STRAIGHTSTREEP
MERYL ON CAMPUS: THE ZEN OF CRAFT, THE MYSTERY OF ACTING
A Message from Chancellor Martin T. Meehan ’78

This magazine was born in 1986, launched by one person, then a part-time employee of what was then the University of Lowell. No one had asked her to create a magazine, but she felt strongly that the university should strive to forge better connections with its alumni.

In those early days, she—along with a rotating staff of one or two other part-timers in “News and Publications”—did everything. They were reporters, writers, editors, designers, photographers, advertising reps, postal workers—even typesetters.

That person was Mary Lou Hubbell, who retired at the end of June as director of publications and publisher of the UMass Lowell Magazine for Alumni and Friends.

On her watch, the magazine evolved from a homemade publication produced on a shoe-string budget to a glossy winner of more than a dozen industry awards. Mary Lou’s spark and endless quest to produce “good stuff—no, great stuff” will be missed, and we thank her for more than three decades of service to the university whose reputation she helped build.

Mary Lou should have a lot more time for reading now—and I hope the same can be said for you this summer. Please turn the page and read on to learn all about the “great stuff” happening at UMass Lowell.

For more information about events, visit www.uml.edu/alumni or call 978-934-3140.
Business students at UMass Lowell will study in a brand new facility with a four-story atrium, a big-screen LED, streaming stock tickers and technology-enhanced classrooms in a building for which a groundbreaking was held in May. The Pulichino Tong Business Building, which will be home to the university’s Manning School of Business when it is completed in 2017, will become a key component in the continuing transformation of the North Campus.

The $40 million building will be named for UMass Lowell graduate John Pulichino ’67, ’14 (H) and his wife, Joy Tong ’14 (H), successful entrepreneurs in the travel-goods industry who have donated $4 million to student scholarships. UMass Lowell leaders envision that the new building will complete an innovation district dedicated to business education and scientific research and development in support of the region’s economy.

The building will serve UMass Lowell’s growing population of undergraduate and graduate students studying accounting, entrepreneurship, finance, international business, management and operations and information systems.

The centerpiece of the 52,000-square-foot Pulichino Tong Business Building will be the atrium, which will overlook an outdoor plaza formed by the new and existing buildings, creating more green space on North Campus.

The new building’s other features will include a finance laboratory designed to simulate on-the-job experiences in the business world, such as a trading room and high-tech classrooms and seminar rooms that can accommodate more than 400 students.
Chemical engineering student Steven Jacek ’16 says that thanks to the honors program at UMass Lowell, he’s been able to expand his brain power—and his social life. “Meeting best friends who are just as likely to take a ping pong match way too seriously as argue about the atomic weight of nickel is a wonderful thing,” he says.

Starting this fall, Steven and his peers will have many more opportunities for late-night debates about chemical elements over the ping pong table. The brand new UMass Lowell Honors College will welcome its first class in September.

Approved for the campus by the UMass Board of Trustees in February, the college already has 800 students enrolled for its launch. The campus has offered an honors program to students for nearly two decades, but the elevation to an honors college will mean expanded resources, new courses and more opportunities for valuable real-world experience through co-ops in business and industry and service-learning projects around the world.

Since 2008, enrollment of honors students at UMass Lowell has increased to 733 from 298. This year, the university saw a record number of first-year students—more than 270, with an average SAT score of 1285—join the honors program.

Already in place for Honors College students are specialized living-learning communities; small, seminar-style classes; and expanded academic requirements and offerings.

Added this fall for the Honors College will be dedicated space in the new $95 million student center at University Crossing and a “Personal Librarian Project” that will assign a librarian to every junior and senior in the college to enhance attention students receive as they research and write their honors theses.

Following a yearlong, student-driven campaign to clear the air on campus, UMass Lowell will become smoke- and tobacco-free effective this fall.

The new policy, initiated by the Student Government Association (SGA) and endorsed by the Faculty Senate and the administration, will designate all campus property as tobacco-free. Implementation will include signs across campus and smoking-cessation programming provided by Lowell General Hospital. The university’s existing policy prohibits smoking inside or within 25 feet of campus buildings.

“It has been inspiring to watch countless clubs, organizations and individuals come together for the purpose of creating a healthier living and learning environment on our campus,” says SGA President Amanda Robinson.
National Student Affairs Group honors Meehan and Evans

One of the nation's largest organizations of collegiate student affairs professionals recently presented its President of the Year Award to Chancellor Marty Meehan, calling him "a leader with vision, ability and boundless energy who gets results."

The Association of College Unions International (ACUI) honored Meehan during its annual conference this spring. Meehan was recognized for his "commitment to the student experience on campus," including holding monthly open forums with students and reinforcing the importance of student involvement. ACUI also cited Meehan for his pledge to provide students the space they need for their programs, activities, services and more at University Crossing, a new, $95 million student center to open this fall.

Also honored by ACUI was Brenda Evans, UMass Lowell's dean of student affairs and event services. Evans received the organization's Presidential Award for Distinguished Service. The award is given at the discretion of ACUI's president and has not been presented in several years, according to the group.

REPORT: UMASS LOWELL DELIVERED $812M IN POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT

UMass Lowell's positive economic impact on the region added up to more than $812 million last year, supporting thousands of jobs and businesses, according to a report by the UMass Donahue Institute.

UMass Lowell increased its impact by $32 million, or 66 percent, in just three years, up from $480 million in fiscal year 2010, according to the report. The commonwealth provided UMass Lowell with $79 million last year, which the campus in turn used to create a tenfold return on investment.

"UMass Lowell is a key economic driver in the commonwealth, directly or indirectly affecting every person in the state," the report states, adding that UMSS Lowell's contributions to the economy from major construction projects and spending by faculty, staff and students "generates significant benefits for the Massachusetts economy."

The city's second-largest employer, after Lowell General Hospital, UMass Lowell employs approximately 1,400 full-time faculty and staff, more than 560 of whom live in Lowell.

Eighty-nine percent of UMass Lowell undergraduates and 61 percent of graduate students are Massachusetts residents. Of UMass Lowell's 8,283 living alumni, 45,733 live in the commonwealth.

New Degree Programs Address Looming Public Health Crisis


Responding to this growing crisis, the College of Health Sciences is introducing new bachelor's and master's public health degree programs for the fall semester.

"Our goal is to produce graduates who can have a positive impact on health by decreasing the incidence of preventable diseases while reducing health-care costs," says Dean Sherri McKinney of the College of Health Sciences.

Trends fueling the workforce shortage include a greater public interest in health promotion and disease prevention, an aging population and an increase in the number of people retiring from jobs in the public health field.

"We have faculty experts in place who are world-renowned in their fields to deliver high-caliber programs that will motivate and educate the next generation of public health professionals," says McKinney.

Students enrolled in the bachelor of science in public health degree program will choose between three options—community health and health promotion, environmental and occupational health, and health sciences. One of the options in the master of public health degree (M.P.H.) program is global health.

Meehan and Evans

In 1988, Albie Sachs, a well-known South African peace activist, unlocked his car in Mozambique and a car bomb took his right arm and his sight. Undeterred, Sachs continued his fight for human rights.

Sachs, who has lived a remarkable and inspiring life, was named UMass Lowell's 2014 Greeley Scholar for Peace. He was on campus in April, giving talks and meeting with members of the campus community.

Sachs was instrumental in negotiations that led to South Africa becoming a constitutional democracy, taking on challenges—including arms supplier and writing the constitution—that had been considered insurmountable by most in that nation. He served as National Executive of the African National Congress and as judge on the Constitutional Court of South Africa from 1994 to 2009, appointed to the position by Nelson Mandela.

During his years as a judge, the court abolished the death penalty and overturned laws criminalizing homosexuality. Justice Sachs also wrote the opinion in the landmark Constitutional Court of South Africa from 1994 to 2009, appointed to the position by Nelson Mandela.

At one event on campus, Sachs was joined by Leymah Gbowee, the 2011 Greeley Peace Scholar for Peace Studies and the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner and Linda Biehl, the 2008 Greeley Peace Scholar. The Greeley program was created in honor of the late Rev. Dana McLean Greeley, longtime Concord resident and leader of the First Parish there.

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Downtown Innovation Hub to Offer Startups Room to Grow

Thanks to funding from the state, UMass Lowell is better able to help medical-device and bio-tech startup companies supported by the university’s Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2) and will also expand its startup space for a wide range of other types of ventures.

The funding will be used to help build the university’s Downtown Innovation Hub, located in a renovated mill in Lowell’s emergent Hamilton Canal District.

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center granted $4 million to create the Big Company/Room to Grow program in UMass history. This includes a recent major commitment, in addition to his steadfast support of the Charles J. Hoff Scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to students across the entire University of Massachusetts system. The program is the largest privately initiated scholarship program in UMass history.

The new Charles J. Hoff Alumni Scholarship Center offers meeting and reception space for alumni and campus events and houses Office of University Advancement operations.

“Thanks to funding from the state, UMass Lowell is better able to help medical-device and bio-tech startup companies supported by the university’s Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2) and will also expand its startup space for a wide range of other types of ventures,” said Joseph E. Elmore, vice president for university advancement and chief advancement officer.

“Thanks to funding from the state, UMass Lowell is better able to help medical-device and bio-tech startup companies supported by the university’s Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2) and will also expand its startup space for a wide range of other types of ventures,” Viajit Sen, chair of the UMass Lowell’s Manning School of Business.

In April, Gov. Deval Patrick announced $3 million in other state funding, which will be used to build research and development labs on another floor of the Hamilton Canal facility.
Symposium cement university's role as innovation thought leader

If it were a business, the third annual ExcaliBrands Symposium for Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Higher Education would be a mighty hot commodity. The three-day conference is about making businesses for concepts, and it happened at UMass Lowell from June 10-12.

The symposium drew 250 participants (that’s 100 more than last year) from 80 colleges and universities across the U.S., as well as from Canada and India. Under such titles as “Ecosystems,” “Curriculum,” “Commercialization” and “Trends,” the assembled gathered in workshops and heard such superstar guests as Mary Sue Coleman, outgoing president of the University of Michigan, dubbed by Time magazine as one of the top college presidents in the nation. It also gave a couple of homegrown stars—Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney and Vice Provost for Research Julie Chen—a chance to boast a little about UMass Lowell’s ascendance over the past seven years. You can’t imagine the change this university has gone through,” said Moloney.

Chen pointed to alumni Mark Stefan’s route back here. He is, Chen told an opening night welcome gathering, “an engineering graduate who dreamed up a new, ultra-thin kind of medical tubing.”

Now, the building in which the reception was held is called the Elias Stahl Emergent Technologies and Innovation Center because the world embraced his discovery and he embraced the place that helped lead him there.

In a breakout keynote, Coleman looked around the room and remarked that “the re-imagined future is happening now.”

That’s what it felt like to symposium organizer Steven Tellis, associate vice chancellor of entrepreneurship and economic development. “I can’t stop myself from grinning as I look around the room,” he said.

What’s a comedy-sketch-turned-science-show about learning science. It obviously worked; and adding fun sounds helps kids get past anxiety about learning science. It obviously worked; many fans are still able to quote “Science Guy” facts in melody years later.

Researchers have found that singeing helps people remember things by using different parts of the brain. It’s science! Setting lessons to pop music and adding fun sounds helps kids get past anxiety about learning science. It obviously worked; many fans are still able to quote “Science Guy” facts in melody years later.

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record number of students—3,478—graduated during two commencement ceremonies held May 17 at at the Tsongas Center “As we strive for excellence in every aspect of the university, we are also transforming campus life at UMass Lowell, Chancellor Marty Meehan told graduates. “The Class of 2014, more than any in my seven years as chancellor, has experienced this metamorphosis.” We asked a handful of new grads how the university helped inspire their own personal transformations:

**New Grads Reflect on UMass Lowell Experience**

**I DIDN’T KNOW PAINTING WAS A CAREER OPTION** before I got to UMass Lowell. I’ve had a lot of different opportunities in my time here with materials, collaborations across departments and overseas connections that have shown me the possibilities.”
— Jessica Tawczynski, fine arts

**BEING PART OF THE CONCRETE CANOE TEAM** was a memorable experience. Working with teammates on a yearlong project was intense but a lot of fun. It felt great applying what we learned in classes to our project.”
— Patrick Raistrick, civil engineering

**I’VE CREATED STORIES I’LL TELL FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.** From overnight broadcasts for spring carnival and holiday cover shows at WUML, to spur-of-the-moment road trips with friends, my time here will be something I always remember.”
— Ryan Liebel, English, journalism and professional writing

**I’VE MADE SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS HERE.** It’s helpful to have roommates and teammates I can really talk to. They’re always there for me on the overwhelming days and always encourage me to keep going.”
— Keith Lewis, psychology

**THE PROFESSORS AND THE STAFF AT UMASS LOWELL have such a strong commitment to the students. The support I’ve gotten has been incredible … the guidance has made such a difference.”**
— Kimberly Chao, accounting and finance

**I FEEL LIKE I’M READY FOR THE NEXT STEP OF MY LIFE.** UMass Lowell has helped fuel my passion and given me a clearer view of what I would like to do with my life—not just for a career but also the way I want to live.”
— Tiffany Blake, environmental health
Year of the ‘Selfie’

Forget Barack Obama’s selfie at Nelson Mandela’s funeral, or Ellen DeGeneres’ group shot at the Oscars. Forget even the hordes of fans at this summer’s Tour de France risking life and limb (their own and those of the cyclists) to get the most perfect, most dramatic self-portrait on the sidelines of the course. We’d take the UMass Lowell Class of 2014 over all of those people in a Selfie Olympics—as long as they weren’t up against our 2014 morning Commencement speaker, Bill Nye. “The Science Guy” even got Chancellor Marty Meehan in on the act—along with deans, faculty, staffers and one oversized avian mascot. Nye is renowned for taking selfies wherever he goes. In fact, the Monday after Commencement he posted a photo of himself biking in New York City—still wearing his UMass Lowell bow tie (below). Thumbs up!
Art Students’ Work Picked for 80-foot Display in Boston

For two years, Massachusetts art students have had the opportunity to share their work with hundreds of thousands of people—audiences only dreamed of by most aspiring artists.

Art on the Marquee showcases works on its 80-foot-tall, seven-screen LED marquee outside the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in South Boston. Entries are judged by a group of artists, curators and Boston Convention Center staff.

This year, three of the seven artists selected were from Assuc. Prof. Ellen Weintraub’s Studio Workshop in Video Installation class, whose work will be seen in Video Installation class, Wetmore’s Studio Workshop seven artists selected were Center staff.

and Boston Convention Entry in South Boston...
Champs!

The ice hockey team celebrated its second consecutive Hockey East championship before heading to the Northeast finals of the NCAA tournament, where it came within one game of repeating its 2013 Frozen Four appearance. A couple of months later, goalie Connor Hellebuyck (front, left of trophy) signed a three-year contract with the National Hockey League’s Winnipeg Jets worth $925,000 annually. CHAMPS!

Later, goalie Connor Hellebuyck (front, left of trophy) signed a three-year contract with the National Hockey League’s Winnipeg Jets worth $925,000 annually. CAMPUS NEWS

SUMMER 2014 UMASS LOWELL MAGAZINE

CHAMPS!

With Athletic Director Dana Skinner On the River Hawks’ First Year in Division I

Can you give us some idea of what’s been involved in making this move possible?

Probably more than you’d think. Because we’re so early in the transition, there’s still a lot of learning to do. We’re continuing to do a good amount of research. We also had to submit a five-year strategic plan when we applied to elevate to Division I. The plan included a detailed budget projection; they want to know our plans, our goals and how we’re going to support Division I. Finally, we are talking with other schools that have made the same transition, to try to get an idea of what to expect in the years ahead. That information has been very helpful. But it’s quite a process.

What about new hiring?

Plenty of that, too. We’ve been involved in 30 different job searches since last July; most of them for new positions, but also head-coach positions in volleyball, women’s soccer and women’s basketball. Certainly there’s been a lot of growing involved.

All that must cost a lot of money. How are you handling it budget-wise?

The costs are certainly much higher in Division I, but there are also many new revenue sources that come with the increase in visibility. Ticket revenues for sports beyond hockey, sponsorship opportunities, NCAA revenues and game guarantees are key to meeting our budget goals. Plus, the university has committed additional revenue.

Outsides of costs, what are the challenges?

Initially it’s recruiting. Asking student-athletes to come to an institution that can’t offer post-season competition during the four-year transition is not an easy sell for the coaches. (NCAA rules stipulate that for the first four years of Division I membership a team may not compete in NCAA tournaments.) For top athletes that’s a tough one to swallow.

So how do you draw them? How do you compensate for that?

To start with, we emphasize that they’ll be part of a transformational moment in the school’s history—that they will forever be the student-athletes that took the university to Division I. It’s a proud role they are playing to advance the institution.

And if that’s not enough?

Sometimes it isn’t. And we don’t stop with that. For one thing, unlike a lot of schools just coming into Division I, we scheduled a full Division I slate of games in all sports. Our schedules included Notre Dame, Michigan, Boston College, Northwestern, Nebraska and Oklahoma—so our athletes benefited from some great trips and received national exposure. Also, we signed a radio agreement with ESPN New Hampshire (to cover men’s basketball and hockey), which gives us an affiliation with the top media name in sports. And we partnered with Under Armour, one of the three top brands in sports apparel. So we’ve done all we could to make the university attractive to high-quality student-athletes.

Let’s talk about the big picture. From the perspective of the university at large, what’s the advantage of being in Division I?

Actually, the decision to make the move wasn’t as much about athletics as it was about institutional affiliation. When we looked around at our peer institutions, the schools we most resembled—like UNH, URI, Georgia State—they’re all Division I. So it just made sense from that perspective; it seemed like a natural evolution.

But how do you put a value on the visibility we’re getting—for instance, playing a game in Michigan in front a full house, then getting a highlight on ESPN?

I don’t think you can put a dollar value on that. Athletics isn’t the most important thing a university does, but done well, it is the most visible.

Overall, how would you sum up year one in DI?

I’d call it a success. We took full advantage of the many opportunities. Our mission word for the year is “resolute.” As for teams, we’re very proud of their accomplishments in year one. Men’s basketball finished the year with a .500 conference record; the baseball team was third in its conference, also at .500; track and field captured eight conference individual championships. Most important, our student-athletes’ overall GPA was a 3.0. It was the right move at the right time. The whole campus has embraced it—Admissions, Advancement, Financial Aid, the Registrar. Everybody’s on board, everybody feels the same; that we’re competing at a different level. I think it’s made the university, for our students, a better place to be. And for our alums, a better place to be from.

THE UNIVERSITY AT LARGE

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Sports update

A New Run on the Record Book

Records are made to be broken, but that does not begin to explain the beat down the UMass Lowell track and field teams gave to the River Hawk Record Book during the 2013-14 season.

Eleven school records were broken, some of them several times. Seven came during the indoor season, four outdoors.

The women's team needed the eraser six times. The men's team wrote five new standards into the book.

Junior Taelour Murphy (Salisbury) kept the stat people busy; she was responsible for four individual records and was part of a fifth as a member of a relay team. All of that came during a four-month assault on school sprint history.

Murphy now holds the 200 and 400 meter dash records indoors and the 100 and 200 meter outdoor records. Murphy along with teammates sophomore Andrea Fanciullo (Townsend), junior Alexis Kritados (Mem- mora) and senior Elisabeth Monty (Charlton) set a new school record in the 4x400 meter relay.

Monty also wrote her name into the record book in the 500 meter dash indoors.

Four different men set individual school records; one was also part of a relay record.

Junior Robert Allen (Crans- ton, R. I.) nearly became the first River Hawk athlete to run a sub four-minute mile indoors. He just missed, but his time of four minutes and 35 hundredths of a second was the fastest in school history.

Senior Omar Abdi (Boston) earned a spot in the record book in the 1,000 meters. Abdi also competed in the World Championships representing his homeland of Somalia. Abdi was also part of the 4x800 meter relay team that set a new outdoor school record.

by grad student Drew Butler (The Woodlands, Texas), junior Cameron Keller (Marlborough) and senior David Brown (Chalmette).

Two records were also set in field events. Senior thrower Devon O’Neill (Brunswick) put his name in the record book in the javelin in the final competition of his collegiate career with a throw of 209 feet 9 inches.

Junior Garrett King (Ames- bury) set a new school record in the pole vault clearing the bar at 15-feet 5 inches indoors.

A new school year is only a couple of months away; the record book is not safe.

A New Run on the Record Book

BLUE ALL IN

Taelour Murphy launched a relentless assault on the UMass Lowell track and field record book setting four individual sprint records and part of a fifth as a member of a relay team.

A record crowd of 7,649 fans packed the Tsongas Center for the first-ever Blue Out Night as the No. 7 River Hawks faced the No. 1 Boston College Eagles in the final 2013-14 regular season home game on Feb. 22. The game ended in a 2-2 tie. Fans who were in their seats by the 7 p.m. puck drop received a free blue River Hawk T-shirt.

FERRARO FINISHES IN STYLE

The recently graduated Ali Ferraro, facing front, finished her career as a two-sport athlete in softball and field hockey as most could only hope. The four-year starter at third for the softball team concluded her career in that sport with a two-run home run to right field, delighting her teammates and those in attendance for the River Hawks’ 7-0 drubbing of Hartford on Senior Day, May 3. A couple years earlier, Ferraro played her final game as a member of the field hockey team in the Division II NCAA Championship game against West Chester. Despite a 2-1 loss to the Golden Rams, Ferraro went out by scoring the team’s lone goal.
GET WIND OF THIS

Lab notes

New funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) will put UMass Lowell in the forefront of wind energy research in Massachusetts.

The university recently received funding from the NSF to lead a consortium of industry, academia and government groups that will make wind energy more cost-effective and help develop an innovative and competitive workforce.

The project—called WindSTAR for Wind Science, Technology and Research—will provide a forum in which wind turbine manufacturers, component and equipment suppliers, service companies and project developers can work together to solve problems. Undergraduate and graduate students will also be taught the design, manufacture, operation and maintenance of wind energy systems.

Other collaborators include the University of Texas at Dallas, Iowa State University, Southern Maine Community College, the University of Massachusetts—or New Bedford—or the Kid Wind Project.

“Between contributions from NSF, the university and industry members, the investment into this one-of-a-kind national center will be more than $620,000 in the first year,” says WindSTAR researcher and mechanical engineering Prof. Christopher Niezrecki.

The United States now obtains more than 4 percent of its electricity from wind energy, notes Niezrecki. The Department of Energy has shown that it is possible to double that amount by 2020 and hopes to eventually achieve 20 percent of the nation’s electricity from wind.

WindSTAR Center hopes to be an important asset in achieving these goals.

No Strategy, No Success: Professor Decodes Business Strategy

With the failure rate for startups as high as 80 percent, businesses can’t afford to give short shrift to a well-planned strategy.

Successful entrepreneurs share a number of common traits, says Manning School of Business Prof. Scott Latham, who teaches strategic management and strategy formation and implementation. One key factor, he says, is having the discipline to say “no” to ideas or proposals that can drain resources and divert focus.

Latham recently co-authored “Mastering Strategy” with Michael Braum, a professor at the University of Montana. The book explores the development of successful business strategies and examines some of the common mistakes that derail entrepreneurs and experienced business people alike.

The authors offer guidelines for assessing the business environment, charting growth, planning diversification and suggestions for measuring success. They use examples of actual strategy decisions by companies including Apple, Southwest Airlines and Netflix along with stories about every-day products like Crocs and Neutrogena soap.

Swanger Travels to Antarctica to Study Glaciers and Climate Change

Glaciers occupy only about 10 percent of Earth’s land surface but they hold roughly three-quarters of the planet’s fresh water.

A UMass Lowell professor led an expedition to Antarctica to better understand how that continent’s glaciers have responded to climate fluctuations.

Kate Swanger, an assistant professor in the Department of Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and her team were in Antarctica from November 2013 to January 2014. A three-year $124,070 grant from the National Science Foundation supported their analysis and dating of past advances of alpine glaciers.

“Given Earth’s changing climate and its potential future impact on ice volume and sea level, it is crucial to gain a better understanding of past advances and retreats of Antarctic ice, especially under higher carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere and/or warmer-than-present conditions,” says Swanger.

‘Storm Surge’ Predicts the Effects of Climate Change on Boston

An interactive city-wide exhibit called “Storm Surge in Boston” kicked off in May, giving the public a glimpse of what the landscape could look like if global warming goes unchecked.

The month-long exhibit was the latest undertaking by the Graduate School of Education-led ScienceToGo.org, a campaign to engage the public in learning about climate change.

“Storm Surge in Boston” shows eight key points in the city to which sea level would rise—at minimum—if climate change continues unabated.

Launched in October 2013, ScienceToGo.org is engaging the public on the issue of climate change by bringing science education out of the classroom and into everyday life. A joint project of UMass Lowell, UMass Boston, Hofstra University and the Museum of Science, the program is supported by a National Science Foundation grant.

Last year, ScienceToGo.org introduced posters aboard the MBTA’s Red and Orange line trains and in stations to encourage the 500,000 commuters who ride the public transit routes daily to learn more about climate science. Each month, riders are introduced to new messages from “Ozzie the Ostrich” and his flock, who share insights about how climate change affects the Boston area and how the public can get involved with efforts to avert it.
Baseball Lab in the (Club)House!

A team from NESN came to campus this spring to film the UMass Lowell Baseball Research Center for the network’s new kid-focused show, “NESN Clubhouse.” Patrick Drane ’00, ’03, the center’s assistant director, was interviewed about how baseballs are made, what’s inside them and what gives them extra bounce off a bat. Check out the segment on nesn.com. The Baseball Research Center, led by Jim Sherwood, has since 1999 performed independent research and testing for leagues such as Major League Baseball, the NCAA, USA Baseball, Little League Baseball and the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Center for Terrorism and Security Studies Receives $2M in Minerva Awards

Researchers from UMass Lowell’s Center for Terrorism and Security Studies (CTSS) will launch two studies on terrorist behavior after being selected to receive $2 million in grants from the Minerva Initiative. The Minerva Initiative, a Department of Defense-sponsored, social science research group, announced 12 awards for 2014. UMass Lowell was the only university selected to receive two.

Professor and CTSS Director John Horgan, with his colleague Prof. Scott Flower, will use $1.3 million to examine the role of Muslim converts from the U.S. and explore why they are statistically overrepresented in Islamic extremist activity.

Prof. Mia Bloom’s project mapping the pathways of children’s mobilization into terrorism will receive $941,169 from Minerva. The project will examine how and why children are increasingly involved in terrorist operations in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Israel-Palestine, Iraq, Syria and Somalia.

Both projects represent unprecedented international efforts for the CTSS, which launched in September 2013 when Horgan and Bloom joined the faculty. Horgan, whose research focuses on terrorist behavior, is a member of the FBI National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime’s research working group. Bloom, a former member of the Council on Foreign Relations, focuses on understanding suicide terrorism and the victimization of women and children in political violence.

POLL: MAJORITY OF AMERICANS FAVOR GUN CONTROL

A majority of Americans support major policy changes when it comes to gun control, according to a recent national poll from the UMass Lowell Center for Public Opinion.

The survey of 1,000 adults found that 78 percent favor more thorough background checks for those buying guns, including in-depth psychological evaluations, and 90 percent support closing what is known as the “gun show loophole,” which allows individuals to purchase guns without the same background checks used in other types of sales, says Assoc. Prof. Joshua Dyck, co-director of the center.

While a large percentage of those who said they support more thorough background checks identified themselves as Democrats and independents, 70 percent of Republicans surveyed also said they support such a move. Tea Party supporters were nearly split on expanding background checks, with 51 percent opposed and 49 percent in favor. Similar bipartisan support was found for closing the “gun show loophole” and a greater number of Tea Party members (65 percent) said they are in favor of the reform.

In addition, 60 percent of those polled said they support banning the sale of assault weapons. Those who identify as strongly Democratic (70 percent) stated the strongest support for the measure, while only 18 percent of Tea Party members were in favor and 45 percent were strongly opposed. About a third of all Republicans (32 percent strongly identifying as Republican, and 36 percent of others) said they favor a ban.

ALIVE AND KICKING

Roseann Sdoia ’91 lost most of her right leg during the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, but she never lost her spirit. Read about her journey in “Love from the Ruins” on Page 42. Here, Sdoia is shown at the Boston Marathon finish line, where she participated in the Dear World portrait project, in which people from all walks of life share messages about themselves (in this case by writing them on their skin).
Meryl Streep was due on campus any minute. The celebrated actress was en route to the university to speak, raise money for scholarships and meet with students. But just before she reached the Tsongas Center, Streep missed a turn in downtown Lowell.

As Streep, who made the three-hour trip alone from her home in northwest Connecticut, drove the narrow street, past the Worthen House, Lowell’s oldest tavern, past acclaimed painter James McNeill Whistler’s birthplace, she realized she had lost her way. Unfazed by the unfamiliar, she grabbed her cell phone and called the University’s event staff for directions. Her course corrected, she was soon pulling up to the Tsongas Center, right on cue.

That self-possession and let’s-do-this spirit marked Streep’s April 1 appearance on campus, which was the latest installment in the Chancellor’s Speaker Series. In her whirlwind six-hour visit, Streep answered questions about her storied career, offered advice on breaking into the entertainment business, posed for countless photos and raised more than $230,000 for scholarships.

“It’s safe to say, we are in the presence of the greatest actress of our time,” Chancellor Marty Meehan said as he introduced Streep to a sold-out crowd at the Tsongas Center. Billed as “A Conversation with Meryl Streep” and moderated by Assoc. Prof. Andre Dubus III, the event evoked the feel of a casual living room chat between two accomplished professionals who just happen to be at the top of their games.

Streep’s visit was the result of a chance meeting with Dubus at a 2012 event in New York in which Dubus was picking up an award for “Townie,” his best-selling memoir. He approached Streep and struck up a conversation. He was impressed with Streep’s warmth and unpretentiousness and especially with her attentiveness to his sister, a young writer, who had accompanied him to the event.

“She was so sweet and genuine. I knew right then I wanted to invite her to UMass Lowell,” Dubus recalls. He got in touch with her through mutual friends, actors Chris and Marianne Leone Cooper, and asked her about participating in the Chancellor’s Speaker Series. Streep agreed and offered to donate all proceeds from her visit to establish two UMass Lowell scholarships, one for math majors in memory of the late Joan Hertzberg, a college friend, and the other in Streep’s name for English majors.

“Having Meryl Streep speak on our campus was undoubtably a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our students, faculty, staff and the community,” Meehan says. “We greatly appreciate her generosity, both for sharing her time and experiences with us and for establishing the two new scholarship funds.”

Launched in December 2012 with an appearance by best-selling author Stephen King, the speaker series brings renowned individuals who represent excellence in their respective fields to campus. King raised more than $100,000 for a scholarship fund that he and his wife established for UMass Lowell students.

ACTING IS A MYSTERIOUS CRAFT

As they settled into armchairs on the Tsongas Center stage, Dubus had one question in particular that he’d been waiting to ask the three-time Academy Award winner: How do you do what you do? While Streep may make it look effortless when she inhabits a role on stage or screen, she said there were no simple answers to describe how she goes about her work.

“Acting is a very mysterious craft,” she said. “The (actors) I admire, I have no idea how they achieve what they do. When you are working with them there’s a seamless exchange of thought, emotion and physicality. You can’t parse it when you are in the moment.”

Getting it right, nailing a scene, creating that smooth exchange—all of that is possible when you stop thinking about what you are doing and let the interaction with the other actors naturally unfold, she said.

“The whole thing happens in the moment. You don’t know what the other person is going to do. That’s the really exciting part,” she said. —Meryl Streep
“You can pull up all the murderous thoughts you’ve ever had … and put them in a place that won’t get you arrested,” she explained. “I’ve always thought, because of that everyone should take acting classes. Why else would these dramas be written if we didn’t have all these things buried inside that needed expression and release?”

CAREER ADVICE FROM THE MASTER

Before her appearance at the Tsongas Center, Streep participated in a question-and-answer session with 100 English and theater arts students at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center. By turns thoughtful, quick and funny, Streep fielded questions from students at both events, many of them seeking acting tips or advice on breaking into the entertainment business.

Recalling her own student days, Streep said she didn’t take an acting class until she started working on her master’s at Yale University School of Drama.

“I took a wide range of courses, I actually think that was my best preparation for being an actor: studying history, religion, music, art, psychology," said Streep, who earned her bachelor’s degree from Vassar College before attending Yale.

Even as she was starring in college plays, Streep thought she’d eventually pursue a career with more stability and gravitas. She considered taking the entrance exams for law school while she was at Yale.

“I didn’t know for a long time what it was I wanted to do," she said. “I felt it wasn’t a serious enough thing to do with my life, to be an actor.”

But stage roles led to television parts and then films. She made her movie debut in 1977’s “Julia.” Two years and four movies later, she notched her first Academy Award for her role in “Kramer vs. Kramer.” She still seems incredulous at how quickly her career accelerated.

“I just wanted to pay off my student loans. I wanted that monkey off my back,” she said, words that earned thunderous applause from students.

Acting, being engaged in the creative process, sustains her, she said. “Eschewing the trappings of fame—she had no assistant or stylist or security detail—Streep interacted easily with students, faculty and other guests.”

“Salvation in Humor

Streep, who has a track record of selecting meaty roles, said her agent reads scripts and winnows them down for her. She is drawn to good writing, which is why she has done a number of films that originated as plays, like last year’s “August: Osage County,” which earned her record-setting 18th Academy Award nomination. Humor, she said, is also hugely appealing.

“I’m a real writing snob,” she said, citing Chekov as one of her favorite playwrights. “He understood that even in some of the saddest, most horrific circumstances, there’s something funny. That’s the way it is in my life. There is something at the funeral that everyone is going to laugh about later, over dinner. I respond to writing that has an understanding not just of the absurdity of things but also of the salvation in humor.”

Known for immersing herself in roles like British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher or chef Julia Child and for her mastery of accents and dialects, Streep said she doesn’t dwell on how she will bring a character to life.

“I’ve always felt the characteristics of people sort of appear without my working too much on them. They occur to me, like ideas,” she said. To prepare for roles, she has learned to speak Polish, how to play the violin and how to handle whitewater rapids. For an upcoming film, “Ricki and the Flash,” in which she portrays a guitar-playing rock ’n’ roll star, Streep is taking bass lessons from none other than Neil Young. His first bit of advice: Don’t trip on the electric cords running from guitar to amp, she recounted.

While she inhabits the characters she is portraying, Streep is happy to leave everything behind when she’s off the set. “I like to forget about it at home,” she said. What does she do with down time? “I watch political shows.”

Continued
Throughout her career, balancing her home life—Streep and husband Don Gummer, a sculptor, have four grown children—has been a priority. She said she pursued film roles over theater because movie schedules are more accommodating to family life.

"Film work is a very kind profession for a mother," she said. "I did movies because of my kids."

At 64, Streep has borne witness to dramatic changes in the film industry, including the emerging clout of women writers, directors and actors. The economics of the business have shifted, too.

"What’s changed in my business is that the business people run it now. Many studios and even production companies are run by people who don’t really even watch movies. They make them and they don’t watch them," she said.

She bristles at what she describes as the "reductive" way women are portrayed in the entertainment business, with an emphasis on looks.

"The biggest waste of time in my entire life is thinking about how much I weigh," she said. "You have to think about health and you have to think about exercising so you don’t stagnate, but I feel like women obsess on this subject in a completely ridiculous way. Not just actresses, everybody."

Given those pressures, Streep was blunt in her advice to young women who want to break into acting business: "Don’t let the bastards grind you down. Don’t give up, don’t give up, don’t give up."

She advised students who want to be actors to expect long stretches of unemployment and uncertainty in between roles.

"That is the Zen of living," she said. "Actors are given a gift by being uncertain and insecure all the time, because that is life. You don’t know what is going to happen, what’s going to be thrown at you. You can get ready—and you should get really ready—but you have to live in the encounter, today, in this minute, right where you find yourself as an actor and as a person. That is a good lesson."

Prior to coming to Lowell, Streep had just returned from England where she shot scenes for her role as British women’s rights activist Emmeline Pankhurst in the movie "Suffragette," starring Carrie Mulligan and due out next year. Embodying a character like Pankhurst, who dedicate
d her life to gaining voting rights for women, is an honor, she said.

"Sometimes I feel as an actor you are not just standing up there and showing off, you are giving a voice to someone who died for what they believed in," she said. "That’s a privilege."

The final question of the evening came from a young woman who said she’s trying to break into acting and wanted to know how Streep deals with failure and rejection. Streep recalled reviews from early in her career when critics rapped her appearance, saying her nose was too long and mocked her odd-sounding last name:

"Everyone thinks there’s a perfect way to be… but your difference, your thing that is unique to you, is the most valuable thing you have. The weird thing about you is the thing that makes people remember you. … Whatever is weird about you maybe is your strength."

After wrapping up a reception with donors and spon
ers, Streep’s night in Lowell was winding down by 10 p.m. Her role fulfilled, she left behind the crowds, the well wishers and the curious fans, climbed back into her car, took the wheel and headed home.

"Everyone thinks there’s a perfect way to be… but your difference, your thing that is unique to you, is the most valuable thing you have."

"Don’t let the bastards grind you down. Don’t give up, don’t give up, don’t give up.”
IN HIS JUNIOR YEAR, civil engineering student Per Onsager was restless to put his UMass Lowell education to work, helping others.

Committed to service learning, Prof. Edward L. Hajduk ’95, ’99, ’06 was eager to help.

After months of searching for a vehicle to channel Onsager’s ideals into an academic project, they were introduced, serendipitously, to civil engineer Craig Miller, another UMass Lowell alumnus, who has a 17-year record of humanitarian and infrastructure work in Haiti and other developing countries.

Together they created a senior design capstone project for Onsager and four equally committed senior peers: They would help Miller’s engineering firm draw plans for and mark the site of a 25,000-square-foot medical supply warehouse outside the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

Miller’s client was Partners in Health, the Boston-based provider of health-care services to impoverished communities on five continents.

The project was groundbreaking in all senses of the word.

Onsager, a transfer from Fitchburg State, had wanted more than the traditional capstone—a design project that incorporates all of an engineering student’s undergraduate studies in his major. For civil engineering, that means applying knowledge of environmental, structural, geotechnical and transportation engineering concepts, typically into recreating the design of a bridge that had already been built.

“I started thinking about doing something different with the capstone as soon as I found out what the capstone really was—the bridge,” says Onsager, a Lunenburg High School graduate who is from Shirley. “I was underwhelmed. There are 52 engineers with all this knowledge and we are going to spend four months designing something that has already been built? It seemed like a waste of potential.”

And so he and his classmates decided to spend spring break 2014 in Haiti, which was already the poorest nation in the western hemisphere when a catastrophic earthquake in 2010 killed an estimated 300,000 and decimated the country’s feeble infrastructure.

The students did site work for the warehouse project and volunteered their engineering services in the poor village of Fond des Blancs at a hospital operated by the St. Boniface Haiti Foundation, which originated in Quincy.

Combined with classroom work in a specially designed two-semester capstone, the Haiti experience became the first-ever offshore senior design project in the university’s civil engineering department.

“All of these students want to change the world, which is a fantastic thing, but it was Per who had the idea of making the capstone a project that would help people,” says Prof. Hajduk, a geotechnical professional engineer, who received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil engineering and a doctorate in engineering from UMass Lowell.

This spring, five graduating seniors traveled to Haiti with Craig Miller ’89 to plan a medical supply warehouse—and designed their own senior capstone project in the process.

‘These Students Want to Change the World’
I have seen firsthand how civil engineers help save lives in developing nations.

Hajduk, Miller and Francis College of Engineering Dean Joe Hartman hope it is the prototype for a new capstone alternative, which will allow UMass Lowell students to experience service learning abroad while fulfilling a major academic requirement. If they’re lucky, they can follow Onsager’s lead and do so in collaboration with faculty and alumni.

“We already have a committee looking into ways to continue this going forward,” says Hartman.

Before he met Miller, Onsager began recruiting students who were also interested in a different kind of capstone. They had a grand concept but, after a plan to work with Clemson University fell through, they were left with no specific project to work on.

“We didn’t have money, a project, or anything,” Hajduk recalls.

Then Miller, a 1989 civil engineering graduate, entered the picture, almost by accident.

From his position on the civil engineering department’s advisory board, Miller had been pushing for the university to establish a full-time, overseas program for civil engineering students for a number of years. “I thought it would be a good way to draw students to the university and a way of creating exceptional value that very few other colleges in the country had been doing that I know of,” he says.

“I have seen firsthand how civil engineers help save lives in developing nations,” says Miller, who has been a volunteer member of the professional advisory board to the civil engineering department for more than 10 years. “This is an important place for UMass Lowell to be strategically—sending its students out to change the world as part of their curriculum.”

Miller owns Waterfield Design Group in his hometown of Winchester and has an office in Haiti, where he has worked continuously for 17 years, including helping to establish the Hope for Children of Haiti school and orphanage in Port-au-Prince.

“The meeting with Craig was like a godsend,” Onsager says. “At an industrial board meeting in my junior year, Craig was making small talk with some of the other guys at the table, and he said he was leaving to go to Haiti. Dr. Hajduk said: ‘You need to go talk to him.’”

“Until that point, Per had no idea I even existed,” Miller recalls.

The outlines of a project began to take shape as Onsager and Hajduk drew other students to the plan.

“I’m the youngest of the group, and it’s probably not a coincidence that the people I wanted in the group are the oldest in the class. They all have a level of maturity and the work ethic,” says Onsager, 24, who is already working full time for a large engineering firm and planning to seek a master’s degree toward his goal of working in the field of coastal geotechnical engineering, the science of soil mechanics.

The other students, all of whom have extensive community service experience, are: Jonathan Ernst of Billerica, Mark Georgian of Amesbury, Brendan Sprague of Methuen and Karen Yaipen-DeFinis of Boston.

Onsager, Ernst, and Sprague became acquainted with the idea of helping others at a young age; all are Eagle scouts.

Also critical to the project’s success was Linda Barrington ’04, who since 2005 has coordinated and expanded the university’s SLICE program—service learning in the college of engineering. In her career, she has managed a number of nonprofit programs, been a registered nurse, and holds degrees from three universities, including UMass Lowell (mechanical engineering).

She and Hajduk volunteered to teach a preparatory course that was added to the capstone for the fall semester. Her emphasis was on teaching students about poverty and international development work, as well as assisting with research on Haitian culture and some rudimentary Haitian Creole. Barrington, who accompanied the team to Haiti, also managed

Continued
logistics and finances for the project, which required students to raise $9,500 from various sources. Dean Hartman approved $4,000 in additional funds for the capstone pilot.

Hajduk oversaw the academic elements to ensure they met university, professional, and accreditors’ standards. He also introduced graduate-level instruction in watershed analysis and seismic design, an essential component of construction in earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

“This is what the students want,” says Hajduk. “They’re interested, and they want to learn more about it. As a teacher, you’ve got to feed that.”

Everything the students learned in class could not totally prepare them for their experience in the brutally poor island nation. That’s where Miller’s experience and a network of connections developed over the years became indispensable. Like Hajduk and Barrington, Miller received no compensation for the many hours he worked on the project.

“I really didn’t have time for any of this, but it’s so consistent with the way I hoped the university would move forward, I knew I had to find a way to make it work,” Miller says.

There have been many obstacles. Initial plans to design earthquake-resistant modular housing were scrubbed because of problems gaining clear title to the land and removing squatters.

Engineers adapt and solve problems, including those that cannot be foreseen. In Haiti, the students and their conceptions were tested often.

A backhoe operator at the warehouse site knew how to drive the vehicle but not operate the digging bucket, requiring impromptu training while the team waited to get their work done. A long trip back from the Fond des Blancs hospital was delayed several hours by an angry crowd blocking the only road home with a political “manifestation,” or protest against the government.

Miller has been preaching the need for basic infrastructure such as roads and sanitation systems in the developing world and the employment opportunities it will create for civil engineers as residents of poorer countries rise from poverty in large numbers over the coming decades. The lesson was learned, dramatically and enthusiastically.

“You jump out of the bubble of America, and you see things that we can do to change their way of life,” says Ernst, who said it was his first trip to any country outside the United States other than Canada. “We plan things years in advance. They live day by day and plan for the next week.”

“In the States, we take for granted things like clean water,” adds Yaipen-DeFinis. “We experienced how most of the world really lives. I saw how things really work … had a real sense of what I’ll be facing after graduation.”

“We had our heads down and were working hard,” Georgian says. “You can see what happens in the absence of good engineering … You see the challenges first-hand. It exceeded my expectations.”

“It emphasised to me the value of the education we receive in this country,” Sprague says. “It seems almost like a privilege at this point … It’s easy to see the importance of infrastructure in developing countries.”

“I loved the on-the-fly nature of it,” Onsager remarks. “When you encountered a problem, you had to figure out the best way to tackle it, and we had to figure it out on our own. It was a great team-building exercise … It went better than I ever dreamed of.”

Beyond the practical application of their education, Miller said the trip to Haiti was designed to instill in the students a larger purpose for the knowledge they have gained at UMass Lowell.

“It pushes people beyond their limits and teaches them something about their place in the world,” he said. “As Americans, you’ve been given all the advantages. What are you going to do with that? What is your responsibility to that gift and that advantage in life?”

In Haiti, from top: Karen Yaipen-DeFinis and Craig Miller ’89 pay for rides from the boat to the shore on the return trip from Ile a Vache to Les Cayes; and work progresses on site at St. Boniface Hospital in Fond des Blancs.

“As Americans, you’ve been given all the face cards in the game. You’ve been given all the advantages. What are you going to do with that?”
A video camera flies around the corner of a building, catching the pedophile in the act of downloading his porn. An accident victim in the Saskatchewan forest, lost, disoriented and in danger of freezing to death, is saved when a tiny flying sensor detects his body heat. A herd of rhinos in sub-Saharan Africa, in danger of slaughter by poachers looking to sell their horns, are spared by overhead surveillance videos. Nitrogen loss in a Missouri crop field, unknown to its farmer, is detected through an aerial GPS system, then amended through an aircraft driven by an iPad.

If it’s not already happening—and much of it already is—it will be very soon. It is changing our world and most of what we do. You could call it The Invasion of the Drones.

But maybe you shouldn’t.
Beyond the moral dilemmas, though, there is the very basic issue of safety—an area that has been badly broughcated. Is it, for instance, a society that we are building, or is it, as Prof. Yanco puts it, “the delivery company, the operator, the manufacturer?” If a UA V is involved in a hit-and-run accident, how can responsibility be determined? What is to keep UA V s from colliding with other aircraft? With other UA V s? The questions at this point remain hypothetical, though if UA V s are to become as ubiquitous as predicted, they probably won’t be for long.

And they will have to be addressed. Yet the only agency that would seem to have the authority to address them—the FAA—has so far proven toothless. In March of this year, in the fact-over-ever timeframe of government over UAV traffic, a fine it is that a battle to legislate against an aerial photographer in Virginia was dismissed by a federal court on the grounds that—according to the Associated Press—the small drone aircraft and professional camera decision that appears to undermine the agency’s power to keep a burgeoning civilian drone industry out of the skies.

The ruling is under appeal on public-safety grounds ("The agency is concerned that this decision could impact the operation of the national airspace system, and the safety of people and property on the ground," as lawyers argue)—and the FAA, meanwhile, has set up six test sites where UA V s will have airspace with piloted aircraft. But however all this plays out, it seems clear that the status of the UA V in our skies is going to be an evolving one, at least for a while.

Those sorts of things have to be worked out on a case-by-case basis, over time,” says Prof. Yanco. “There’s not just UA V s. The UA V s will have millions of uses. What’s to stop them from being used, say, for surveillance, by law enforcement agencies and military—what the various means of drone surveillance—will not get the appropriate moral and legal oversight.

And then there are the commercial prospects of drones. Package delivery, real-estate photography, wedding and event photography, drone entertainment, one could say, is an area that has been badly broughcated. Is it, for instance, a society that we are building, or is it, as Prof. Yanco puts it, “at least in the big cities, you’ve got a landing pad on every roof?”

“We have to be careful not to let our fascination with technology override moral questions,” says Philosopher’s Prof. King. “At the end of the day, some human beings must be at the center of these devices and we must have an open and sophisticated dis- cussion about the extent of this responsibility. No amount of engineering can get us out of this.
Boston Marathon Bombing Survivor Roseann Sdoia ’91 Finds Gratitude at the Finish Line

— BY SHEILA EPPOLITO —

Patriot’s Day had always been Roseann Sdoia’s favorite day, full of friends, traditions and all things Boston.

On the second Monday of every April, Sdoia ’91 and her girlfriends would cheer on the Red Sox, then hoof it over to the Back Bay to watch the runners complete the Boston Marathon.

An inning or two before the Sox beat Tampa Bay with a Mike Napoli walk-off RBI double last year, the friends ordered a round at the Forum Restaurant, their go-to spot for years. But within 10 minutes, a text from their running friend, Jen, popped up on Sdoia’s iPhone, letting her know she was approaching the finish line. They left their drinks, and told the waitress they’d be right back.

That’s when everything changed.

Continued
Jockeying for position on the busy Boylston Street sidewalk, Sdoia’s friends squeezed in to the left of a mailbox. Roseann stood on the right.

Then, a boom—the first bomb detonated—and a man started yelling to get in the street.

“I knew it wasn’t normal—it wasn’t celebratory at all,” says Sdoia today. “We couldn’t get into the street, because it was barricaded, so I just ran.”

She ran right into the second bomb, dropped near that mailbox by the bombers. “I saw two flashes of white light, and hit the ground,” she says. “I was screaming for help—at least I think I was—but everyone was running around. It was mayhem.”

Finally, help came, in the form of Shores Shaker, a Northeastern University student who used his belt as a tourniquet on her right leg. Then, Shana Cottone, a Boston cop, and several Boston firefighters arrived, and put her on a back board. Since ambulances were full, a police transport vehicle was used for Sdoia and another victim—Boston firefighter Michael Matteria—jumped in first, and held her hand and tourniquet en route to the hospital.

While most people would have passed out, Sdoia wouldn’t let herself.

“I kept my eyes closed so I wouldn’t see anything else, but kept doing deep breathing to keep myself calm and alert—I felt like if I lost consciousness, I’d never wake up,” she says.

“I kept telling them I wanted to go to Mass General,” the Dorchester native says. Her primary care doctor worked there, along with several nurse friends.

Once inside MGH, Sdoia was met by trauma surgeon Dr. David King, who’d just completed the marathon himself, and held her hand and tourniquet en route to the hospital to help. King assessed Sdoia’s injuries, which included damage to her left leg from a tree branch turned into a projectile from the bomb’s force, embedded shrapnel, a ruptured eardrum, and a man started yelling to get in the street.

After the first surgery during which her leg was amputated, she became shell shocked. He didn’t talk about what happened, but wondered about the woman, and whether she lived.

Then the power of social media worked its magic. Someone posted a photo on Facebook depicting Shaker helping Roseann on the sidewalk, and someone else Tweeted it, and within minutes, Boston.com reached out, and Sdoia finally got in touch with her “mystery angel.”

Like war veterans, the four have become a tight group—texting, going to hockey games, checking out Salters’ tennis matches, having dinner once in a while.

“I don’t like to go too far from my ‘first responders,’” says Sdoia.

After several bouts of “phantom pain” in what used to be her leg, she took a hard look in the mirror, and gave herself a talking to. “I stood tapping at the stump on my right leg, saying ‘It’s gone—there’s nothing there, stop it’,” she recalls.

“Sometimes, if I’m having a bad hair day, or I’m not sure about an outfit, I’ll ask Mike how I look,” she says. “He’ll just look at me and laugh, saying ‘I’ve seen you look worse’.”

An Army veteran (he served three tours in Iraq), Matteria has been a rock, helping Sdoia navigate her altered body, her new world.

Shana Cottone, the Boston police officer, also rallied hard for Sdoia, checking in, visiting, vowing that police would get the bombers.

But the last of Sdoia’s saviors was, for several days, anonymous. After helping Sdoia, Matteria—the Northeastern student—returned to his apartment, bloodstained and shell shocked. He didn’t talk about what happened, but wondered about the woman, and whether she lived.

But Sdoia is not going to waste time wallowing.

Sdoia’s resignation and strength of character should not be misinterpreted: she gets angry, frustrated and irritated daily.

“Everything I did without a thought is now a whole process—driving, going up and down stairs, all of it is new, and all of it is difficult,” she says. “It’s still hard to believe that this is me. I feel my life from now on. It’s like a bad movie, and I’m starring in it.”

But Sdoia is not going to waste time wallowing. After several bouts of “phantom pain” in what used to be her leg, she took a hard look in the mirror, and gave herself a talking to. “I stood tapping at the stump on my right leg, saying ‘It’s gone—there’s nothing there, stop it’,” she says. Continued
After surgery to graft a new cardia, she had trouble getting to the bathroom on crutches in the middle of the night, so she bought a cheap desk chair to use instead, rolling herself across the floor. She became determined to ditch the wheelchair almost immediately, getting fitted for a prosthesis as soon as possible.

But getting the right prosthest is extremely difficult—especially with an amputation above the knee. Sdoia has already gone through several—and with every model, there are many, many hours spent adjusting the fit, tightening and loosening. The legs are expensive, too, ranging in price from $20,000 to $100,000 each.

Part of the difficulty with a good fit has to do with the changing size of the leg muscles: They shrink, although Sdoia’s just keeps getting longer. “I guess I had a lot to work with,” she says.

“Close to 50 people have already come to visit her,” Gia told ABC’s Deborah Roberts. “I don’t think the ICU has ever seen so many people come through. She had friends fly in from Florida, Arizona and even Ireland. We’ve had to hold people off and create a schedule because we don’t want it to be overwhelming, but everyone has understood.”

Sdoia is vice president of National Development—Boston-based professional property management company, overseeing the Arborpoint Apartment Communities.

“My colleagues have been tremendous,” she says. She worked part-time in October, but is back on line as her physical therapy, occupational therapy, and other medical appointments leave room for the demanding full-time work.

In addition to jogging medical appointments, Sdoia’s calendar is filled with interviews. The last year has made her something of a media darling—an in addition to “20/20,” she’s been featured in People, Runner’s World, Shape Magazine, on The Katie Couric Show and been interviewed by Brian Williams and countless local television, print and radio outlets.

In every interview, Sdoia is a combination of poise, strength and gratitude.

“Talking about it has helped me—it’s been its own form of therapy,” she says.

In an interview with Matt Stegol from KISS 108 radio, Sdoia joked that she should get a half-price deal on pedicures. “I’m wired to waste on hate as I work on my recovery.”

I DON’T THINK I’M WROTE TO HATE—and I DON’T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON HATE AS I WORK ON MY RECOVERY.

“I needed to finish the 26.2 miles not because I want a medal, but because I believe that goodness always wins over evil and this is how we do it,” says Donohoe. “Running always reminds me and that we are stronger than we think we are.”

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“I DON’T THINK I’M WROTE TO HATE—and I DON’T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON HATE AS I WORK ON MY RECOVERY.”

Steve O’Brien ’10 ran for his family members, JP and Paul Norden who were both critically injured in the blasts. After just a few weeks of training, he completed the course with the Nordens in mind.

“While running Boston this year was no doubt special, this run felt especially important since I was representing JP and Paul,” says O’Brien, who is helping to raise funds for the Boston Strong Fund.

O’Brien and Radiodio’s former teammate Ruben Sanca ’10 also ran the marathon for the first time. He’s trying to qualify for the 2016 Olympics and his 2:19:05 gave him a good shot at succeeding.

“Takes a tremendous amount of time to train for a marathon, especially if you work full-time and are trying for an Olympic-qualifying time,” says Sanca who represented Cape Verde in the 2012 games. “It’s for the part-time job, but I love the process and enjoy every moment of it.”

Registar Donna Donohoe ’95, ’07 ran her third Boston Marathon in support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Donohoe has raised nearly $45,000 for the organization in memory of the nephew of her friend Matt Drouin ’95. She also runs for Matty Dubin, son of Sandy Dubin, a longtime university employee.

Last year, Donohoe’s running partner wasn’t feeling well. What at the time seemed unfortunate may have kept them out of harm’s way. They were stopped a few miles from the finish, much farther from the attacks than they would have been if running in top form.

“I needed to finish the 26.2 miles not because I want a medal, but because I believe that goodness always wins over evil and this is how we do it,” says Donohoe. “Running always reminds me and that we are stronger than we think we are.”

UMASS Lowell has had an important impact on my life. It is directly responsible for setting me on a successful cancer path. The value of my degree for advancement I paid for. I went to housed to run.

Jal Lacoste ’83 remembers being a student and having to work to pay for college tuition. “It wasn’t easy,” says Eun. “I am glad I can help students who are in the same position today so that they can work less and/or graduate with less debt.”

UMASS Lowell’s Boston Marathon Scholarship Fund benefits anyone in the university community (including friends and family) affected by the 2013 bombing, including first responders. To donate to the fund, visit umasslowellgive.org.
The company more than survived the downturn. With its credit-union formula of returning profits to members in the form of lower loan rates and higher rates on their deposits, as well as allowing them a share in governance, DCU has achieved a level of member loyalty rarely seen with a traditional financial institution. Today, with 400,000 members spread across all 50 states, and $5 billion in assets—nearly 50 times the total of 30 years ago—it is the largest credit union (by assets) in New England, and among the 25 largest in the U.S.

The company’s ties with UMass Lowell go nearly as far back as those of its CEO. A source of scholarships, a regular presence at campus job fairs and a consistent source of summer jobs—as well as permanent ones—DCU has also been a leader in promoting creativity among students.

Last year, the company cosponsored a DifferenceMaker contest with the Manning School of Business through the University’s Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, awarding a first prize of $1,200 to a pair of business majors who had come up with the idea of a bank card that could build a customer’s credit history. “We really enjoyed our involvement with that,” says Regan, who adds that he hopes to see these sorts of enterprises at the university expanded beyond the business school.

“DCU has been a huge ally for us, across the broadest possible spectrum,” says UMass Lowell Senior Major Gifts Officer Steven Rogers.

But the longer you talk with him, the more you get the sense that none of this is the source of greater pride than the involvement the company has had in addressing the needs of the communities it serves—many of them well outside the realm of banking. DCU For Kids, a nonprofit charitable foundation launched in 2005 to benefit children’s causes—autism research, anti-bullying campaigns, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Jimmy Fund—has so far raised or donated well over $5 million. And it’s been only one of many of the company’s causes.

“Whenever you count everything we’re involved in—scholarships, charitable efforts, DCU For Kids, cystic fibrosis research—I think we’re talking about roughly $3.5 million a year in total support to our communities,” he says. “That’s something I’m really proud of.”

He may be proud of it, but he won’t take much of the credit. When asked about the recent award he accepted on behalf of the company from the Boston Edison Foundation, one of the many children-based nonprofits DCU supports, he finessed the question once or twice before reluctantly responding:

“My own contribution to that was insignificant, really, compared to what DCU as a company has done.”

DCU: AT-A-GLANCE

In business since: 1979
HQ: Marlborough
Companies served: 800+
Members: 400,000+
Branches: 19
States: 50
Assets: $5 billion+
Website: dcu.org

Jim Regan ’88
One Man’s Story of Success:
Start with a Pontiac Grand Prix

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

I always felt like, if there was something weird to be done, you’d find me working on it. I never knew from day to day what the next job was going to be. But that was the fun of it.”

He retired three years ago. But there’s been no slowdown since then. When he isn’t traveling between one of his three homes—in Costa Rica, Florida and on the New Jersey coast—and one or more of an almost breathtaking succession of exotic destinations—India, Denmark, Prague, Southeast Asia, Australia, the Arctic Circle, to name only the most recent—he’s probably busy making things happen for one of the several causes he backs.

Perhaps the dearest to his heart is the Technion–Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel. A research university funded in the 1930s through the American Technion Society—which has raised nearly $2 billion in support—was founded in 1912, and now has 13,000 students, 18 academic departments, more than 30 research centers and a facility that currently includes three Nobel laureates in chemistry. Its recent partnership with Cornell, to build a new science and engineering campus on Roosevelt Island in New York City—scheduled to open in 2017—is “one of the most ambitious and forward-looking economic development projects any city has ever undertaken,” according to former mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Cosiol’s involvement with it began, he says, over lunch with a friend in the early 1990s: “There was this presenter at the lunch that day, this doctor [from Technion], and he was talking about the new treatments they were developing for shock, I was fascinated, and began going to other talks they were giving, other presentations—about medical treatments, biochemical devices. They’re one of the only engineering schools in the world, you know, that also have a medical school. Anyway, I just got more and more interested, more and more involved, both financially and otherwise.” He has been a member, for nearly six years, of Technion’s national board, and is a former president of its Philadelphia chapter.

His involvement with UMass Lowell, at least as a benefactor, has been more recent but no less whole-hearted. Named last fall to the University’s Circle of Distinction, with more than $1.5 million in giving, his chief legacy is the Jeffrey Cosiol International Merit Scholarship. This fund, established just three years ago, supports incoming freshmen in the Francis College of Engineering, with preference given to international students. (He is in the process, he says, of restricting eligibility still further, to benefit only students from his home country of Costa Rica—a move he hopes will serve to stimulate applications from there.)

What’s happening at the university today, he says, is in such stark contrast to what he remembers from his students days, it would be next to impossible not to want to take part:

“There wasn’t much going on here then, neither with the city nor with the campus. Just go downtown, you had to walk through what almost amounted to a slum—but after bar on Merrimack Street, most of them catering to the sailors. And as for the campus—well, there really wasn’t much to it at all.

“The difference is night and day. You can feel the pulse today—all the construction, the new programs, the activity going on. And the success of the hockey program, what a source of energy that’s been. You put all of it together—it’s just putting this place on the map.”

There’s not much question in his mind where the energy energizes:

“Mary Masdon is the spok. He’s created a terri. deal here for the students—a great education on a great campus, at a low price. He really gets what the movie says: “You build it, and they will come.”

“You can feel the pulse today—all the construction, the new programs, the activity going on. And the success of the hockey program, what a source of energy that’s been. You put all of it together—it’s just putting this place on the map.”

—Jeffrey Cosiol ’66
Alumni Life

JACK NEARY ’73 HAS A ROLE IN THE JOHNNY DEPP-LED FILM based on the book “Black Mass: The True Story of an Unholy Alliance Between the FBI and the Irish Mob.” Jack plays a bartender at Triple Os, the unofficial headquarters of Whitey Bulger. The film is slated to open in 2015. A playwright and co-founder of the Greater Lowell Music Theatre, Jack is also helping stage two musicals on campus this summer—“Fiddler on the Roof,” which ran in June and starred “Laverne and Shirley” actor Eddie Mekka, and “Chicago” which will run Aug. 1-2. Visit glmt.org for information.

John McWhirter was recently named Sears leadership manager at Weichert, Realtors - Metropolitan Boston Real Estate in Boston. Allen Merrill held a Merrill family reunion in Asheville, N.C., in August 2013. The participants included spouses, children, grandchildren and great granddaughters. In the photo, Allen is near the middle wearing the blue short and red shoes.

Robert (Bob) Munroe traveled to Mexico, Norway, Canada, Ireland and throughout the United States within the past 24 months.

Ken Classon retired in May.

Joanne Achille recently moved to Florida.

Anthony Caputo has been a professional fire protection engineer of the Massachusetts Department of Fire Prevention Regulations since 2000.

John C. Villforth Award winners are featured in a seven-page article with a house that they built on stilts just 20 miles outside of Midtown Manhattan. Philip nominated Lowell Tech as his alma mater in the article.

Mike Ryan ’74, ’76 won the 2014 John C. Villforth Award to honor his contributions toward radiation protection issues at the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors’ annual meeting, the National Conference on Radiation Control.

Phil Shroff graduated from Lowell Technological Institute with a B.S. in leather engineering.

Phil mention Lowell Tech as his alma mater in the article with a house that they built on stilts just 20 miles outside of Midtown Manhattan. Philip nominated Lowell Tech as his alma mater in the article.

Phil Shroff reports that he has been published in 95 publications (both domestic and foreign) a total of 755 times since graduation. He has been photographed in newspapers and trade publications 157 times, including in The New York Times. Phil has been a guest lecturer at numerous universities including New York University and the Pratt School of Design. Phil has been a guest lecturer at numerous universities including New York University and the Pratt School of Design. Most recently, his company has been appointed to the board of directors of Keyera, a company that provides key products and services to oil and gas producers in western Canada. Tom earned a bachelor’s degree in biology at the University of New Hampshire, and a master’s degree in environmental studies at UMass Lowell.

Suzanne (Lane) Conrad, who received (Lane) Conrad, who received a bachelor’s degree in nursing, is CEO of the Iowa Donor Network, which facilitates organ and tissue recovery and transplantation for the state. Suzanne herself became a kidney donor in 2004 after finding she was a match for an Iowa Donor Network board member who needed a transplant.

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Lauren (Chin) Johnson has written a novel, “Get Hard,” which revolves around a group of substance-abusing students. It contains information about training and is “a love story of sorts,” she says.

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Who Can Write a Sweeter Summer Read
The Candi Man Can

As a student and a later teacher, Jim McGuirk spent decades at Lowell High School. He graduated in the usual time, in 1964, with good grades, lots of friends and the seed of a boy’s legacy: He took in some pretty good stories, too. He even played a role in some of them.

McGuirk, 67, lays out a bunch of those moments in “Candi Girl” a breezy tale of romance and friendship played out in the Mill City, among Lowell High classmates and laced with familiar Seminal rock lyrics are reference points.

McGuirk has written several book projects, but “Candi Girl” has sold around 400 copies since it left the track from 1979 to 2000, earning a long list of wins and kudos. McGuirk ranked fifth among all-time career scorers with 1,128 points. He scored 43 points at Lowell High. He was named to the Merrimack Valley YMCA to support his work in advocating the reduction of child obesity. Kelly was a star basketball player. “Just similar in tone. But that’s on another level.”

Lowell High classmates and laced with familiar memories in “Candi Girl,” a breezy tale of romance and friendship played out in the Mill City, among Lowell High classmates and laced with familiar Seminal rock lyrics are reference points.

Albert Lazio was promoted to executive vice president of Secure Care Products, LLC, in Connecticut, and has spent the last 26 years of his career building value at growing startup companies like VST Technologies and Quantum Leap Technologies. He joined VST in Massachusetts as employee number three and was instrumental in building a steady and successful company, which he ultimately helped sell to a division of SanDisk Corp. He was the general manager of Quantum Leap Technologies. He recently developed an IP and patented Real Time Locating System (RTLS) for Secure Care Products. He lives in Dracut with his wife, Kimberly, their daughter, Sydney, and son, Ben.

Ron Chadwick has closed his business, which he ran for several years in Massachusetts as employee number three and was instrumental in building a steady and successful company, which he ultimately helped sell to a division of SanDisk Corp. He was the general manager of Quantum Leap Technologies. He recently developed an IP and patented Real Time Locating System (RTLS) for Secure Care Products. He lives in Dracut with his wife, Kimberly, their daughter, Sydney, and son, Ben.

John Schonfeld was named a project manager in the transportation engineering department at Nitsch Engineering. He previously worked in the transportation engineering department at Nitsch Engineering. He previously worked in the transportation engineering department at Nitsch Engineering. He previously worked in the transportation engineering department at Nitsch Engineering. He previously worked in the transportation engineering department at Nitsch Engineering.
It was snowing hard in Lowell the day Brian Rist got his diploma in December of 1976. The winds were so high, he remembers, he could barely see over the top of his VW Bug.

“So I just dug out and drove south, for Florida,” he says. “It wasn’t sure what I’d do down there, but I figured there’d be opportunities. I’d been promised a job at Wang Labs”—where he’d interned during his college summers—but “in the end that hadn’t come through, so I didn’t have anywhere else to go. And it had been a hard winter—I wanted to be somewhere warm. The other thing was, I’d met a girl.”

He doesn’t say so, but he was probably also ready for a change. Growing up in Stoughton 20 miles south of Boston, his father owned the dry-cleaning business next door, had set up for his boys. “We’d take care of the machines, wait on the customers, roll the coins every Sunday,” Rist says. “I did that right through college. It was most of what paid my way.”

The graduation-day Florida decision, as it turned out, was eventful. The first job he landed was as night manager for a business in Hollywood. From there he moved on to a job in real estate, then one with a garage-door manufacturer. As for the girl, “it wasn’t long before she would be my wife. He hasn’t left the state since.

There were a couple of turning points along the way, though. That helped to keep him there. The first was in 1992, when Hurricane Andrew, among the deadliest storms ever to hit the U.S., came ashore in south Florida. In the weeks that followed, most of the work at the garage-door company where Rist was still employed revolved around storm recovery, it was during this time that he had his first eureka moment:

“It came to me that the garage door of a house was nearly always its largest opening—but also its weakest—and that if you could do something to strengthen it, you could save yourself a lot a damage.”

So he designed a bracing system that could fortify the door against heavy winds. It sold to area stores, then to Home Depot.

Time passed. He moved with his wife from the east coast to the west (“It’s much more tranquil here, a whole different way of life”), founded one company, went to work for another—where he took annual salaries from $2 million to $20 million in three years—and at some point along the way had another one of those moments.

He was just sitting around one day, he says, watching a child bouncing on a trampoline, when the thought occurred to him: If the trampoline material—polypropylene—was durable enough to withstand all that up-and-down pounding, maybe it could handle the pummeling of a hurricane. He tested it, and found that it could. And that was the beginning of another company: Storm Smart, a manufacturer of hurricane shutters, which he launched with a partner in 1997—and which since then has been a perennial presence on Inc. Magazine’s list of the country’s fastest-growing, privately held companies.

After that, one thing led to another. From Storm Smart it was a natural step to Smart Energy, a maker of solar panels—because, as it turned out, the same material was effective not only against wind but also against solar heat, another liability of Florida living. Somewhere along the line the two companies came together under a single umbrella: Smart Companies, a one-stop destination for the shopper in search of a weather-protected, energy-efficient home—and today, according to its founder, the largest manufacturer of hurricane-protection products in the world.

It hasn’t all been smooth sailing. When the Florida economy went south in the 2007-09 recession, Smart Companies found itself short on customers for a while. But only for a while. “When you’re not catching fish in one pond, sometimes you’ve got to change ponds,” is how Rist explains the reasoning that took his business to Mexico, where a hurricane-protection system in the Hotel Presidente in Cancun led to another hotel, then another. “We were the only ones down there,” he says.

Smart Companies today is a $2 billion-a-year business with 1,400 employees and 50,000 satisfied customers, across several states and Mexico. “The company these days pretty much runs itself,” says Rist. “The key is to find great people, then empower them to do their jobs.”

Which isn’t to say that he’s slowed down much. Today on the board of six non-profits—“The more I give there, the more I seem to get”—he is also currently pursuing a graduate degree online at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, a women’s healthcare company with headquarters in Redwood City, Calif. Chris earned both bachelor and master’s degrees at UMass Lowell.

Dr. Demetrius Rios has been named director of Biophysi- ology Research at ActivMed Practices and Research in Methuen.

Kevin Blakeman has been named CEO and CTO at Integrity Systems Inc., named chief information risk officer and senior vice president of Pactera Technology International Ltd. He is a former journalist and United Nations foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State.

Erie Capla ‘04 took on the role of multi-sector manage- ment in the UMass Lowell Office of Advancement in January 2012. This follows six years in health care administration, focusing on community benefit management, patient advocate- cy/evacuation services, strategic planning and social media community management. Erie joined the newly formed Social Media Marketing for Business and Consumer program at Mid- dlesex Community College, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Erie partnered with fellow community social psycho- logist senior Ann (Stanley) Tobi ‘10 in 2011 to form LEAP Consulting—providing personal coaching, job search assistance, social media marketing, grant writing and more. Erie lives in Dracut with her husband, Keith, and daughter, Madeline.

David Sachs is a senior Wind- energy analyst at Charles Stark Draper Laboratory. He is focusing on storage and integrating (Chinese, even) grid and recently

Going Where the Weather Leads You: A Primer for Success

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

Storm Smart
As he watched television one evening four years ago, Andrew Szava-Kovats came upon a documentary about CBGB, the notoriously skanky yet influential New York punk club. Hmmm, he wondered to himself. Why hasn’t anyone done one of these on the Rat? Not the roddent, of course, but the notorious-ly skanky yet influential Boston punk club. The Rat, as it was known, was a one-man venture, where he produces, writes, and engineers his own music.

“I thought I’d be playing Division II for four years,” says Szava-Kovats. “Then we got an unexpected bump to Division I, and that was a great thing. It was great success.”
Alumni events

1. UMass Lowell River Hawks face the Northeastern University Huskies at Frozen Fenway in Boston.

2. Hundreds of alumni watch as hockey alumni, Ryan Sandholm ’97 and Christian Stroescu ’02 perform at the Frozen Fenway pregame reception.

3. The Graduate School of Education celebrates its alumni with a special reception before a River Hawks hockey game. From left: Ted Barak, Dean Anita Greenwald ’84, ’92, Bob Gower and George Tsapatsaris ’77.

4. College of Health Sciences alumni gather for a reception at the Tsongas Center prior to the hockey game. From left: Ed and Diane Mahoney ’80 with Dean Shortie McKinney.

5. Manning School of Business alumni and friends gather before the River Hawks men’s ice hockey game against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. From left: Wayne Aruda ’71, ’83, Dave Cate ’74, Steve Cate and Mikey Killbride.

6. UMass Lowell football alumni gather at the River Hawks men’s ice hockey game against Clarkson University’s Golden Knights to reconnect and celebrate the proud legacy of UMass Lowell football.

7. UMass Lowell Alumni Events.

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Alumni events

[1] Sigma Phi Omicron members cheer on the basketball team as it takes on the University of New Hampshire at the Tsongas Center.

[2] Alumni award recipients gather with the chancellor, executive vice chancellor and deans during the awards ceremony. Back row, from left: Dean of the Francis College of Engineering Joseph Hartman, Dean of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Luis Falcón, Dean of the College of Health Sciences Shortie McKinney, Acting Dean of College of Health Sciences Mark Hines, Dean of Graduate School of Education Anna Grossmuss and Dean of the Manning School of Business Kathryn Carter. Front row, from left: Mark Cov cetz 71, James Barry 98, Adam Hope '93, Patricia Dyer McPhail '93, Richard Perro Jr. '93, Louis Conti '93, Jacqueline Moloney '92 and Chancellor Marty Meehan '78.

[3] Dean Hartman awards the College of Engineering’s Dean Cup to the 2014 winning team from the Plastics Engineering Department. The challenge takes place annually during National Engineers Week.

[4] Alumni gather on Valentine’s Day to show their love for the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at its Alumni Appreciation Night. From left: John ‘80 and Anne ‘83 O’Connell, Michelle Bazin ’93 and Walter Toomey ’93.

[5] Alumni from the San Francisco Bay join university leaders and faculty to watch a live showing of the River Hawks men’s ice hockey team against Notre Dame University’s Fighting Irish during the Hockey East Championship Game.

[6] Paul Johnson, Lowell Textile Institute Class of 1951, left, and his wife, Marge, visit with UMass President Robert Caret at a system-wide reception at The Villages in Florida.

[1] Alumni spend the afternoons and evenings together at the exquisite home of Gail and Bob Ward ’71 in Orinda, Calif. From left: Bob ’71, ’72 (H) and Gail Ward ’72 (H), Konal Sampat ’72, computer science Assoc. Prof. Haim Levkowitz, Ethel Schuster, Dean of the Francis College of Engineering Joseph Hartman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Entrepreneurship & Economic Development Susan Teles ’92, ’92, Associate Vice Chancellor for Principal Gifts John Davis, Debra and Brian ‘79 Scappaticci and Major Gift Officer Sandy Washburn.


[3] UMass Lowell celebrates the achievements of the Class of 2014 and recognizes Honorary Degree Recipients and Distinguished Alumni. From left: Chancellor Marty Meehan ’78, Distinguished Alumni Recipient Jerry ’78 and Joyce ’77 Colella, Honorary Degree Recipient Brian MacCraith ’84 (H), Assoc. Prof. Andre Dubus III, Honorary Degree Recipient Joy Tong ’34 (H) and John Pulichino ’67, ’14 (H) and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney ’75, ’92.


experts, leaders and difference makers. Gifts to the university represent an investment in tomorrow's students. No one else can afford to close the gap or finish the work that we begin. Gifts to the university represent an investment in tomorrow's students. No one else can afford to close the gap or finish the work that we begin.

Mary E. McGauvran '39: a Beacon of Success and a Great Role Model

It was a sports banquet held somewhere off campus. Jim McGurk thinks it could have been at the Cog DO's in Dracut but he's not sure. It was a long time ago in the spring of 1987.

Being the annual awards dinner, the place was filled with athletes, coaches, athletic department personnel and parents of the students.

And one other woman.

What, the young athletes wondered, was Mary McGauvan, the woman of immeasurable stature? She has the only non-athletic administrator at the event.

McGurk, then a Lowell State freshmen basketball player who went on to be elected to the university's Athletic Hall of Fame (read his full profile on Page 54), remembered recently, "I would say she would introduce herself to the game. So someone asked the athletic director, Jim Cinek."

"She's interested in you as a young man, Cinek said. "She takes an interest and she came to support you."

Taking an interest and providing support were two of the many contributions that Mary E. McGauvran made to the institution and students from the time she joined Lowell State College in 1911 until she retired as a vice president of the University of Lowell in 1987.

Dr. McGauvran died in Chelmsford on May 12 at the age of 98.

Describing her as "a beacon of success to aspiring teachers, women and, especially in Lowell," Chancellor Manny Moe has helped shape teachers at an institution made during the Mary McGauvran years considered her a mentor and role model. She carried a deep affection for our university and exemplified our purpose for existing. She always prioritized the students' voice, needs and concerns and what she expected from the students. Over the years, she has been the chair of the Board of Trustees, the board of directors of Notre Dame Academy. She was a member of the Northeast Regional Education Council and chair of the board of directors of Notre Dame Academy.
Then...

In 1979, Commencement took place outside (in the pouring rain) at Cawley Stadium. About 1,750 students graduated, divided into sections marked by homemade signs on sticks. The commencement address was given by Everett V. Olsen, then an executive vice president at the university.

John Pinette ’86 graduated with an accounting degree and worked in that field for half a year. Then a funny thing happened. Him. He always had the ability to make people laugh and that’s what he really wanted to do for a living. Not accounting. “I didn’t have the heart for it,” he would say later. “After six months, I said, ‘Something’s got to give.’ ”

So the young man from Malden went on stage and stayed there for nearly three decades, regaling audiences with his stand-up routines that poked fun at his own portly frame and the nirvana of all-you-can-eat buffets. “I talk about food not so much because I’m a big guy,” he explained. “I think it’s the perfect common ground. Everybody eats.”

John Pinette died unexpectedly in April while in Pittsburgh to attend a family function. He was 50.

Nick’s Comedy Stop in Boston was one of the first rungs in John’s climb to comedic success. He went on to national prominence, opening for Frank Sinatra in Las Vegas, Shirley MacLaine on tour and other luminaries such as Ray Charles and Julio Iglesias. In 1999 he was named one of the funniest stand-up comics of the year at the American Comedy Awards.

But stand-up wasn’t all he did. John also appeared in movies, made several DVDs and played a prominent role in the famous final episode of the Jerry Seinfeld television series. He was Mack.

He was Mack.

And folks who never before considered bird watching were riveted to his life, which became something of a reality show atop Fox Hall. Eighteen stories up, for at least seven years, Mack and his mate, Merri, made a life.

It was peregrine falcon TV, always on.

In the distance, for below, viewers could see the rocky flow of the Merrimack River, for which they were named during a campus-wide contest. On April 22, the University adopted the couple as official “River Hawks,” in a full-fledged ceremony, as students, staff, wildlife officials and animal lovers looked on.

This spring, Merri and Mack took turns sitting on their gravel nest and hunting. The cameras installed in the box-like home flashed every detail from two angles. The inside camera showed the arrival of food, usually other birds. As a peregrine, Mack was capable of attack dives of up to 200 miles per hour making him not only the fastest animal on earth, but a pretty sure bet to spear a pigeon mid-flight before it ever saw him coming.

Teachers across the area found ways to use the birds and their lives in the classroom. For fifth-grade teacher Christine Panagiotakos of Chelmsford’s McCarthy Middle School, the lesson was about endangered species, which included peregrines until recently.

“But you know what?” she says. “I became addicted. We all did. None of it ended with the school day. First thing I do every day is get a cup of coffee and check in on the birds.”

As May rolled to a close, four chicks hatched into gawky balls of white fluff. Merri fussed over them, as she does to this day.

On the afternoon of June 7, a Saturday, university workers found the body of a peregrine falcon on the ground near Fox Hall. A numbered tag on the dead bird’s leg confirmed it was Mack. As of this writing, nothing untoward is suspected in the death.

Hearts broke with the news. Messages of mourning began to pour in over the university’s web and social media sites. It was like people connected with the day-to-day lives of the family and that we had lost one of our own.

RIP, Mack. — DP

Editor’s note: Watch Merri and her chicks live at uml.edu/hawk-watch.

In Memory of Mack

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John Pinette ’86, a ‘Funny and Sweet’ Comedian, Dies at Age 50

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Although this was the third year in a row that UMass Lowell has held two Commencement ceremonies to accommodate a record number of graduates, this is the first time undergrad degree recipients were split up. The 3,478 members of the Class of 2014 represent a 10 percent increase over last year and 77 percent since 2008—evidence of the university’s 45 percent increase in enrollment since 2007 and climbing student success rates. As morning commencement speaker Bill Nye told graduates, “You are really among the best in the world at thinking about new arrangements, new tools and new elegantly engineered designs to reach for what I like to call ‘the high-hanging fruit’—the big prizes and great big prizes. That’s what we want you to do for us. I’m not kidding; change the world in new, exciting and big ways.” U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Howard Koh spoke at the afternoon ceremony.
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