lowell students, staff, faculty and alumni, including Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs Julie Nash, Boston Marathon bombing survivor Roseann Sdoia ’91, and two of Burke’s fellow RAs from Leitch Hall, Patrick Boyle ’92 and Kevin Andrews ’89.

While Burke says he loves working with CTF, he has come to realize that the relationship includes a lot of frustrating red tape and bureaucracy. So he did something about it, registering CureNFwithJack as an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in March.

“We feel like the clock is ticking,” Burke says. “Now we can use those funds as we see fit, to fund different clinical research trials or particular programs that are advancing research into NF.”



And if one of those research scientists looking for a cure happens to be working at his alma mater, well, Burke can’t imagine a more perfect scenario.

“Why not use a world-class institution that I feel like I’ve given my heart and soul to, that I’ve had an impact on, to turn around and say, ‘We’re going to be the university that does this.’ I would love that,” he says. “On the front end, you have all these wonderful people from the university donating to CureNFwithJack. Then to turn around and fund research to help find a cure for him ... I mean, Disney couldn’t write that story.”

Burke’s college pal David Stordy, who sits on the College of Health Sciences advisory board, agrees that it would be a win-win. “The No. 1 goal is to create a better life for others who have NF in the future,” he says. “And if the university can play a part in that, that’s success.”

Jack turned the big 1-0 on Jan. 24 of this year, a double-digit milestone that’s a pretty big deal for every kid. “He’s a typical 10-year-old,” Burke says. “A lot of kids who have NF will also have associated learning issues, but he’s a smart kid and he’s doing pretty well. He’s got a great community in his school. All the kids look out for him and the teachers are great.”

Burke says an MRI following last year’s chemotherapy treatments showed Jack’s glioma had shrunk by 5 millimeters, but a follow-up MRI in March showed it regrown by 20 percent. Doctors also discovered a syrinx, a rare, fluid-filled cavity, on his spinal column that may require surgery. Now they wait and see if things stabilize. “He is asymptomatic currently but we don’t know how that may change,” Burke says.

Before the hockey game at the Tsongas Center, Jack certainly sounds and acts like a typical kid as he runs around on the concourse with 7-year-old Luke. When Jack pauses for a quick interview, he reveals that wrestling is his favorite sport and he likes visiting Boston. Since his dad went to UMass Lowell and his mom went to Michigan, Jack is asked which team he’s rooting for that night. “I’m cheering for both teams tonight,” he says diplomatically.

Back in the function room, Jake catches up with a few more old friends before taking his family to their seats. Surrounded by supporters, he’s overcome with gratitude.

“When you have people that give of themselves for your kid ... there’s just nothing better than that. Ever,” he says. “And if that has something to do with how I’ve impacted someone else’s life here, I’m good with that.”

“But this is my mission in life,” he adds. “At some point Jack’s going to be a 22-year-old guy and want to hang out and have beers. And he’s going to say, ‘What did you do?’ And I’m going to be able to say to him, ‘I did everything I could.’ And I’m hoping that’s enough.” ■

“ON THE FRONT END, YOU HAVE ALL THESE WONDERFUL PEOPLE FROM THE UNIVERSITY DONATING. THEN TO TURN AROUND AND FUND RESEARCH TO HELP FIND A CURE FOR HIM ... I MEAN, DISNEY COULDN’T WRITE THAT STORY.”

1. Jack Burke 2. Julie Nash and Jake Burke participate in Cupid’s Undie Run. 3. John Zaccane and Kathy Sousa after finishing Cupid’s Undie Run. 4. From left, Joanne Rizzotto, the Burke family, Diane Amerault and David Stordy enjoy Homecoming Weekend.

History Professor Emeritus Mary Blewett '65 has moved from writing history to writing fiction. Her first novel, "Dealt Hands: A Novel of the Seventies," recalls her first years teaching at Lowell State College. She is now working on a Civil War novel set in Beverly.

1968

Stanley Jacobs recently celebrated his 46th wedding anniversary. He is now retired with two children and 11 grandchildren. He continues to stay active in music as a singer and says he also has gained a passion for rowing and owns a racing single.

1969

Alfred Thibodeau rode his bicycle 4,800 miles in 2014 and rode his age (67) in miles on his birthday.

1973

Jack Neary is the producer of the Greater Lowell Music Theatre based at UMass Lowell. He also is the author of the play "Auld Lang Syne," recently produced by Gloucester Stage, and "Kong's Night Out," recently published by the Dramatic Publishing Company.

1975 - 40th Reunion

It's hard to believe it's that time but save the date for your 40th Reunion during River Hawk Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 23-24. If you're interested in helping on the reunion committee, email Ronan_Campbell@uml.edu or call 978-934-3140.

John Custy, president of JPC Group and a 35-year veteran of the IT industry, has been honored with the Ron Muns Lifetime Achievement Award and the IT Industry Legends

Award. John, whose IT career began in 1975 as system analyst for Stone & Webster, said the awards from his peers were "truly humbling."

1976

Michael Andrew moved to Dubai in 2009 to assume the post of group vice president for talent management and leadership development for a global telecom with operations in 22 countries. He has since moved to Saudi Arabia where he works for a large private firm owned in part by the royal family. His new boss is a royal highness prince from King Faisal's family line. Michael is the chief talent officer and advisor to the board. In 2009, he published his first book, "How to Think Like a CEO and Act Like a Leader." A new book, "The Greatest Leader He Ever Saw," is ready for publication.

1980

Eamonn Hobbs is now the CEO of Antares Pharma Inc.



John Garrity '82 and Thomas Rosato were married at the Manhattan Marriage Bureau in New York City in April. John is a CPA and senior manager at the New York accounting firm of Lipsky Goodkin & Co. and his spouse is a partner in Deloitte, an accounting and consulting firm.

1983



James Moran '83, '86 was married to the former Jane F. Bush in December 2014 in Methuen. James recently earned an A.L.M. degree in extension studies from Harvard University in the field of biotechnology with a concentration in bioengineering and nanotechnology. He is a senior member of the staff at the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory.

1984

Lisa Brothers was featured recently in Boston Business Journal's "Women Up" section. Lisa, president and CEO of Nitsch Engineering, is passionate about gender issues in the field of engineering. She says UMass Lowell's affordability and commitment

to helping students become "workplace ready" is a key part of the solution. Lisa is a member of the Chancellor's External Advisory Board, past chair and member of the College of Engineering/Industrial Advisory Board, and a member of the Center for Women and Work Advisory Board.

1985

Colleen Hogan-Mazzola, the daughter of retired Chancellor William T. Hogan and the late Mary Ellen Hogan, is director of the early childhood education program at Nashoba Valley Technical High School and an adjunct evening professor at Middlesex Community college. She is married to James Mazzola '82, who studied plastics engineering. They have two daughters, both graduating this spring. The older is a graduate student at Harvard University and the other is an undergraduate there. Colleen will begin her doctoral studies in education this fall.

Susan Chaisson Schueller '85 '13, who received a master of science degree in information technology, was accepted into this spring's cohort for the doctorate of science in cybersecurity at Capitol Technology University. In 2014, Susan represented the Society of Women Engineers and IEEE/ Women in Engineering as a speaker at several technical conferences and educational outreach workshops. Susan is also a metro Boston musician performing on flute, piccolo and cello in several ensembles.

She also is a volunteer for the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Instrument Playgrounds for children.

1986

Richard Schueller, who graduated with a degree in physics, is an avid astronomer and an educational outreach volunteer for the New Hampshire Astronomical Society.

1988

Greg McCaffrey, an experienced global business consulting executive, supports industry sectors such as public, financial services, transportation, energy, information technology, communications, manufacturing and health care. After graduating, he served on active duty as a U.S. Air Force officer. Since 1994, he has functioned as a professional services industry leader in roles such as partner, regional/country general manager, VP, COO and president. In small and large professional services firms, he built and managed high-performance consulting teams supporting public sector and Fortune 500 commercial sector clients with delivery performed in more than 46 countries. He has lived and worked throughout the Americas, Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

1989

Alice Bonner, a Northeastern University associate professor known nationally for her work with older Americans, has been named Secretary of Elder Affairs for Massachusetts. She previously directed the nursing home division for the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid in the Obama administration. Alice was a UMass Lowell Alumni Award honoree in 2012.

In his role as supervisor of the FBI's Boston Cyber National Security Guard, Special Agent Kevin Swindon '89 appeared during the trial of Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev in March. Kevin testified as to the validity of the jihadi files on the digital devices in evidence—including laptops, cell phones, iPods, thumb drives, a desktop computer and a portable hard drive.

1990 - 25th Reunion

It's hard to believe it's that time but save the date for your 25th Reunion during River Hawk Homecoming Weekend: Oct. 23-24. If you're interested in helping on the reunion committee, email Heather_Makrez@uml.edu or call 978-934-3140.

Bill Campbell ran the 2015 Boston Marathon to benefit the Krystle Campbell Scholarship Fund, named for one of three people killed in the 2013 marathon bombing. The fund was established by Bill's uncle and aunt, UMass Trustee Richard Campbell and his wife, Barbara. Krystle was not a Campbell relative but, like Richard, she graduated from Medford High School and UMass Boston.

1992

Peter Furlong will be performing in multiple concerts and operas around the globe this spring with his wife, Julie. For more information about the performances and Peter's work, visit <http://www.peter-furlong.com/>.

David Rich '92, '95 started his own company, InvestigativeTactics.net, after working at LEO & Co. in Massachusetts and Florida.

1993

Eric Gagnon, director of the Portsmouth (N.H.) High School Band, has been recognized with one of Portsmouth Public Media's first Inspiration Awards for "his commitment to hundreds of students each year that helps them develop the skills essential for becoming successful musicians and well-rounded citizens." During Eric's 21 years as director, the band size has grown from 30 to 130 students.

Scott Henrickson published his book, "The Toughest Job: The Crossroads of One Man's Peace Corps Experience," last October.

1994

Myra F. Cacace was named president of ANA Massachusetts, the state affiliate of the American Nurses Association. Myra, a charter member and experienced nurse practitioner, assumed the presidency during the organization's 14th Annual Awards Dinner and Spring Conference in April. She is a nurse practitioner in a busy primary care practice in Southbridge and served as president-elect for the past year. She previously served as director and secretary. Since 2002, Myra has been the editor of ANA Massachusetts' official newsletter, the Massachusetts Report on Nursing, a quarterly publication that reaches 122,000 RNs across the state. She holds a master of science in nursing degree from UMass Lowell.



ALUMNA HELPS CLEAN THE AIR WE BREATHE

Imagine an intelligent car made of advanced materials and an eco-friendly, super-efficient power train that produces zero emissions and delivers 100-plus miles per gallon. That's the future of motor vehicles envisioned by Margo T. Oge '72, '75, former director of the Office of Transportation and Air Quality at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C.

Oge, who retired from the EPA after 32 years of distinguished service, visited the campus this spring to talk to students and faculty as part of Engineering Dean Joseph Hartman's colloquium series. Oge is the author of the book "Driving the Future: Combating Climate Change with Cleaner, Smarter Cars," which was published this year by Arcade Publishing in New York.

In her book, Oge gives an insider account of the politics behind the car industry and climate change, and how she helped make possible the Obama Administration's landmark 2012 deal with automakers to double the efficiency of vehicles sold in the U.S. market to 54.5 mpg and cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2025, saving consumers nearly \$2 trillion at the pump. She says that improvements in air quality have resulted in the "prevention of 40,000 premature deaths and hundreds of thousands of cases of respiratory illness annually," without sacrificing jobs or the country's economic growth.

During her talk, Oge told the audience that when she first arrived in America from Athens, Greece in 1968, she didn't speak a word of English. In fact, when she began her study at UMass Lowell, she was placed on academic probation due to her poor performance.

"But I worked hard at it," Oge told the students. "I said to myself: if things seem impossible, make them possible. Have resilience." She then went on to receive bachelor's and master's degrees in plastics engineering from Lowell in 1972 and 1975, respectively.

Oge is currently vice chairman of the board of DeltaWing Technologies, a board member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and sits on a Department of Energy advisory committee on hydrogen and fuel cells. She has also received Presidential Awards from Bill Clinton and George W. Bush and numerous environmental and industry awards. ■

THE COFFEE KING:

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

40 YEARS OF RISK, GRIT AND A WAY WITH PEOPLE

As a kid in the '60s, on Lovell Street in Somerville, he shared a twin bed with his brother, seven people took turns in one bathroom, his grandparents slept in the next room and there were aunts and uncles up and down the neighborhood. Most anyone else might remember it as crowded. But for George Zografos '76, the crowd was the happiest part of things.

"The coffee pot was always on the stove," he says today, his voice lifting a little at the thought. "People always coming and going, just about 24 hours a day."

People and coffee. Coffee linking people. To hear him recount the memory, 40-odd years later, given the direction that life has taken him in—you have to wonder if that was where it all began.

Because coffee came back into the picture early: in 1978, only a couple of years after his graduation from ULowell with a degree in marketing, when he took a job with Dunkin' Donuts in Vernon, Conn. He began as store manager, a job that widened within a few years to district manager, then to one as company trainer, whose duties had him flying up and down the East Coast overseeing on-the-job training for new franchisees—most of whom, he couldn't help but notice, were making more money than he was.

The franchise bug had bitten him hard. "I think that was when I first began to realize that with a franchise, you're in business for yourself, but not by yourself," Zografos says. "That's a pretty great way to work."

His first plan was to buy into a small ice-cream franchise with a \$20,000 loan from his father. When it came time to close the deal, though, he couldn't go through with it: the risk was too great, and his father couldn't afford the loss. He stayed where he was a while longer.

But then in 1986 his father died. A year later, he got married—to a woman he'd met when she'd applied for a job at the Vernon store several years before (there were no openings at the time, but she came back). That

same year, having apparently decided that coffee was a better risk than ice cream, he bought his first franchise: a Dunkin' Donuts on Cape Cod, the first of 13 he would own there. The year after that, his first son arrived; two years later, his second.

But the road from there to here has been anything but smooth. He made mistakes, especially early: over-committed himself, failed to allow for the seasonality of business on the Cape. More than once, Zografos says, he came close to losing the business. One of those times, on the edge of bankruptcy, he stayed alive with a \$50,000 loan from an uncle. "Pay me back when you can," he says his uncle told him. He did.

Then, nine years ago, he stuck his neck out again: bought into a Harley-Davidson dealership, in Bourne, for what he describes as "several million dollars." A year and a half later, the recession hit. No one was buying motorcycles, on the Cape or anywhere else. For five straight years, he lost money: "lots of money, which led to lots of sleepless nights." But he stuck it out ("I just really believe in powerful brands")—until, by 2012, the economy had started its turnaround. Not long ago, he sold his majority interest to a partner.

But through it all, Zografos will tell you that for all the help he had from his uncle, all his risk-tolerance and all the belief he had in his brands or in himself, what finally made the difference between bankruptcy and success were the people who came to work every day.

One of them, the one he is proudest of (and probably proudest of hiring) is Liz Whitehead, one of his earliest Dunkin' employees, who came to him as a single mother of two, barely ahead of welfare. He didn't have an opening at the time, but liked her spunk; she said she liked his T-shirt ("Attitudes Are Contagious," it read on the front, and on the back, "Is Yours Worth Catching?"). He hired her on the spot. Today she is president of the company.

"It all comes down to people," he says. "If you treat them well, train them properly, give them the opportunity to make decisions, it'll all work out in the end. I believe that with all my heart."

Zografos is in wind-down mode today. He and Cathy, married 28 years, have three sons now. The older two are launched; the youngest, Cory, is a senior at UMass Lowell. He's off-loading franchises these days, no longer buying them; he plans to get down to one Dunkin' Donuts, his minority share in the Harley store, and a fitness center in Amherst N.H., Anytime Fitness, which he says his son Paul will run.

He has more time for friends these days: especially his old buddies from Psi Gamma Psi at ULowell, whom he gets together with four or five Sundays a year at the Cameo Diner just a mile or so upriver from campus. "One of the best things to come out of my time at ULowell," he says, "was the group of friends I made there. Our old frat is no longer, of course, but those friendships have lasted for life."

With the time he has left over, he sits on some boards—including the Dunkin' Advisory Board—and keeps his hand in the stores he still owns. But mostly, Zografos says, the time for risk is past:

"I'm 61, my kids are all doing their thing—it's time to start cashing out. I plan to ski a lot, ride my Harley a lot, enjoy life as much as I can. The next 10-15 years, for Cathy and me, are prime time." ■



► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1977

BY DAVID PERRY

An Operatic Arc

It took some time, plenty of help and even more hard work for opera singer Yvonne Frazier to find the voice that was there all along.

Once she did, she soared. After gracing stages around the world and rendering the works of Verdi, Mozart and Strauss, Frazier continues to perform a lighter schedule, while helping others find their voices.



Lowell's music department, who showed her the way to her future, despite some early bumps in the road.

She uses three decades of stage experience to teach others of all levels to sing and speak in public. She has worked with Teachers in Training Seminars, professors at Berlin's Evangelical Nursing School and Bard College Berlin. She also works with corporate clients.

The arc of her story is operatic.

A Cleveland native, she moved to Provincetown High School at 15 to find a distinct lag in art and music education. She excelled in those areas, but she was behind her Cape Cod classmates in other academic areas. She says her deficiencies were "enormous, almost insurmountable and painfully obvious." An English teacher tutored her for two hours a day, for two years, to catch her up.

Yet, she loved to draw. She was told she needed oil painting experience to get into design school.

But she could sing, thanks to a competitive music program in Cleveland. During American Youth Performs rehearsals and concerts (composed of vocalists and instrumentalist selected

from all over the state of Massachusetts), the conductor, a Smith College professor and dean of music, noticed Frazier and offered her a scholarship for study at Smith. But Smith, she says, "was still way out of my reach financially and socially."

So she applied to three other institutions, including ULowell. It was within reach.

But there was something else when the young soprano showed up for the requisite day of entrance audition all prospective music majors performed.

From the instant she arrived on the Lowell campus, "I had a moment in which I saw myself bustling across campus in a sort of fast forward vision, which communicated to me that Lowell was to be where I would eventually call my academic home." That premonition carried her through the vocal, sight reading and written tests "for which I was not fully prepared."

After the first week of the semester's placement auditions, Frazier didn't make even the lowest of the campus choirs. Her voice teacher Barbara McClosky kept her from dropping out. She gave Frazier extra lessons and became a lifelong mentor.

Frazier eventually reached the most prestigious choir at ULowell. She presented several solo recitals, and was invited to sing for other music students who needed a voice in theirs. She directed and sang in an all-student, one-hour opera and when McClosky suggested she learn the part of the mother in "Amahl and the Night Visitors," a Christmas opera presented by Lowell's opera workshop, as a learning exercise, fate stepped in. The lead broke an ankle. Frazier stepped in so rehearsals could continue. The lead recovered, and as a thank you to Frazier, performances were added where she sang lead, too.

During one of those performances, Frazier realized that opera would be her path. And she drew upon the lessons she learned at Lowell to reach her future: seize every opportunity, make opportunity from rejection, press forward without giving up. She probably took something away about teaching, too.



While still a student in Lowell, the woman who couldn't at first make the college's lowest level choir was asked to sing solo in the faculty-student quartet in the Verdi Requiem for the dedication of the newly built music facility, Cyrus Durgin Hall, and was accepted to sing with the Tanglewood Festival Choir, which is the Boston Symphony Orchestra choir. She earned scholarships for two summers of study at Tanglewood when Seiji Ozawa and Leonard Bernstein were directors. While there, she studied voice with Phyllis Curtain from Yale.

After her graduation from Lowell, she worked at Boston University before heading to New York to study voice privately and at Juilliard, where she earned a study grant.

Her classical career was launched on the stages of Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center and in Europe she debuted in Rome at the Rome Opera in the world premiere of the Robert Wilson/Phillip Glass collaboration, the "CIVIL warS V." She sang all over North America and Europe and a 1987 residency led to a permanent move to Germany. She moved to Berlin in 2005.

She still sings oratorio, galas and concerts, but Frazier focuses on teaching, training and coaching singers and public speakers.

And every now and then, she gets a visitor from home. ■

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1981

GIVING THE 'GIFT OF REBIRTH'

The life path Suzanne Conrad has followed could be an object lesson for the Rule of Unpredictable Outcomes.

She was born in Germany to a Dutch mother and a U.S.-soldier father, spent her early years on an Air Force base in Chicopee, Mass.—her father was a jet mechanic—where she went to sleep at night, she remembers, to the roar of the B-52s. After a Catholic-school girlhood, she was offered a scholarship at Boston University, but felt "totally out of place there" and dropped out at the end of a semester. She transferred to ULowell, where her boyfriend was enrolled, and where the students, she says, were "blue-collar, just like me." She worked part-time at a hospital in Boston, sold 25-cent drafts at the bar on the main floor of Fox Hall, and graduated in 1981 with a bachelor's in nursing.

Her first job after graduation was at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut, where she was hired as a bedside nurse for heart-surgery patients. It was farther away than she'd wanted to be—she had hoped to find work in Boston—but it was a job, and the work was rewarding. And it would lead to other things.

She had been there two years when she got the call that would decide her life's work: Hartford Hospital was in the process of launching an organ-transplant program, the first of its kind in the state. Would she be interested in learning about the field? "I was young, it was an opportunity," is how she remembers it today.

That led to a training stint in Pittsburgh, which got her back to Hartford and her new job: "to locate donors"—of kidneys, hearts or livers—"evaluate them, then get consent. It was challenging work, but hugely rewarding."

That was 31 years ago. The challenges, as well as the rewards, have continued to accrue—even as they have taken her ever farther from Massachusetts, and from the nursing career she had trained for and planned. Her first stop after Hartford was Dallas, where she spent 12 years in various positions with the Southwest Organ Bank.

She is in Iowa today, outside Iowa City, where she has been the past 18 years ("You'd have to say I was a Midwesterner now," she says): wife, mother to two boys, stepmom to two more, and CEO of the Iowa Donor Network, an independent organ procurement agency, the only one in the state, with 150 employees and an annual yearly budget of \$22 million. The agency, besides managing a



Three generations: Suzanne Conrad, center right in red, with her family at home in Iowa.

database of 1.8 million registered organ and tissue donors in the state, screens at least 12,000 calls a year, arranges for roughly 1,000 donations of tissue (skin, bone and tendon, often to benefit burn victims), and 60-odd organ donations.

"It's meaningful work," she says. "For me, it's always been important to do meaningful work."

Just how meaningful the work can be was brought home to her by something that happened 10 years ago: a fellow board member at the Network, 67 years old, went into kidney failure, and neither his wife's nor his daughter's kidneys were compatible. But Suzanne Conrad's were.

"That was an eye-opening experience for me," she says. "First of all, I'd never been a patient in a hospital before, never had surgery. So it was a totally new thing from that angle. And then to be able to do that for someone, by giving them a piece of yourself—it just really brought home the perspective, in the most personal sort of way, on what we're doing here."

She had given her kidney as a live, healthy donor, while the mission of the Network is to facilitate transplants from donors who are deceased. While the distinction is important, she would tell you, the blessings abound either way:

"The opportunity to donate the organ or tissues of a loved one, lost to sudden death, can make an incredible difference for the grieving family members," she told a reporter not long ago. "It is often the only bright spot in a very dark chapter. And for the recipients, the gift is a rebirth. Their gratitude is energizing to me." —GD



Mark Dupont '78 and Christine Erkkila Dupont '86 met in 1989 during a ULowell modern dance course at the Mogan Center. Mark was the only guy in the class and, as fate would have it, was partnered with Christine on the first day of class. After a few weeks, Mark asked her out for Chinese food. They were married in 1992 and have children.

Andrew McSpirtt '78 and Bonnie Stewart McSpirtt '79 met when they lived in Fox Hall. After a year of friendship, the two went to a dance at the Rathskeller where they both were bartenders. Andrew kissed Bonnie goodnight and that's when they fell for each other. They remain close with their group of friends from the university and their youngest daughter just graduated from UMass Lowell.

John Mavroides '81 and Joanne Marcotte Mavroides '82 met in 1980 through John's roommate in Leitch Hall. Joanne worked with him during the 1980 census and met John at his roommate's going-away party. It was love at first sight and the couple was married in 1983. They are members of the Engineering Advisory Board and River Hawk hockey season ticket holders. They have two sons, one of whom is a student at UMass Lowell.

Joe Ferolito '85 and Mary Ellen Yorston Ferolito '86 met at UMass Lowell in a class that Joe begged to enroll in after learning that Mary Ellen was taking it. He still remembers what she was wearing when he first saw her and wrote about her in English class. He got a kiss and the next day they attended a Police concert together. They've been married for almost 30 years and have two children.

Brian Raymond '87 and Susan Dunn Raymond '87 met on campus as physical therapy majors. Brian followed Susan to California and eventually brought her back to Methuen. They are both physical therapists and have been married for 22 years.

Guy DeMartinis '90,'94,'98,'08 and Michele Walker DeMartinis '90 met on campus in 1985. Guy was a sound recording major and Michele was a music education major. Guy went on to earn a degree in physics, and a master's degree and a doctorate in electrical engineering. The couple married in 1993. Guy works at the Submillimeter-Wave Technology Laboratory on campus.

Chris Oak '07,'09 and Alycia Oak '08 met at the university while Chris was a teacher's assistant. Chris claims that Alycia purposely asked for extra help. After the semester ended, he asked her to go to a River Hawks hockey game with him. The rest is history.

Did you meet your partner at UMass Lowell (or one of its predecessors)? Tell us your love story: alumni_office@uml.edu.

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1980

THE PATH OF A PATENT ATTORNEY

Bill Geary on a recent vacation in Maui

As a student at ULowell in the late 1970s, where he worked as a floor counselor in Smith Hall and captained the swim team his last two years, Bill Geary's first choice of a major was biology. He had hoped, he says, to be a doctor. By the time he graduated, in 1980, his aspirations had shifted: his degree was in plastics engineering. Today, though, he is neither physician nor engineer—though his early training in each, he says, is a big part of what's allowed him to be what he is.

"Mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, polymers, surgical tools, implantable devices—that's turf I understand," says Geary, today among New England's leading patent and trademark attorneys, with a specialty in the medical-device industry. "I got a pretty good grounding in all that [at ULowell], which really served me well starting out. In the intellectual property field, the better you know the products your clients are involved with, the better off you are. And I know them pretty well."

In addition to the benefit of good training, he says, his career in law—which began following his completion of law school at Case Western Reserve, in Ohio, in 1983—was also the beneficiary of some very good timing.

"The 1980s and '90s, that was kind of a boom time for technology investment," he says. "The economy was favorable, a lot of companies were investing." And it was around then, too, he says, that some federal court rulings heightened the protections for intellectual property—"which put even more juice behind things. Between all that, it was a good time to be starting out."

Geary, a Masters-level open-water swimmer, is a veteran of the Maui Channel Swim, the Chesapeake Bay Swim (which he swam with his daughter), the eight-mile Boston Light Swim and several others. But he's also a 30-year veteran of the intellectual property field, where he has represented clients in adversarial proceedings and before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. As a member of the Boston firm of Mintz Levin, his work, draws on his background in medical technology, polymers and advanced

materials (though he has worked with products as diverse as jewelry clasps and floppy-disk liners) and involves counsel on all phases of patent and trademark law. Much of that work, he says, has to do with "positioning" clients in the marketplace—or what he likes to call "building the picket fences" that will define their particular areas of uniqueness.

His clients run the gamut from small start-ups to multinationals as large as Johnson & Johnson, and from medical-technology manufacturers to research giants like Mass General.

But it is the small ones, he says, that often present an interesting challenge.

"They're just really rewarding to work with," he says. "You get the opportunity to impart knowledge, to talk with them about their product, their technology. You try to give them a roadmap to follow, sort of mark out the schoolyard they need to play in. Then, hopefully, you stand back and watch their success."

It is that same fascination with start-up clients that he brings to the work he has done lately with the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2), the joint initiative of the UMass Lowell and Worcester campuses that provides research and incubation space for small tech companies, often also offering them access to early-stage investors. In addition to serving on the M2D2 advisory board, he has worked as an adviser to the small tech companies that make up the entrants in the Center's annual New Venture Competition, which last year awarded \$50,000 in legal, business and technical support to its top four winners.

"We try to help them tell their stories, to put their messages across," he says. "We can be a real asset to them. We're familiar with the types of investors they're after, we know what those guys are looking for."

Designed to showcase new ideas coming out of early-stage medical-device companies, last year's third-annual New Venture competition welcomed startups from around the world. Its 15 finalists—who included the makers of form-fitting prosthetic limbs, dental implants guided by 3-D imaging, and a device to aid in epidural injections—included entrants from as far away as South Africa.

"Steve McCarthy and Steve Tello [M2D2's director and co-director, respectively] have done a terrific job building this thing," says Geary. "Three years ago I think we only had 15 competitors total. Last year it was more than 45. And they're coming from all over the world."

Also, he says—as with so much else, it seems, Bill Geary has a hand in—the timing involved has been key:

"The investors seem willing to invest. The money so far has been there. I'd say that points to a bright economic future. You just have to hope it lasts." ■

2000

Colleen Cormier uses the knowledge gained in her science degree work in her field of clinical research.

2001

George Dristiliaris is an attorney practicing in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

2002

Krista Kostiew was promoted in January from associate to counsel at Cantor Colburn LLP, a Hartford, Conn., law firm specializing in intellectual property matters. Krista's practice concentrates on various chemical and polymer related technologies.

2003

Nate Jenkins, '03, '04, a seventh grade math teacher at Consentino Middle School in Haverhill, ran in his first Boston Marathon this year and was the subject of a Runners World Magazine film project. The magazine's filmmakers got footage of him teaching and training to see what it takes to combine a full-time teaching career with high-level competition. Nate placed 7th at the 2008 Olympic marathon trials. More about him is available at runnersworld.com.

2004

Jarrold Brown has been awarded the Sontag Prize in Urban Education for Mathematics, an honor that recognizes outstanding teaching in mathematics, English language arts and other disciplines. Jarrold leads classes as part of the LPS Acceleration Academy, a program designed to provide targeted small group support for students.

2005 – 10th Reunion

It's been 10 years since you graduated from UMass Lowell. Save the date for your 10th Reunion during River Hawk Homecoming Weekend: Oct. 23-24. If you're interested in helping on the reunion committee, email Reja_Gamble@uml.edu or call 978-934-3140.



2006

Lindsay Averbook recently became the clinical supervisor at Eliot

Community Human Services of Lexington, a non-profit organization that serves people of all ages throughout Massachusetts.

2007

Taylor Kloss founded Creative TK Consulting in 2013, a business in which she works one-on-one with owners to create, design and implement plans tailored to their particular businesses. After developing a vision together, Taylor takes the owner's goals from concept to reality. Recently she enlisted the help of Thalia Chodat, a UMass Lowell business and entrepreneurship undergraduate as an assistant project manager.

2008

Michael Satterwhite recently opened his own law practice



2009

Scott Morrill '09,'11, band director at the Wilson Middle School in Natick, has received an Educator Shining Light Award from the Natick Education Foundation. The award is given to an individual who has made a sustained outstanding professional contribution to the town's children.

Ruben Sanca '09,'10 earned his second consecutive top 25 finish at the Boston Marathon, placing 24th overall with a time of 2:21:58.

after managing a national business and trial law firm. In addition to practicing law, he is on the

board of the Malden Chamber of Commerce, the Lynn Community Connections coalition and the Lupus Foundation of America's Boston Walk to End Lupus Now.

OVER THE MOON

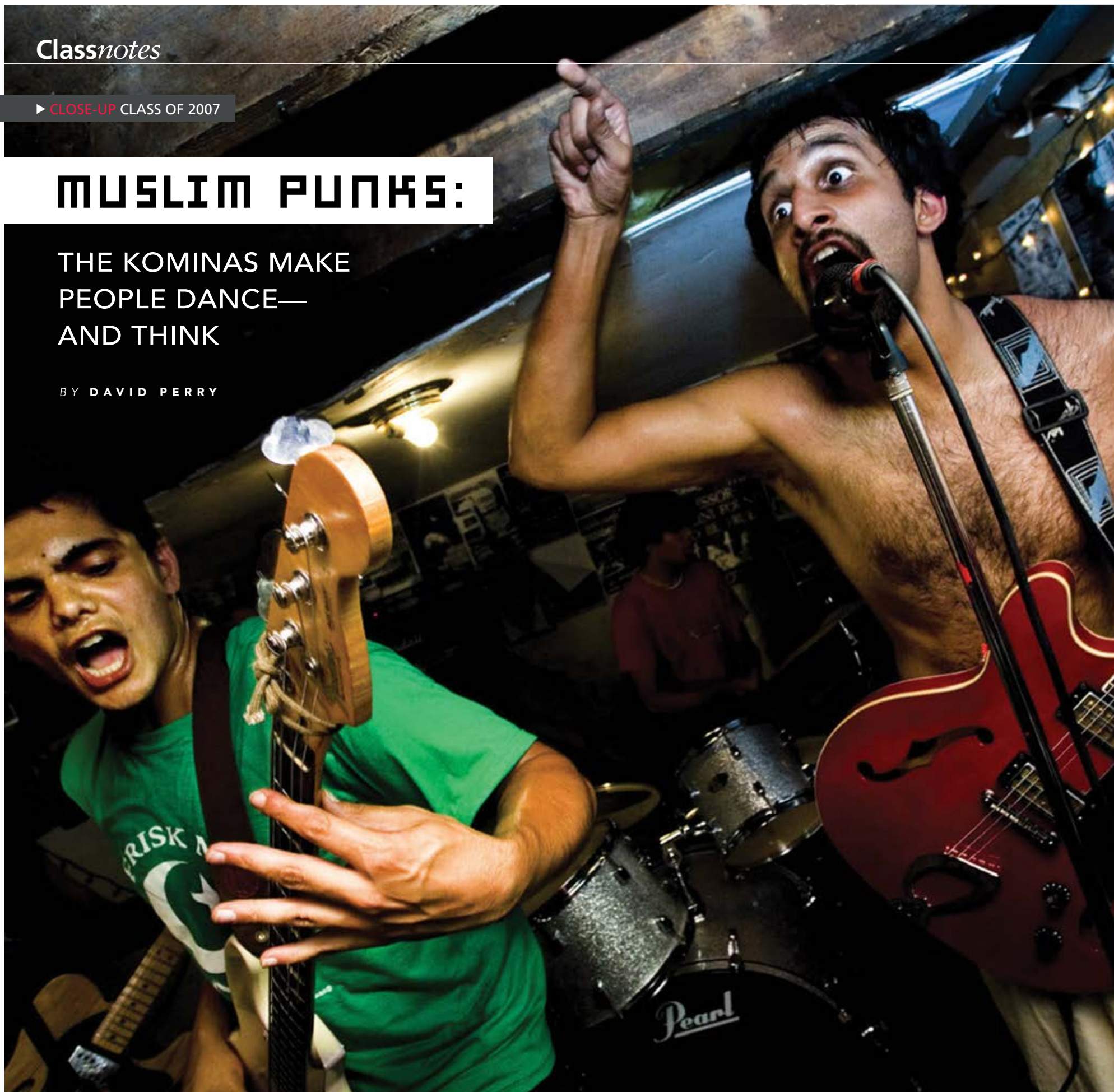
The electro-pop quartet "Bearstronaut," made up of four alumni—Dave Martineau '10, Philip Boisvert '10, Nate Marsden and Paul Lamontagne '12—recently beat more than 8,000 other submissions to win the Converse and Guitar Center's second annual Get Out of the Garage contest. Along with other prizes, the band won \$25,000 cash and will perform on Jimmy Kimmel Live. Bearstronaut will release its first full-length album, "Telecoast" later this year.



MUSLIM PUNKS:

THE KOMINAS MAKE
PEOPLE DANCE—
AND THINK

BY DAVID PERRY

A DECADE AGO, THE KOMINAS ADOPTED A MISSION.
IT CAME WITH THREE CHORDS AND A SNEER.

It was about music. And it was, at least in part, about the same thing punk rock has always been about—a place for misfits and social and political outcasts. Outcasts often form their own community. Their goal? Speak for the unheard; enlighten the ignorant; fight for the embattled. And rock.

The Kominas wanted to be one thing: the band they never had growing up.

They blazed a trail as Muslim punks, refusing to be vilified. They are Sex Pistols and The Clash, with some lyrics in Urdu and Punjabi.

And it began at UMass Lowell.

Guitarist and vocalist Shahjehan Khan '07—who's on track to wrap up coursework for a master's degree in community social psychology here in December—and bassist/vocalist Basim Usmani '07 met as teenagers in a Wayland mosque. They're both 31 now, but when they were teens, their moms thought they'd get along. They did. Usmani was raised in Lexington, and Khan was "the only brown kid" in his Boxborough school. They eventually skipped Sunday school and headed for Guitar Center.

Khan played guitar. Usmani handled the bass. They embraced different musical styles. Khan was a Rage Against the Machine and Green Day fan, and Usmani loved Goth-rock.

As UMass Lowell freshmen years later, they bonded deeper, after re-connecting in O'Leary Library. They wrote "Sharia Law in the USA" here and the pair "recorded some of our most political stuff" in a Durgin Hall classroom, says Usmani.

The two music fans had watched Islamophobia settle in amid the rubble of 9/11. People made assumptions about Muslims. It was personal.

"In Boxborough, at the time I was there, there just weren't other brown kids, especially in high school," says Khan. "But it wasn't much of a thing until that week of 9/11. The day after, people were coming up to me and saying, 'What did your people do?'"

Why, they thought, should anyone apologize for something they had nothing to do with?

Khan and Usmani say the fear and hatred of Muslims ebbs and flows but has never died.

Usmani, who has written for VICE magazine, penned a Boston Globe op-ed last July about the difficulty—and irony—of being flagged at airports and borders for the new generations of immigrants the U.S. claims to embrace.

"We were always being put on the defensive for this political stuff," says Usmani. "Why is this happening?"

They braced for a fresh round of Islamophobia after the attacks on Charlie Hebdo, and fear and misinformation raced through Europe.

If you wanted to provoke a response in a post Sept. 11 United States, billing your group as a Muslim punk band would be one of your best options. With two other players (the current lineup features Khan; Usmani; drummer Karna Ray, the band's lone non-Muslim; and guitarist Sunny Ali), they formed The Kominas.

They slipped quietly into punk's white boy club and, almost immediately, got attention.

"We didn't even have an album before we got an article in Rolling Stone," says a smiling Khan. "That's not the way it is supposed to happen."

But when you are punk provocateurs of the first order and name a song "Sharia Law in the USA" and an album "Wild Nights in Guantanamo Bay," you're going to draw attention.

In the decade since their formation, The Kominas (Punjabi for "The Bastards") have released three albums, worked to puncture prejudice and misrepresentation and played some music. They are planning the release of a fresh batch of reggae-inflected punk this summer, perhaps as a series of EPs.

"A lot of songs have been gestating," says Usmani. "And a lot of the songs we recorded felt very summery. So it seems to be the right time to set them loose."

On May 11, they performed as part of a New York City-based interactive, multimedia event called "Muslim/American," which featured live performances and interactive programs exploring the places where Muslim and American identities meet.

Earlier, in March, they were part of a panel discussion at the Africa Center at the University of Pennsylvania on race, gender, sexuality and other issues within the overwhelmingly white, male world of punk rock. Organizers screened "Taqwacore: The Birth of Punk Islam," a documentary including The Kominas. Later in the evening, the band performed.

"We've been on a lot of panels over the years, especially when the documentary first came out," says Khan of "Taqwacore," which followed Michael Muhammad Knight's 2003 novel "The Taqwacores." The book explores the forms Islam can take in contemporary America, especially among punk subcultures. In the end, none of it proves easy to define, nor to capture.

Community building is central to the message of The Kominas, but doesn't Khan sometimes wish they could just play without explanation and debate and punkademia?

"Honestly, I do enjoy it," he says. "It's a pretty unique opportunity we have to address some of these things, and we are aware of that." But they love to see people dance when they play, too. ■

CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2010

LIVING IN A FANTASY WORLD

BY ED BRENNEN

By dressing up as a “Little Mermaid” ensemble character and figure skating in front of thousands of adoring fans 300 times a year, Jessica Caprio '10 is living out a childhood dream.

And with each double Lutz and toe loop, the Manning School of Business grad is putting a one-of-a-kind spin on her marketing and management degrees.

Caprio is now in her fourth season as a cast member of “Disney on Ice Presents Worlds of Fantasy,” a traveling ice show that has taken the Burlington ensemble native across North America and Europe—and as far away as South Africa.

“It’s really given me what I want to do,” Caprio says by phone during a recent tour stop in Quebec City, Canada. “I’ve seen so much of the world and I’ve been fortunate to play so many roles that have touched my life.”

Caprio began ice skating when she was 7. When her parents surprised her with tickets to the Disney on Ice production of “Aladdin,” she was hooked. “This is what I want to do,” Caprio remembers thinking.

She continued figure skating through high school and college, in addition to becoming captain of the dance team at UMass Lowell.

After graduating, Caprio sent an audition tape to Disney and performed for companies in Atlanta and San Jose, Calif.

Then, in 2011, she got her big break when she was invited to join “Worlds of Fantasy.”

While Caprio knew what was expected on the ice (the skaters rehearse 500 hours each year), she quickly realized that the public relations side of the job was also important. Fortunately, she was prepared.

“We do a lot of events, a lot of interviews—I was even on a cooking show—and I’ve applied a lot of what I learned from my marketing and management classes,” says Caprio, who credits a public speaking course in particular. “They give us some media training here, but it’s funny how much that class has helped me in everyday life.”

That life on tour, while exciting, can also leave Caprio a little homesick. Each year’s production runs from early September through the end of May, often moving to a new city every five or six days. The show came to Boston last December, the first time Caprio played so close to home.

“It’s really hard to be away from friends and family, but I’m lucky that they see me whenever they can,” says Caprio, who also tries to reconnect with fellow UMass Lowell alumni while touring. “One of the great things about college was meeting people from so many different places. In a few weeks I’m going to see a friend in Colorado. That makes it easier. It makes me feel at home wherever I go.” ■



2009
Renee R. Michaud '04, '09 married Mark P. Gabree in May. She holds both bachelor of science in nursing and master of science in nursing degrees from UMass Lowell and is employed as a nurse practitioner at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center.

2010 – 5th Reunion
Five years flew by since you graduated from UMass Lowell. Save the date for your 5th Reunion during River Hawk Homecoming Weekend: Oct. 23-24. If you're interested in helping on the reunion committee, email Reja_Gamble@uml.edu or call 978-934-3140.

Francina Victoria '10, '11 is president of the Greater Lawrence Young Professionals Network, which engages and supports young professionals from the area. Francina is helping to plan their second Annual Gala and is looking forward to her annual trip, this year to Iceland and Germany.

2012
Maryann Ford received a \$7,400 Christianson Grant from the InterExchange Foundation. She will spend eight months in Nicosia, Cyprus, providing legal, social and psychological support to refugees and asylum-seekers for the Strengthening Asylum project, a program funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Maryann holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from UMass Lowell, where she studied Environmental Health and Peace and Conflict Studies. She has also worked with the International Institute of Boston and the Department of State's embassy in Dublin, Ireland.

Rochelle Reid-James was one of the six Jamaican young people appointed by Governor General Sir Patrick Allen as youth ambassadors for 2015-2017. Rochelle, who has a master's degree in economic and social development from UMass Lowell, is author of “Climate Change Adaptation: Addressing Socio-economic Challenges.” She is the human resource officer in employee relations at Jamaica Public Service Company Limited, as well as executive director of Inez Maud Reading Centre in Clarendon Parish, Jamaica. She has previously held positions at Urban Development Corp., Jamaica Promotions Corp. and the British Council.

2014
Joseph Bartuah Jr. has been elected secretary-general of the Liberian community of Metro-Boston for a five-year term.



Allyson Bull graduated with a B.A. in psychology and was hired immediately as the new youth program coordinator at the Lowell Association for the Blind. Last summer she began working toward her M.Ed. in vision studies at UMass Boston. She plans to graduate next year as a certified teacher for the visually impaired, which will allow her to work in local school systems with students who are blind or visually impaired.

Rodney Conley, who began working for the City of Lowell as an intern in January 2013, took a job there as Junior Data Management Analyst after graduation, and was soon promoted to the role of the city's Data Analyst/LowellSTAT Director. While in his role, Rodney has hired UMass Lowell interns including Ashley Hillson, a junior majoring in Operations and Supply Chain Management, and Lam Te, a senior majoring in Political Science.



MOVIN' ON UP
Lefty pitcher Jack Leathersich, who was drafted by the New York Mets in 2011 while at UMass Lowell, made his Major League debut with the Mets on April 29 in Miami. Leathersich has posted a 2.00 ERA with 10 strikeouts in 13 appearances in the last month with the big club. As Mets manager Terry Collins told MLB.com, “He’s been pitching well. He’s been throwing balls over the plate. His numbers say he strikes guys out, so you know what? You’ve got to trust him, and then the rest is up to him.”



Ujwal Jella is as associate scientist in the field of recombinant proteins.



Joseph Hickey has been a Massachusetts State Police trooper for 15 years. He is a member of the Special Emergency Response Team and Troop A Incident Management Assistance Team. He and his wife have four children.

Beyazmin Jimenez is leading the data analysis of the Resident Scholarship program at Homeowner's Rehab Inc. Part of the affordable housing field, the program provides more than \$250,000 in scholarships to college-bound students.

IN MEMORIAM

1939	Dorothy B. (Marshall) Gilmore	1961	Charles S. Santagati	1972	Gary E. Beebe	1981	Raymond G. Coutu
1942	John A. Murphy	1961	Alfred R. Trudeau	1973	Mary J. Mignault	1983	Edmund B. Hudson
1943	Ralph J. Beuter	1962	Robert W. Kidd	1973	William C. Blake	1986	Timothy G. Raisbeck
1943	Thomas P. Rockwell	1962	Otto F. Mahr	1974	Stephen J. Leahy	1986	Andrew J. Kelly
1945	Janet F. (Wholey) Mulligan	1962	Judith Stahl	1975	Donna L. (Finn) Nagle	1988	Douglas C. Dubuque
1946	Doris A. (Lowrey) Tereshko	1965	Kenneth E. Rogers	1975	Adrianne Galdi	1991	Beverly F. Baron
1947	Blanche A. (Gaulin) Sargent	1965	Peter R. Ramirez	1975	K. Michael Scars	1993	David A. Lebrun
1950	James H. Derby	1965	David S. Day	1976	Kenneth A. Fregeau	1995	Patrick J. Slattery
1951	Melvin A. Halpern	1965	Joseph L. Cyr	1977	Jean E. (Thomasian) Otis	1997	Christopher J. Mello
1952	Henry M. Szczepanik	1965	John A. McAleer	1977	Mary Ellen (Brosnan) Endyke	1998	Allan D. Roscoe
1952	Richard N. Levenson	1967	Victor Lum	1977	James J. Swift	2001	Erik B. Wennerstrom
1953	David H. Abrahams	1967	Paul E. Quinty	1977	Alfred I. Murphy	2001	Martin Nevell Davis
1955	Robert M. Walshaw	1969	James R. Azier	1978	Wing L. Chui	2005	April Anne Hunter
1955	Edward M. Reynolds	1970	Sheila A. (MacDonald) Mazur	1979	Arthur J. Russell	2009	Kevin Patrick Kearney
1958	James E. Murray	1971	Joseph A. Leon	1980	Kevin A. Conlin		George G. McMahon
1959	Geraldine G. (Dimauro) Fortuna	1971	Francis A. Zabbo	1980	John A. Witzgall		
		1972	Joseph A. Bradley	1980	Ruth H. Bornstein		

* From Dec. 13, 2014 - April 21, 2015

WE'RE GOING PLACES.

HELP US BUILD A BETTER WORLDWIDE ALUMNI NETWORK.

From enrollment to endowment, everything is on the rise at UMass Lowell—and it's time for our alumni program to catch up. We're launching an ambitious campaign to grow our network by expanding the great work being done by our regional alumni chapters all over the world. But we need your help to make it happen.

84,000	ALUMNI WORLDWIDE	20	ACTIVE REGIONAL ALUMNI CHAPTERS
40,000	MASSACHUSETTS ALUMNI	39	REGIONAL EVENTS IN THE PAST YEAR (UP 50 PERCENT FROM PRIOR YEAR)
44,000	ALUMNI OUTSIDE OF MASSACHUSETTS	8	PROPOSED NEW CHAPTERS

EXISTING U.S. CHAPTERS:

- Arizona (Phoenix)
- California (Northern- San Francisco Bay area and Southern – Los Angeles and San Diego)
- Colorado (Denver)
- Florida (Southeast and Southwest)
- Georgia (Atlanta)
- New Mexico
- New York (New York City)
- Philadelphia/S. New Jersey
- Rhode Island (includes Southern Mass.)
- Washington, D.C.
(D.C., Southern Maryland and Northern Virginia)

INTERNATIONAL

- China (Hong Kong and Shanghai)
- Greece
- India (Bangalore and Mumbai)
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Vietnam

UP NEXT:

- Texas (Dallas, Houston)
- North Carolina (Charlotte)
- Illinois (Chicago)
- Michigan (Detroit)
- China (Shanghai)

NEW GOAL: Worldwide Receptions in 15 Cities with at Least 50 Alumni Present at Each

7 Ways to Get Involved

1. **MAKE SUGGESTIONS** for events: speakers, venues, entertainment.
2. **HOST A RECEPTION**—at your home or another venue.
3. **REACH OUT** to other alumni, and encourage them to attend events and support UMass Lowell.
4. **HELP RECRUIT** prospective students by talking to them about your experiences at UMass Lowell.
5. **OFFER PROFESSIONAL ADVICE** to current students by speaking to or meeting with them on campus.
6. **CONNECT YOUR EMPLOYER** to the campus through co-ops and internships.
7. **SPREAD THE WORD** about UMass Lowell on social media.

*To get started, contact Alumni Relations Director Heather Makrez '06, '08:
alumni_office@uml.edu; 978-934-3140.*



As coordinator of the Philadelphia-Southern New Jersey chapter, **Barry Chiorello '76** helps organize events for area alumni. The best part of volunteering for the university? "The people!" he says.



Leon LaFreniere '78, Escondido, Calif., retired after 35 years as an engineer at Pratt & Whitney, now helps UMass Lowell with recruitment efforts on the West Coast. "I tell prospective students how my education opened the door to my career as an aerospace engineer," he says.



Kim Yap '88 has been active with her alumni chapter since relocating to California in 1999. "I have always been grateful for the experiences and education I received at the university and participating in the alumni events allows me to stay connected," she says.



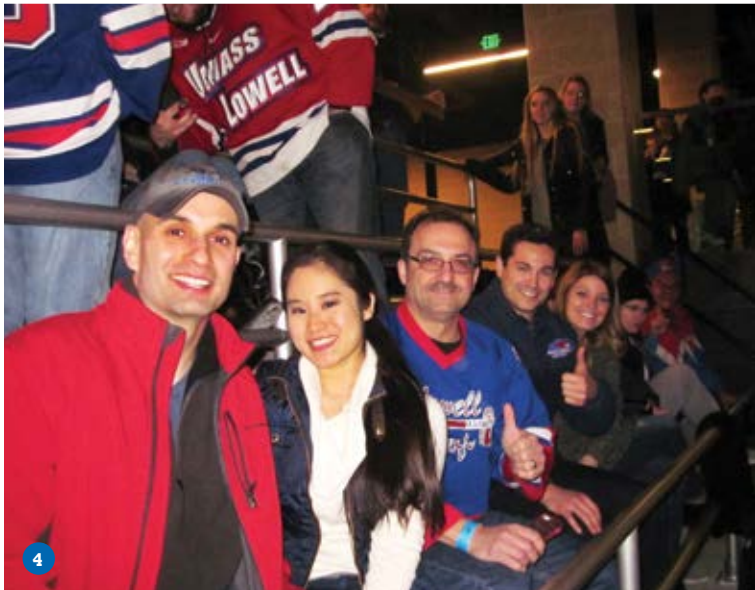
Alex Caceres '07, Washington, D.C., volunteered at both the National Association of College Admissions Counseling Fair and the USA Science and Engineering Event, where she promoted UMass Lowell to prospective students. "Volunteering has been a great way to get involved in the community," she says.



Jim Grant '84, Paradise Valley, Ariz., says he's learned that real satisfaction comes from giving back from our successes. "The ultimate benefit of being successful is the luxury of being able to give yourself the time to help others and your community," says Grant, who is a host and volunteer with the university's Phoenix, Ariz., chapter.

Pre-Gaming!

Alumni, friends, faculty and student leaders connected and networked while they cheered on the River Hawks hockey team.



- [1] Plastics Engineering alumni cheer on the River Hawks as they score.
- [2] From left: former UMass Lowell Air Force ROTC Commander Matt McSwain '13, Pershing Rifles Brothers Skip Kittredge '67 and Vincent Chase '85, '88 do some catching up along with Bobbi Kittredge between periods of the UMass Lowell Northeastern hockey game during Veteran's Appreciation Night.
- [3] Laura Scanlon Christianson '95, '97, center, along with LeeAnn Villeneuve Davis '94, her husband Chris Davis and the Davis and Christianson children enjoy a River Hawk hockey game during the Manning School of Business Appreciation Hockey Night.
- [4] Detroit and Chicago alumni come together at Notre Dame to cheer on our River Hawks. From left: Michael Mendonca '03, Mari Yamaguchi, Richard Schmidt '83, Kelly Sullivan '08, Alicia Shelton and Sabra Shelton.
- [5] From left: Gerry and Marygail Jagers '76, '84 lean in for their close-up along with Pat Rivard Gardner '76, '85 and her husband, Greg, as we honor our alumni volunteers.
- [6] Representatives of TriNet Mark DeMello and Rick Fazio, among numerous corporations, gathered to cheer on the River Hawks.
- [7] From left: Molly Sheehy '60, '82, '00, Dean of Graduate School of Education Anita Greenwood '84, '92 and Pat Noreau enjoy an education alumni reception before the game.
- [8] From left: Chairman of the Environmental, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences Department Dr. Nelson Eby, Richard Hamel '91 '04, Professor Emeritus Arnold O'Brien and Bill Babcock '81 reconnect at the annual College of Sciences Hockey Night and support River Hawks hockey.
- [9] Attendees from the 2015 Track & Field George Davis Night gather together with River Hawk Head Coach Gary Gardner and former UMass Lowell Cross Country, Track & Field Coach George Davis, both front row center.
- [10] FAHSS alumni reminisce about UMass Lowell Hockey through the years. From left: John Sullivan '81, John Murphy '80, Dennis Little '82, Mark Daniele and Rick Bernklow '81.



[1] Friends and classmates from Lowell High and UMass Lowell gather together at the College of Health Sciences annual hockey night at the Tsongas Center. From left: Dean of College of Health Sciences Shortie McKinney, Beth Milinazzo Moffett '79, Eileen Malloy '79, Associate Dean Susan Houde, Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92, Evelyn Molloy McCann '79 and Denise Sevigny McQuaide '79, '82.

[2] Jennifer and Michael Barlow, parents of George Barlow '18, not shown, attended the Honors College Hockey Reception held at Tsongas.

[3] Dean Hartman celebrates with the 2015 Francis College of Engineering "Dean's Cup Challenge" team winners, "Gone with a Bengance," who finished the engineering week challenges with a sled race at the Tsongas Center. Back row, from left: Fabio Braz '15, Roman Haraja '15 and Dean Hartman. Front row, from left: Elizabeth MacNeil '16 and Chris Nguyen '15.

[4] M2D2 hosted its third annual hockey night at the Tsongas Arena. In attendance were M2D2 advisory board members, executive committee members, corporate sponsors and resident companies. From left: Jeff Champagne, Professor of Plastics Engineering and Director of M2D2 Steve McCarthy and Greg Hadley.

[5] Alumni and students gather during the Delta Kappa Phi Alumni Night to cheer on our River Hawks!

[6] Mary and Steve Kapla, left, join Diana and John Boyle at the Parent Hockey Reception held at the Tsongas Center.



[7] Star Wars soldiers entertain alumni and friends like Johanna Bohan-Riley during the Star Wars-themed hockey night at the Tsongas Center.

[8] Mike Jarvis '06 speaks to a room full of Sigma Phi Omicron brothers at their annual endowment event about the legacy of Sig O and the importance of continuing the tradition through a brick campaign.

UMass Lowell in Florida

A number of events were hosted in March that connected alumni and friends who live or vacation in sunny Florida.



[1] O Pi alumni gather at their annual reunion in Bonita Springs. From left: Rick Hoeske '66, Fred Lemire '63, Tom McAviney '63, Stu Pearce '64 and Thor Peckel '64.

[2] East Coast Florida alumni gather with Alumni Director Heather Makrez '06 '08, not shown, in Ft. Lauderdale for dinner and discussions about developing the UMass Lowell Alumni Chapter in South Florida. Back row, from left: Saba Joseph '75, Dan Collins '05, Joseph Ruiz '96, Mike Xavier '15, Tom McGuirk and Erin Ryan '98. Front row, from left: Nancy Joseph, Janet Lambert-Moore, Nina McGuirk '67 and Jonathan Taylor '10.

[3] Thor '64 and Judy Peckel enjoy the UMass Lowell trolley and march with over 200 UMass alumni and friends in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Naples.



Campus,
the Community,
the World

- [1] From left, Bernie Galvin, UMass Lowell retired administrative assistant, Kristen Montplaisir and Matt McCafferty IV '12 enjoy older Sacred Heart portraits at a fundraiser for an endowment that raised over \$100,000.
- [2] Gary Hunt '69, '76, left, and Nana Bonsu '10 along with other alumni gathered for a special afternoon to celebrate our Affinity Alumni Networks, groups of alumni who come together based on cultural backgrounds, student experiences and careers, before watching the men's and women's basketball double-header against the University of Vermont Catamounts.
- [3] College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Luis Fal n, left, and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92, right, enjoy a "home for the holidays" themed night with TV personality and alumna, Taniya Nayak '97.
- [4] Alumni living in Taiwan gather for a reception with Acting Dean of the College of Sciences Mark Hines, front row center in tie.
- [5] Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92, far left, and Dean of the Honors College Jim Canning, to her right, are featured with the Honors College Student Ambassadors at the Honors College at UMass Lowell Spring Reception held in O'Leary Library.



Thank You to Our Commencement Eve Celebration Sponsors

This celebration plays a key role in providing educational opportunity for students by raising much-needed scholarship funds. Since 2008, the event has raised over \$3.2 million directed to UMass Lowell endowment funds, which provides scholarship support and makes higher education possible for many of our students. Gifts to the university represent an investment in the experts, leaders and difference makers of tomorrow.

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-Eastern New England
Steven '79 and Theresa Starkey
Thomas Taylor
Robert '71, '12 (H) and Gail Ward

Upcoming Events

Cape Cod Summer Alumni Reception, Saturday, July 25. Join hosts George '76 and Cathy Zografos at their Cape Cod home for a cocktail reception by the sea. Hear from campus leaders about the exciting transformation happening at UMass Lowell.

“A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,” Saturday, Aug. 1, 5:30 p.m. Join us for a reception at Allen House, 7:30 p.m., followed by a performance at Durgin Hall and post-show event with the cast. Tickets include a charitable contribution to the Sacred Heart Neighborhood Scholarship Fund. Presented by the Greater Lowell Music Theatre.

The 3rd Annual Gary Mucica Memorial Golf Tournament, Monday, Aug. 3, Andover Country Club.

Alumni BBQ and Spinners Baseball Game, Thursday, Aug. 6. Join us for a 5:30 p.m. BBQ at Campus Recreation Center, followed by the Lowell Spinners vs. Connecticut Tigers at 7 p.m. at LeLacheur Park.

Fifth Annual Sigma Phi Omicron Golf Tournament, Monday, Aug. 17, 7 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. start, Merrimack Valley Golf Club, Methuen.

Sixth Annual Plastics Engineering Golf Tournament, Friday, Sept. 18, 12:30 p.m. box lunch, 1 p.m. start, Connecticut National Golf Club, Putnam, Conn.

Fourth Annual Alumni Golf Tournament & Scholarship Fundraiser, Monday, Sept. 28. Practice at 10:30 a.m., buffet luncheon at 11:30 a.m., tee time at 12:30 p.m. and cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m. The Kittansett Golf Club, Marion, Mass.

River Hawk Homecoming, Oct. 23-24, UMass Lowell's biggest, bluest celebration. It's an event-packed weekend filled with entertainment, family fun and opportunities to reunite with friends and classmates including the: 40th Reunion (Class of 1975), 25th Reunion (Class of 1990), 10th Reunion (Class of 2005), 5th Reunion (Class of 2010).

For more information about these events and more, visit www.uml.edu/alumni or call 978-934-3140.

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Save on River Hawk Season Tickets

Alumni and faculty/staff enjoy special discounted rates on UMass Lowell hockey and basketball season tickets.

Go to www.uml.edu/riverhawks-tix now!



Since his first appearance at the Tulley Forum in 1994, Rowdy the River Hawk has undergone six major face (and body) lifts. This version struck fear into the hearts of opponents for more than a decade. The fact that he also struck fear into the hearts of children (the menacing beak! the bulging physique!) led to his eventual beak reduction and weight-lifting ban.

Now...



The sixth and most recent iteration of Rowdy the River Hawk has gone to the Frozen Four, led his team to Division I and won a dance contest—guided the entire time by his alter ego, Kyle Kirouac '15 (right, with a stand-in). The mild-mannered music student “played” Rowdy for all of his four years at UMass Lowell. “My favorite moment was during my sophomore year at the Hockey East championship game against BU. There was about a minute left in the game, and I walked down the tunnel to the bench, and when the buzzer went and the team rushed the ice, I rushed out after they did with the River Hawks flag in hand, waving it proudly,” says Kirouac, who graduated in May with a degree in sound recording technology. “It was one of the greatest experiences of my life.” Kirouac, who is interning this summer at Wachusett Recording Co. in Princeton, dreams of one day becoming a sound recording engineer at Walt Disney World—where he could also put his mascot skills to good use. Apparently the talent runs in the family: his uncle worked as Goofy at Disney in the 1990s.





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