Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends:

It has been my great honor and privilege to serve as your interim chancellor for the past year. I will always treasure the many new friends and colleagues that I have had the pleasure of getting to know during this time.

UMass Lowell was literally created and built under the strong and wise leadership of former Chancellor Bill Hogan. Under the leadership of the next Chancellor Marty Meehan, I am sure that the University will experience a renaissance with renewed energy and a new spirit of unity and commitment.

During my year at the helm, I have striven to maintain the momentum from the Hogan epoch and to prepare the way for the Meehan era. I set out 14 goals for this year last fall and, with the steady support of the faculty, staff and students, we have been able to achieve the majority of them and made progress on all of them. My number one goal was to improve the student experience, principally through the initiation of a freshman convocation to start the school year. This event was enthusiastically attended and highly motivational. It led to the great pumpkin carving event and participation in a new world record!

Other important accomplishments have been a reform of the campus budget process along with a necessary belt-tightening; the preliminary design and siting of the nano- and bio-manufacturing building; start of the reconstruction of the IT infrastructure; continuation of the renovation of key areas; important progress on the campus transformational plan; and establishment of a plan to resolve Title IX issues. Unfortunately, during this year, we have seen a number of tragedies on campuses throughout the nation, most terribly at Virginia Tech, and we have not been immune. The campus was saddened and deeply affected by the loss of several students. I pray that everyone has learned lessons that will help prevent future misfortune and heartache.

The most significant thing that I have learned this year is what a strong and vibrant place UMass Lowell is. This University is truly a miracle, providing a rigorous and transforming experience to our students, many of whom would otherwise be denied such an opportunity if we did not exist. Everyone in our community should be proud of our great accomplishments. I know that I am very uplifted by all that you do and will always cherish my time at UMass Lowell.

Sincerely,

David J. MacKenzie
Interim Chancellor
SPRING 2007     VOLUME 10     NUMBER 2

Cover Story


Feature Stories

20 Those Championship Seasons Twenty-Five Years Later: the Legacy of a Team and a Coach
24 Alums Reminisce About a Little Greek History
32 Remembering an ‘Incredible Education,’ and Passing on Its Lesson: ‘It’s Your Turn to Give Back’

Face of Philanthropy

38 Roy Zuckerberg: From Textile Apprentice to Wall Street...

Table of Contents

SPRING 2007
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The new “Vision” sound mixing console enables the SRT program to remain at the forefront of audio education.

SRT Program Installs New ‘High End’ Audio Console

The Music Department’s Sound Recording Technology program has installed a new analog mixing console—which looks like it belongs in the Starship Enterprise—that will offer seniors and graduate students what Prof. Will Moylan calls “cutting edge” education.

Made by API (Automated Processes, Inc.) of Jessup, Md., this new piece of equipment with its myriad of colored lights, switches and dials is more than seven feet long. The cost, including installation and options, was slightly more than $300,000.

“We’ve chosen to stay with analog technology because of its sound quality and its applications for teaching and research,” Moylan explains. “There’s more flexibility in this kind of high-end analog console—which is high-end to a factor of three or four compared with where the technology had been in previous iterations. It allows us to explore things in graduate courses and some undergraduate courses that we couldn’t on a digital-audio computer platform.”

The new unit, which has been installed in a refurbished room on the second floor of Durgin Hall, replaces one that was bought in 1989 and which, Moylan says, “was showing its very advanced age.”

Named “Vision” by its manufacturer, the new console has some old technology that is used in very progressive ways. It also can be interfaced with digital technologies.

“It’s also the only analog device that’s been designed for mixing surround sound. That’s very significant. Surround sound has become a very important part of the film industry and multi-media experiences. So it’s very important for our students to have advanced skills in that area.”

This new console and surround sound capability “is one more way that the SRT program is staying at the forefront nationally in audio education—and one more way that we’re positioning ourselves to assist industry in the further development of technology and recording techniques,” says Moylan.

$27 Million Funding Goes to Submillimeter-Wave Technology

Out on the battlefield, the radar shows you something’s there. But what is it? You should know before you shoot.

Answering the question—“What is it?”—is where the Submillimeter-wave Technology Lab (STL) makes itself useful—so useful that the U.S. Department of Defense has appropriated $27 million to fund its research for five years.

“We and our government sponsors are the only research program that uses terahertz frequency measurement systems to collect real-world radar signature data,” says Dr. Robert Giles, STL director and professor of physics, in explaining the lab’s unique position.

The STL is a member of the Expert Radar Signature Solutions consortium, developed by the Army’s National Ground Intelligence Center.

Radar signatures collected at STL are high quality and low cost. But “low cost” is a relative term when dealing with sophisticated equipment and extraordinary precision.

Guy Demartinis, one of STL’s radar engineers, evaluates the high-resolution terahertz imagery of a scaled aircraft.
For 25 years under the direction of Dr. Jerry Waldman, now science advisor to the STL, researchers have engineered and constructed scale versions of all types of radar systems and models of actual targets, then measured and analyzed the radar scattering to produce the characterizing signatures of ships, tanks and other tactical vehicles. The submillimeter, or terahertz, wave is to the scale models as radar is to the real target in battlefield conditions.

The model fabrication operation, for example, converts tactical target photos and computer images into high fidelity scale models—with scaled welds, bolt heads, track links, lug nuts, rust and battle damage, and non-metallic parts like rubber pads, fiberglass and canvas.

Online Database Helps Companies Switch to Safer Chemistries

It’s not easy to change. It’s even harder in a manufacturing setting. The hazardous chemicals may be doing a good job. Switching may affect product quality. What if the alternative is even worse for the environment and workers?

This was the challenge that Jason Marshall took on when he created the Toxics Use Reduction Institute’s Laboratory database called CleanerSolutions. The free database is available at www.turi.org.

“The reason I developed the database was because I couldn’t imagine manufacturers taking the time to weed through mounds of data to find safer cleaning products,” says Marshall, TURI manager of Laboratory Testing. “If companies can view hard data on how safer industrial and janitorial products perform, then they are more likely to pilot test alternatives and replace the toxic chemicals they may be using.”

The database provides access to the results of more than 10 years of cleaning performance testing conducted in the TURI Laboratory. This information is married with risk screening based on global warming potential, ozone depletion potential, volatile organic content, flammability/reactivity and acute toxicity. For manufacturers, this combination of data is the key to making a switch.

Martin Receives NSF CAREER Award

Fred Martin says science is messy and chaotic—and students should learn the truth about it.

“Traditionally, the scientific method is taught in middle schools as something orderly, and experiments are done simply as confirmation of known answers,” says Martin, assistant professor of computer science. “Science is rigorous, but not orderly.”

Now a $600,000, five-year CAREER grant from the National Science Foundation is helping Martin bring a little chaos to middle-school science education. (CAREER grants are awarded to promising pre-tenure faculty researchers to support their early work.)

Martin has been piloting his ideas with the Graduate School of Education, particularly with Prof. Anita Greenwood, science educator and chair. The GSE will continue as a partner on the grant.

So how does one transform science education? The first step is to help teachers understand science by perceiving themselves as active learners. In teacher courses and workshops, Martin encourages participants to ask questions they’re interested in, without a known answer. Using the technology of a Cricket processor (a device he co-invented at MIT), teachers can build light and temperature sensors—then put them to work. Does coffee with milk added cool more slowly than black? Which wetsuit insulates better? Does the new ceiling insulation really make a difference in heat loss?

Not the stuff of future Nobel prizes, perhaps, but a good beginning.

Building a community of practitioners is the second, equally important, step. Martin is developing embedded web technology for programming and documentation of all projects, so that teachers can leverage each other’s work. Says Martin, “When adopting new technology, it’s not about the technology itself, but asking the question, ‘What can we do with this technology?’ ”
Green Chemistry Research Wins ‘Best Paper’

Researchers and students in the Center for Green Chemistry presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists (SCC). The paper—“Water Soluble Photocrosslinking Materials in Cosmetics”—was judged the best paper presented.

The new technology is inspired by biological processes and extrapolated for commercial use. The polymer system could replace hair perming and dying with benign, water-soluble substances.

The award included a $2,500 cash prize.

Adjunct Prof. Amy Cannon presented the paper. Other authors were Prof. John Warner, director of the Center; Dr. Kei Saito, research scientist; Dr. Sofia Trakhtenberg, research scientist; and student Justin Whitfield.

“I am so very proud that our work is being recognized by both the environmental activist community and the industrial trade organizations,” says Warner. “This is the whole point of green chemistry.”

Spin-Off Polnox Wins Wall Street Journal Award

Out of a field of 600 nominees, Polnox Corporation of Lowell was named first runner-up in one category of the 2006 Technology Innovation Awards, announced by the Wall Street Journal.

The awards recognize novel technologies that are true breakthroughs in a dozen fields, including materials, environment, medical devices and software.

Polnox Corporation was named first runner-up in the Materials category for inventing antioxidants that extend the life of organic materials by slowing the degradation process. The competing nominees included such industry giants as Sun Microsystems, Siemens and Pfizer.

Polnox is a start-up company employing technology developed in UMass Lowell’s Center for Advanced Materials by Dr. Ashok Cholli, founder and chief technology officer (CTO) of the company.

This is well-deserved recognition for the University and its administration where my work started and a great honor for the Polnox team of dedicated researchers,” Cholli said.

UMass President Jack M. Wilson said, “We are encouraged by this award, which has been won in such a highly competitive field as it is additional recognition of the high caliber of research being performed on our campuses and our ability to convert this research into innovative and commercially important products.”

William Rosenberg, executive director of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property (CVIP) for UMass, added, “CVIP recognized the value of the technology and worked closely with members of the venture capital investment community to bring this start-up into existence.”
Enhanced Recovery Method Will Squeeze Oil From Deposits

While the worldwide demand for oil continues to rise, the search is on for new technologies that can retrieve more of it from known deposits.

A new UMass Lowell invention for enhanced oil recovery shows promise in meeting this critical need. The Massachusetts Technology Transfer Center (MTTC) has awarded a $25,000 grant to Chemistry Prof. David Ryan and Professor Emeritus Dan Golomb of the Department of Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, to pursue commercialization of their technology. The researchers have also submitted a patent application.

Most people think of oil as sitting in a puddle somewhere underground—"a common misconception," says Golomb—but usually it's dispersed in sand, sandstone, or limestone layers because of the way it was formed. Only 20-30 percent of crude oil can be pumped out of the sand through simple drilling, known as primary recovery. Secondary recovery, injecting water under pressure, yields another 10-20 percent. Tertiary recovery involves using liquid carbon dioxide under pressure; this acts as a solvent, reducing the oil's viscosity and allowing a little more recovery. Nearly 2 percent of U.S. oil production is tertiary, but the liquid CO2 is itself somewhat unstable.

Ryan and Golomb's innovation combines water and carbon dioxide, substances that don't normally mix, through emulsification. The new emulsion is stable and effective—in lab conditions the method retrieves up to 60 percent of the total oil in a deposit, much better than current methods.

The two faculty members developed the new technology while conducting research on the geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide for the U.S. Department of Energy. After being used in enhanced oil recovery, the carbon dioxide could be retrieved, re-used and eventually sequestered.

New Imaging May Improve Mammogram Testing

A new type of imaging that uses benign infrared radiation may improve the accuracy of mammograms.

Prof. Sam Mil'shtein of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department has received one of four grants announced by UMass President Jack M. Wilson to accelerate the commercialization of technologies developed in UMass laboratories.

The grants are awarded from the CVIP Technology Development Fund of the Office of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property. The $20,000 grant funds development of a prototype infrared imaging machine to be used at the Leominster location of the UMass Medical Center. The novel infrared (IR) imaging system is low cost and allows one to scan parts of the body to visualize different tissues—bones and cartilages, tendons, muscles, ligaments, blood vessels—some of which cannot be detected by conventional x-rays.

The new study is based on earlier animal studies, conducted in collaboration with Prof. Thomas Shea, of the UML Biological Sciences Department, that investigated the use of IR imaging on injected tumors in mice.

At the UMass Medical Center, the experimental goal is to collect test images in parallel with conventional x-ray mammography.

"Mammograms are often inconclusive and rely on the intuition of the oncologist to decide whether to order an MRI," explains Mil'shtein. “So we will compare the x-ray and infrared images against the MRI images. Our target is to verify that IR imaging is capable of seeing the tumors earlier than x-ray examination. We also hope to visualize the morphology of tumors in more detail than current x-ray mammography provides."

CVIP is responsible for the commercialization of discoveries made on the five campuses of UMass. Licensing of UMass intellectual property generated approximately $28.5 million in FY '05.
Eight engineering students will have monetary support, mentoring and meaningful work experience through a new Scholar-Intern corporate partnership agreement with the Francis College of Engineering. Shaw Stone & Webster Nuclear, a subsidiary of The Shaw Group Inc., will support the program with grants of about $20,000 annually—providing scholarships for as many as eight students. The program will offer students tuition assistance and opportunities to gain practical engineering experience and access to mentors throughout the company. The state will match the cost of tuition: about $1,500 annually for each student.

The agreement is part of a strategic hiring plan by Shaw Stone & Webster Nuclear in support of their expanding nuclear engineering and design operations in Massachusetts. Scholar-interns will be selected from the nuclear engineering program, as well as from mechanical, electrical and computing, chemical and civil engineering.

The sponsorship agreement was announced at a press conference marking the company’s opening of a new facility in Stoughton to better accommodate its expanding nuclear workforce. The new Shaw Stone & Webster Nuclear office expects to hire an additional 400 professionals at this location over the next few years.

Prof. Gilbert Brown of the Chemical Engineering Department, coordinator of the Nuclear Engineering Program, says, “Shaw Stone & Webster’s growth is part of the renaissance of nuclear energy engineering options in the power industry. I especially want to thank Dave Barry, president of Shaw Stone & Webster, and Michael O’Connell, who is a project manager with the company and a member of our departmental advisory board, for their work in developing this partnership. It will benefit our students and the company.”

Doug Prime, director of K-12 educational outreach for the College of Engineering, is ready to put a Noyce Foundation grant of $130,000 to good use for after-school programs.

Prime Proposes Fun and Games, Seriously

Doug Prime is a man with a plan—a big, bold plan to transform science and technology education, everywhere.

The plan took a step closer to reality recently with an 18-month, $130,000 grant from the Noyce Foundation. The trustees voted the funds to help Prime, director of K-12 educational outreach for the College of Engineering, increase the number of his highly successful DesignLab after-school engineering workshops.

“Schools are very interested in expanding their after school offerings, especially science and technology programs,” says Prime, “but they face several obstacles—they need help training teachers; they need high quality, easy-to-use curricula; and they need relief from the time-consuming effort of collecting materials.”

Using the Noyce grant and an additional $95,000 in private donations, Prime’s team is developing 10 different invention kits that teachers can use to run hands-on, design-based workshops. The primary goal of DesignLab activities is to engage students in authentic problem-solving activities.
that stimulate creative thinking and an interest in science and technology.

Prime plans to offer graduate education courses to prepare teachers to run workshops. Also, a set of instruction videos and project guides will help teachers and students get started on their own. In addition, the project plan includes a comprehensive website for teacher support and exchange of ideas.

Prime credits Dr. Pendred (Penny) Noyce, a trustee of the Noyce Foundation, for her interest and encouragement; and Deborah Finch, assistant director of DesignCamp, for her work on the grant application.

### Health

#### $5 Million Grant Funds New Center To Promote Workplace Health

UMass Lowell has received a $5 million, five-year grant under the National Institutes of Occupational Health’s (NIOSH) Centers for Excellence to Promote a Healthier Workforce initiative. UML’s was one of only two grants awarded nationwide out of more than 60 applications.

The grant is for the creation of the Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW). It will be implemented under the direction of Work Environment Professor Laura Punnett with assistance from Lenore Azaroff of Work Environment, Lin Zhan of Nursing and Nicole Champagne of Community Health and Sustainability—all departments in the University’s School of Health and Environment (SHE).

UML researchers will collaborate with the University of Connecticut’s health promotion research team.

“It has always been easiest to achieve safer and healthier workplaces by implementing preventive measures, such as ergonomically designed work stations or patient lifting devices for nursing homes. At the same time, the workplace has become a common location for health education and health promotion activities. This center will combine the expertise of both types of health professionals in order to learn whether we can be even more effective,” says lead researcher Punnett. “These grant funds will permit us to take a much broader and more inclusive approach to promoting health as well as preventing disease and injury.”

### Outlook

#### New Technology Lets Students Download Lectures

Don’t assume that students walking across campus with little iPod earphones dangling are listening to the latest tunes. They just might be listening to Prof. Ron Brent’s calculus lecture.

That’s what’s made possible with new “podcatcher” software obtained for the campus under a partnership with Anystream, Inc. The software is free and downloadable for all students, although only certain classes are currently available for download.

“Anystream is providing UML with a pilot project to outfit either classrooms or faculty laptops so that they can capture their lectures,” says Michael Lucas, coordinator of distance learning. The University has an ongoing relationship with the company, and the software and licensing necessary for the pilot project is offered free.

“So far, two classrooms—Ball 214 and Weed Lecture Hall 1—are equipped with “full classroom capture,” so that audio, video of the instructor and computer images, such as Power Point presentations, are captured. Nine classes in those rooms are now captured for students to

#### Wegman Chairs International Group Evaluating Swedish Health Research

Prof. David Wegman, dean of the UMass Lowell School of Health and Environment, has chaired an international committee of health experts charged with the evaluation of occupational health research in Sweden.

The committee, made up of professionals from the U.S. and four European nations, presented its findings in Stockholm in November.

The level of research in Sweden affecting occupational health, the committee concluded, is very high. Areas of concern include the adequacy of funding—whether it can continue at present levels—and the development of better tools for collecting surveillance information, to enable the targeting of high-priority needs.

“Swedish research is very high-quality, very high-impact,” says Wegman, who has enjoyed a collaboration with the Swedish Institute of Public Health for nearly 30 years. “The group we evaluated is probably the most productive research group [in its field] in the world.”
UML Alcohol Awareness Efforts Boosted by Grant, Selection as Pilot Site

UMass Lowell has been selected as one of seven campuses nationwide to pilot “Back on Track,” an alcohol education and mentoring program developed by the National Judicial College, the educational arm of the U.S. judicial system.

“I think they selected us because we already have momentum in helping our students understand the issues surrounding drugs and alcohol,” says Annie Ciaraldi, associate dean of students.

Ciaraldi and Nancy Quattrocchi, executive director of University Health Services, are coordinating the prevention programs being launched by the Alcohol and Other Drugs Task Force (AOD). Activities are being conducted collaboratively by the Dean of Students, Campus Conduct, University Health Services, Counseling Services, Athletics, Residence Life and Student and Multicultural Activities offices, student leaders and University Police.

The reinvigoration of AOD three years ago was motivated, in part, by a campus-based report on student health that clearly identified the links between use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs and poor academic performance.

Last September, AOD also received a $40,000 grant from the Governor’s Highway Safety Board to support the wide-ranging activities scheduled for the academic year. Those activities address three goals: the on-going collection of reliable data, educational programming for students and outreach to the community.

download to their computers. Audio-only of another five classes is available via faculty laptops, and selected classrooms that are outfitted to capture their lectures.

The original call to begin exploring downloadable lectures came from the Council on Teaching and Learning’s Teaching with Technology task force, says Lucas. It was considered another way to help students learn.

While podcasting of classes is now available to many students, others in physical therapy and chemistry classes have received iPods with instructional videos loaded on them.

Mitchell Shuldman, director of Media Services, received a professional development grant from the UMass President’s Office to test the feasibility of using pre-loaded instructional videos in portable iPods or similar devices as a classroom aid. He is working with Physical Therapy Chair Susan O’Sullivan and Chemistry Prof. David Ryan. The videos—available for many years in various formats and considered beneficial by those who viewed them and by their faculty—will now be portable. “This project offers one further enhancement—the ability to have these digital resources with them while engaged in the course-related clinical internships for consultation and review,” says Shuldman.
Campus Diversity Gets People Talking—and May Keep Students Enrolled

Nearly three years ago, on a Friday afternoon in September 2004, the quad on UML South was the scene of a party the likes of which had seldom been seen on this campus before. Costumes of every type in every conceivable color; music that was loud, soft, lulling or percussionist, food from a dozen restaurants and as many private kitchens, booths tented in festive banners, statues, paintings, pendants, ornaments—a loud, chaotic, hyperkinetic, multicultural fest.

It was the first annual Culture Shock festival, designed to bring together students of all faiths, races and nationalities, to break down separateness through the common links of food, music, color and art. It did all that—and it was fun. So a year later they held another. And yet another last fall.

“It works because it breaks down barriers,” says Brenda Evans, director of the Office of Student Activities and Multicultural Affairs. “The Vietnamese students talk to the African American students, the African Americans talk to the Indians, who talk to the Muslims, who talk to the Southeast Asians—‘Let’s get to know each other’ is the driving idea. And it’s fun.”

It hasn’t always been this way, Evans says: “The students used to band together more, to stay within their own [ethnic or cultural] groups. But the focus has expanded. They’re talking to each other more than ever. It’s really exciting to see.”

Culture Shock is only one of scores of events that have contributed to this intercultural bonding.

There may be a second, less-understood benefit of campus diversity. According to Nicole Champagne, co-chair of the Council on Diversity and Pluralism, a diverse and openly welcoming student body may play a role in keeping students enrolled.

“Diversity as it relates to retention—we’re just beginning to take a look at this,” Champagne says. “It was the focus of the Council at our last meeting, and will probably remain on the agenda for two or three years: the whole issue of how students of color, disabled students, whatever, might be more inclined to stay in school if the environment is one of diversity, if they’re made to feel welcome here.”

New Parking Garage Opens on UML East

The University’s new four-level, $13 million concrete and steel parking garage on UML East opened for business in January when students returned to campus for the spring semester.

Situated between LeLacheur Park and Bourgeois and Donahue halls, the 630-space garage is available for students, faculty and staff.

The building was constructed with an eye toward safety and architectural parity within an urban setting, with its openness, extensive lighting, brick facing and mesh screens with a weaved pattern.

In addition, the University expanded the green space with plantings behind the building along the Riverwalk.

“The garage is not only functional and safe, but also pleasing to the eye,” says Diana Prideaux-Brune, vice chancellor for Facilities.
Inaugural Lecture Program Honors Late Former Congressman Morse

A large and enthusiastic audience gathered in Cumnock Hall in December to inaugurate a lecture series named for late former Congressman F. Bradford Morse. The program was a first for the Morse Endowment for the Study of International Relations, Sustainable Development, and Peace, established as a joint effort of UML and Middlesex Community College (MCC).

UML Chancellor David MacKenzie, MCC President Carole Cowan, and state Sen. Steven Panagiotakos welcomed guests to an Alumni Hall reception that preceded the lecture program.

Keynote speaker Jonathan Moore, a former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, recalled his former colleague as a bold and optimistic leader who relished public life. Mrs. Josephine Morse thanked the program organizers and endowment donors on behalf of the many family members in attendance.

Associate Provost Kristin Esterberg moderated a panel discussion about the UN and Morse’s legacy. The panelists were Ambassador Moore; Timothy Rothermel, who worked alongside Morse in Congress and at the UN; and UML Assoc. Prof. of Political Science Jeff Gerson, who has written about Morse’s career.

The lecture, cosponsored by UML and MCC, culminated a day of tributes to the late Congressman, including the dedication of the F. Bradford Morse Federal Building at MCC’s downtown Lowell campus.

The program also included a special recognition of long-time UML faculty members Dean Bergeron and Joyce Denning for their extraordinary support for student activities and research in international relations. Provost John Wooding led a tribute to them, and announced the establishment of the Bergeron-Denning Student Program on World Diplomacy, which includes the Model United Nations program, UML High School Model United Nations Program, and other International Relations Club activities.
Study Takes Long View of Immigration, Globalization in Lowell

A three-year, $100,000 grant from the Lowell National Historic Park has set in motion an ambitious, historic study.

Using archival materials, hundreds of hours of oral histories, extensive interviews and participant observation, a team of researchers intends to illuminate Lowell’s global history and its contemporary cultural geography.

The Lowell National Park was founded more than 30 years ago, building on the ethnic experience of immigrant groups at that time. The exhibits and archives don’t reflect the newest waves of immigration from Southeast Asia, parts of Africa and Brazil, so an ethnographic study was proposed.

The history of the place dates to Native Americans and the research will place Lowell’s history within the context of globalization—with the understanding that globalization is nothing new.

“We tend to have a short-sighted view of globalization,” says Asst. Prof. Christoph Strobel of the History Department, a co-principal investigator on the project. “Global forces in the past have had an impact on trade, immigration, colonization and the movement of disease.

“Lowell is a great microcosm of these forces. Immigration has always shaped the city and tensions have erupted between ‘natives’ and ‘newcomers.’ ”

Prof. Robert Forrant of the Regional Economic and Social Development (RESD) Department is principal investigator of the study, which funds two graduate students for two years. RESD Prof. Linda Silka is a co-PI and collaborators are drawn from the departments of Political Science and Art, the Mogan Cultural History Center, Middlesex Community College, the “One Lowell” cultural association, the Registry of Deeds and Lowell High School.

Seven Community Projects Tackle Toxic Chemical Use

You’ve probably heard the phrase “Get the Lead Out” as it pertains to gasoline and paint. But did you know that lead sinkers used in recreational fishing are poisoning wildlife such as loons and eagles while safer alternatives exist? This is just one example of how this year’s TURI Community Grant Projects will raise awareness to encourage people to make safer choices when it comes to toxic chemical use.

The Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) has funded $57,409 for seven community grant projects designed to reduce toxic chemical use across the Commonwealth.

“The diversity of these projects highlights how all of us can reduce toxic chemical use at the source to make our lives healthier and safer,” says TURI’s Rachel Massey.

The TURI Community Grant Program was established in 1994 to support community organizations and municipalities in their efforts to raise awareness of ways to reduce toxic chemical use at the source. TURI issues requests for proposals in June and applications are due by the end of August.

Fifteen-year-old Michael Browne of Milton received a $500 grant from TURI to remove 40 to 60 pounds of lead from recreational fishing lures. The project will help him earn his Eagle Scout rank, a recognition that only five percent of all Boy Scouts achieve.
UML Collaborates With Lawrence on New High Schools

High school students in Lawrence will soon be part of an educational experience unique in New England.

The City of Lawrence has built six separate high schools on a new 25-acre campus in South Lawrence to replace the existing high school across town. The new schools emphasize six different areas of study and have been developed with the assistance of UML’s Center for Field Services and Studies (CFSS) and the support of the Graduate School of Education.

The six schools are scheduled to open in September. They include: Lawrence High School for Fine and Performing Arts, Lawrence International High School, Lawrence High School for Health and Human Services, Lawrence High School for Humanities and Leadership Development, Lawrence High School for Math, Science and Technology and Lawrence High School for Business Management and Finance.

According to Dr. Hector N. Torres, University liaison for the Lawrence Public Schools, the new model will promote a more personalized learning environment. “Students who graduate will be very well prepared for post secondary education,” says Torres.

Approximately 30 to 40 UML faculty and staff members have been working with administrators and teachers in Lawrence for over a year, assisting with the development of the schools. Six separate committees have been formed with each one supporting one of the different schools.

TEAMs Academy Debuts with Success

More than 270 local students took part recently in the successful launch of the TEAMs (Technology, Engineering and Math-Science) Academy pilot program.

The TEAMs pilot brought academically accelerated high school sophomores to campus for a series of sessions taught jointly by University and high school faculty. The classes offered advanced coursework not available to students at their own high schools, tackling topics such as robotics, crime scene investigation and math modeling. The purpose of the pilot was to serve as a test model for a daily, part-time program for local high school juniors and seniors this fall.

The TEAMs concept is a collaborative effort led by Deans Donald Pierson, Robert Tamarin and John Ting.

“The pilot was extremely successful,” says Pierson. “All of the students have indicated that their attitudes toward taking additional classes are much more positive since participating in these sessions.”

The Academy will be open to approximately 30 students who will attend classes on UML’s campus daily. They will have to formally apply to the program and the intention is for them to earn both high school and college credit for their work. In addition to the daily Academy, there is also a plan to continue with the pilot format for 270 sophomores this year.

Construction is nearly complete on the six new Lawrence high schools.
Global Warming Town Meeting Draws 1,000

Gov. Deval Patrick offered an ounce of hope with his prescription for change in addressing global warming at a standing-room-only town meeting in Durgin Hall.

About 1,000 people gathered on a warm Saturday in mid-December to attend the U.S. Rep. Marty Meehan-sponsored event, “Climate Change: Local Solutions to a Global Crisis.”

Meehan opened the town meeting with clips from the film “An Inconvenient Truth” and a videotaped personal message from former Vice President Al Gore, which welcomed Patrick to campus.

After describing some of the energy issues faced by Massachusetts residents, Patrick said, “Some see this and panic. I see this as an economic opportunity. We can be green and wealthy too.” Patrick introduced the incoming Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Ian Bowles, who was named to the post the day before the forum.

Patrick also called on UMass Lowell to assist in the state’s effort to “create an environment where green technologies thrive.” He challenged the campus to “retrofit” the governor’s official vehicle, which he said is designed for security reasons. “Make it work; make it smart!” he said.

Dr. David Wegman, dean of the School of Health and Environment, a sponsor of the town meeting, moderated the panel, which also included Lee Ketelson of Clean Water Action, a public interest group, and Harvard Medical School’s Dr. Paul Epstein of the Center for Health and the Global Environment.

Professors Take a Stand on Issues

If a Ph.D. carries weight, then some professors have taken to throwing theirs around in hopes of influencing U.S. policies.

Prof. Joel Tickner of Community Health and Sustainability and seven faculty economists engaged in such political action last fall.

Tickner and two other members of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) advisory committee resigned to call attention to what they saw as the panel’s ineffectiveness in addressing pervasive problems with the agency’s treatment of toxic chemicals. In a resignation letter, the three wrote that the National Pollution Prevention and Toxics Committee “has been unable or unwilling to consider systemic, structural problems,” with EPA’s treatment of chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act. They also note that the advisory committee’s makeup is weighted towards industry.

Also, UML economists signed a petition recommending that Congress raise the federal minimum wage, which has stood at $5.15 an hour since 1997. Profs. Michael Carter and Monica Galizzi of Economics; William Lazonick, Philip Moss, Jean Pyle (emeritus) and Chris Tilly of Regional Economic and Social Development (RESD); and Charles Levenstein, emeritus, of Work Environment are seven of 664 economists participating in the advocacy effort, which was organized by the Economic Policy Institute.

Young Investigators Make International Connections

Nanotechnology is a hot area of research in several parts of the world. With that in mind, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has joined with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan to sponsor the Japan-U.S. Young Researchers Exchange Program on Nanotechnology.

Asst. Prof. Daniel Schmidt of the Plastics Engineering Department and Prof. Marina Ruths of Chemistry were selected as part of the 2006 U.S. contingent. Each country hosts a dozen top young researchers to visit nanotechnology-related research facilities and build personal networks during a two-week exchange.

NSF leaders asked Prof. Julie Chen of the Mechanical Engineering Department, and a former NSF program officer, to organize the 2006 exchange. UMass Lowell hosted the general symposium for the visiting Japanese; the group toured facilities at MIT, Harvard, Northwestern, Cornell, UC Santa Barbara,
Defense Budget Backs Nanomanufacturing

Big money continues to roll in for the engineering of the small.

This time, the UMass Lowell nanomanufacturing team has secured $2 million in the federal budget thanks to strong advocacy from U.S. Rep. Marty Meehan and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who visited campus to announce the funds.

Meehan and Kennedy, who was joined by wife Victoria Reggie Kennedy, presented an oversized federal “check” to the University’s lead nanomanufacturing researchers, Carol Barry and Joey Mead, professors of plastics engineering, and Julie Chen, professor of mechanical engineering.

The funds will support research on the nanomanufacturing of multi-functional sensors and equipment, some of which could be used in combat situations. They could allow quick assessment of battlefield environmental conditions and of the condition of infrastructure and mechanical systems, such as bridges and aircraft.

Kennedy praised the University for its leadership in the field. “You are where it’s at,” he said. “It is important that the state catch up with you. It’s important that the nation catch up with you. Ensuring that those fighting will have the best technology – that’s being done here at UMass Lowell.”

Meehan said, “UMass Lowell, because of its rich history in manufacturing and polymers, is uniquely positioned to become a world leader in nanomanufacturing. The Nanomanufacturing Center will bring thousands of jobs to the region and keep Massachusetts on the cutting edge of this important technology.”

Chen, who received the check, addressed the federal and state legislators, saying, “You are helping us to push the turbo button so we can accelerate the work that is being done here.”

The funds will support research on the nanomanufacturing of multi-functional sensors and equipment, which could be used in the new advanced manufacturing building for which the state has provided $35 million in construction money. The research will be conducted by a number of faculty from the Mechanical and Plastics Engineering, Chemistry and Biology departments. Members of those departments briefed Kennedy and Meehan prior to the press conference.

Stanford and UCLA. The U.S. group also toured Japan, guided by Chen’s counterpart, Dr. S. Okamura of the National Institute of Materials Science.

Chen says, “It’s a great door-opening opportunity in many ways—meeting people, understanding the structural set-up of the research, having a contact for future reference. An additional benefit is that the U.S. researchers get to know each other and this also opens doors to collaboration.”

About their time in Japan, Ruths says, “It was helpful to see people in the workplace, rather than at a conference. It added to my understanding of their interactions and expectations.”
Those gathered at a retirement celebration pointed out that Tsongas Center Director Peter O’Connell’s ability to connect—UMass Lowell with the National Park Service, students with curriculum frameworks, people with place—led the Center to a decade of success. It is also clear that those he has touched will miss him.

“His integrity, decency and the way he treats people—I want to recognize him for that,” said Provost John Wooding.

Niki Tsongas, whose late husband’s name the Center bears, said, “Everything that Peter has done has brought great honor to that name and to the City of Lowell.”

Donald Pierson, dean of the Graduate School of Education, said “His wise counsel made him a strong choice for the search committee when he was named director. The rest is history—amazing Tsongas Industrial History Center history.” He described O’Connell as a “prototype ‘out of the box’ guy.”

When O’Connell arrived in 1996, roughly 40,000 visitors passed through the Center’s doors to take part in its exhibits and workshops. By 2004, the number was 64,000—a 60 percent rise. A successful grant writer, O’Connell helped secure an average of $400,000 a year in grant monies.

O’Connell retired after 10 years at the helm. The Tsongas Center is a collaborative project of the UMass Lowell Graduate School of Education and the National Park Service.

by Geoffrey Douglas
He has said it was the hardest professional decision he has made in his life. When you look hard at what he had to choose between, you have to believe it’s true.

When Marty Meehan accepted the offer to be the next chancellor of UMass Lowell—a post he will assume officially July 1—he was a core member of a newly elected majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was co-author of one of the most heralded pieces of campaign-reform legislation in decades and the first member of Congress to call publicly for an exit strategy in Iraq. He was a senior member of his party, a key member of several committees, a genuine reformer who had earned respect in his district—where he ran unopposed last November—and on both sides of the congressional aisle. His star was rising in Washington. It would have risen higher still.

Yet he walked away from it all to be chancellor of his alma mater. That can’t have been an easy thing to do.

He has done a lot of difficult things. You could almost say that doing difficult things has been the defining theme of his career. It was a difficult thing in 1993, as a freshman House member, to reject the directions of his own party leader, House Speaker Tom Foley, and vote against PAC contributions—junior members have lost their seats for far less. It was a difficult thing, as early as 1994, to take a stand against Big Tobacco, proposing to prosecutors—years before the government’s move against tobacco companies—that they pursue perjury charges against industry heads. It was a difficult thing, seven years ago, to ally himself with a single House colleague (Connecticut Rep. Christopher Shays) to force a vote on campaign financing over the opposition of House leaders, who mustered every parliamentary maneuver on the books to block the bill—a bill that, four years later, after clearing the Senate under the sponsorship of Sens. John McCain and Russ Feingold, would be hailed as the first major piece of campaign-reform legislation in more than a generation. And it was a difficult thing, on his return from a fact-finding trip to Iraq in January 2005, to call publicly for a phased exit of our troops—two years before a bipartisan panel, the Iraq Study Group, would formally propose the same thing.

And now he has done another difficult thing. This one, he says, the toughest one yet. And you have to wonder—why?

Why would a congressman at the top of his game, still young, only now beginning to reap the fruit of 15 years of service, choose to simply walk away? To take a job far from the spotlight and far from the national pulse, that offers none of the world-shaping prospects that abound in Washington?

His answer to this question is very clear. You can hear in it the same reformer’s zeal that has marked the career of Marty Meehan from the start. Best of all, it is an answer that carries promise for the future of UMass Lowell:

“Higher education is the foundation of this region. It will determine the region’s future. What we do now, today, at this university, will decide who will leave and who will stay. Now—there has never been a more critical time than now.”

—Marty Meehan

At the invitation of incoming Chancellor Marty Meehan, U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., described as “one of the most courageous persons the Civil Rights Movement ever produced,” delivered the UMass Lowell commencement address in June.

Joining Marty Meehan, right, for the presentation of a $2 million nanomanufacturing award are, from left, Profs. Joey Mead, Julie Chen and Susan Braunhut. Standing, rear, from left are UMass President Jack Wilson, Prof. Ken Marx, Sen. Edward Kennedy and State Reps. Thomas Golden and David Nangle.
Sheer enormity of what he’s given up to take this job. What gives it weight is the life story he brings with him to the chancellor’s office: 50 years of history in the region, a 30-year relationship with the University—as student, alumnus, adjunct professor, champion in Congress—and a passion for education that has been reflected time and time again.

“This place gave me a chance when there weren’t a lot of other opportunities,” he explained when asked why he had accepted the job. “I feel passionately about this University. Fundamentally, I can tell you it gave me the basis to do whatever I’ve been able to do with my life.”

It is this awareness that he carries with him, this gratitude for the blessings of an education—at UMass Lowell as well as at Suffolk University, where he earned his law degree—that both reflect his working-class humanity and offer the best hope the University has as it moves forward in an era of heightened competition and shrinking subsidies.

It has been nearly 40 years, Meehan notes, since the last new academic building was constructed on campus. The University’s classroom computer technology lags behind that of other Massachusetts campuses. There remains too much division—at least philosophically—between the North and South campuses. As for diversity, among both students and staff: “We could do a better job.”

These are four priorities he has committed himself to addressing. No doubt there will be others as he reaches out to the community and develops consensus in the days ahead.

“My style is to listen and collaborate. I’ve always been a good listener—and I intend to do a lot of it over the next several months. I’m going to be asking a lot of questions and seeking out a lot of different perspectives.”

He hasn’t wasted any time. Since accepting the job less than three months ago, the new chancellor has already held meetings on campus with deans, trustees, senior administrators, alumni, faculty and students to discuss the school’s future.

Listening. Asking questions. Sharing the load. Finding solutions through compromise. These are some of the skills he mastered long before he came to Congress. One of seven siblings, he grew up in an eight-room house with one bathroom, very few luxuries, a mother who did four loads of laundry a day, and a father who worked the same job—as pressroom compositor at the Lowell Sun—for 43 years, then a second job—as prison guard—for seven more, and still found time to coach Little League every summer. On the field they knew him as “Coach Buster.”

“The important things in my life were taught to me by my family,” Marty Meehan told a reporter late last year. “Especially my father. He seemed to have a saying for everything in life.”

When he ran for and won the race for Lowell High School student council—then the council presidency—it was his

Comments on Chancellor Meehan’s Appointment

“Congressman Marty Meehan has been a leader in the Congress … I know he will make an excellent chancellor.”

“He has the skills and experience to be an exemplary chancellor for UMass Lowell. Massachusetts needs a world-class UMass to help the state compete in the global economy.”
Christopher R. Anderson, president of the Massachusetts High Technology Council

“Marty Meehan appreciates the importance of research and knows what it takes to succeed.”
Mechanical Engineering Prof. Julie Chen, director of the Nanomanufacturing Center of Excellence

“Marty Meehan is the perfect choice.”
Charles Hoff, ’66, principal investor, First Step Land Development, Inc.

“Congressman Meehan is uniquely qualified to take the University to the next level.”
Former Chancellor William T. Hogan

“For Marty, serving the University also means serving his neighbors and serving his community—to him it would never be just a job.”
Biology Prof. Susan Braunhut

“He has the leadership qualities to help the University sustain the pipeline of talented graduates.”
William H. Swanson, chairman and CEO of Raytheon Co.

“Our loss in the congressional delegation will certainly be UMass Lowell’s gain.”
U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy
father he turned to for advice. When he went to Washington as a freshman congressman, it was his father he would call to review a recent TV appearance. And, finally, it was his father’s pack-a-day cigarette habit and death from congestive heart failure that lent the personal backdrop to his fight against Big Tobacco.

It is a remarkably close family, even now. All seven siblings, as well as their mother, live today within a dozen miles of one another, and of the Lowell home, at 22 London St., in which they once shared chores—and that single bathroom. Last year, when Ellen Murphy Meehan, Marty Meehan’s wife, lost her mother, it was the Meehans, she says, who would arrive every day to pick up their two boys—now ages eight and five—“entertain them for the day, bring them back and put them in their pajamas. They are a wonderfully supportive family.”

It is this family closeness, coupled with the deep roots the Meehans share in Lowell, that have made Marty Meehan the local champion he has been. His services to the city and region, over the course of his 14 years in Washington, have been almost incalculable. Early federal funding for the Tsongas Arena, new buses for the LRTA, $30 million over 10 years for the Riverwalk and Canalway; $4.5 million in loan guarantees for the redevelopment of Jackson, Appleton and Middlesex Streets; a $3.5 million HUD loan for the Lawrence Mills Complex; and (most recently) $2 million for the UMass Lowell Nanomanufacturing Center—all in addition to the more than $50 million made possible in public and private investment by the congressman’s success in having Lowell designated a federal Renewal Community.

And now he will turn this same sort of energy to the service of UMass Lowell. “I’ve always believed that we are each responsible for creating the world we want to live in,” Meehan says. “That responsibility starts at home. For me, it starts here.”

It was as a student at ULowell, in Prof. Fred Lewis’s Political Science course (which he would return to years later, at Prof. Lewis’s invitation, as a visiting lecturer) that he first began to think in terms of public service and social justice. It was in a ULowell economics course, taught by Prof. Carol McDonough, that the link between government and the economy first came clear to him: “I didn’t want to take the course—it was on North Campus, which kind of intimidated me to begin with. But by the end, I was reading the New York Times and Wall Street Journal business pages and understanding them—and liking them—which I couldn’t have imagined before. It broadened my understanding of the world. That’s what a great teacher can do.

“I still have her textbooks—I’ve never thrown them away. My wife tried to get me to not long ago, but I wouldn’t let her. I treasure them. They remind me of what this university is all about, creating and preserving knowledge.”

So this, at least in part, is what his decision has been about. It has been about continuing to “give back”—that term so widely used among grateful alumni—to the University he credits with building his foundations. It would be hard to conceive that any alumnus, anywhere, could bestow a richer gift than to redirect an already-shining career. Or that there could be a more promising reason for someone to take on such a job.

“The University needs a leader who can bring to the campus the most talented people in their disciplines, as well as substantial additional resources to strengthen programs and facilities,” Meehan has said. “In addition…the next chancellor must be a skilled manager and a strategic marketer with prolific fund-raising ability and a compelling vision…”

His management skills have been proven over 14 years in office and seven successful election campaigns. As a marketer, he has assembled the votes time and again to turn minorities to majorities. His fund-raising skills are the envy of Congress. As for his vision, he puts it very simply:

“I believe the University is on the verge of greatness.”

There is an alumnus and former congressman who wants to take it there.

They were barely squeezing out winning records. Nine wins, eight losses in the ’71 season, then 12-11 the next year, then 12-10-1. The year after that—the ’74 season, at 9-12-1 among the worst of Bill Riley’s 22-year career—they couldn’t manage even that. Playing without scholarship money, practicing on the frozen-over tennis courts behind Costello Gymnasium, having to give up ice-time on any day that turned snowy or warm, they were easy pickings for teams like Salem State, St. Anselm and Bowdoin, who beat them regularly. Against archrival Merrimack, they went 0-8 over five seasons, outscored by close to 30 goals. Considering the obstacles, it was a wonder they were winning at all.

Then came the turn in the road. On April 1, 1976, John Duff took over the presidency of the newly-merged University of Lowell. Less than a year later, he told Coach Riley that he would allow the funds for 15 hockey scholarships.

Those Championship Seasons

Twenty-Five Years Later: the Legacy of a Team and a Coach

By Geoffrey Douglas
Bill Riley went on the road, recruiting—spending much of his time watching high-school games in Ontario or Quebec. He knew he couldn’t compete, even with his newfound scholarship money, for the creme-de-la-creme players, who would be snapped up by Division I schools, their launching pads to the NHL. His hope was to find the best of the rest: the solid, less-visible players with still-developing potential, players he could groom into Division I equals—then somehow convince them that ULowell was for them. It was a mission that would consume him for much of the next several years.

It didn’t take long, though, to bear its first fruit. The following year, 1977-78, the first year of a scholarship-bolstered roster, the team went 17-6-1. A season later, in the final game of the NCAA Division II tournament, which followed a 25-6 season, they beat Mankato State, 6-4, to win the national championship.

The years that followed were the golden age of ULowell hockey. Twenty-three wins in the 1980 season, and a number-three national ranking. In 1981, a second national championship, with a record of 27-5. And in 1982, a quarter century ago this year, they finished the season at 31-4—the best record in University history—and won their third championship in four years. (They would have won a fourth one, Riley remembers, if they hadn’t been upset, 4-1, in the 1983 NCAA tournament by a team from the Rochester Institute of Technology captained by Blaise MacDonald, today the UMass Lowell coach. Instead they finished second in the country.)

“We had lots of chemistry on those teams,” Riley recalls today, sitting in his office in the basement of Costello gym, from where he serves as coordinator for all UMass Lowell home athletic events. “Everybody was close—the upperclassmen supported the freshmen and sophomores, the young kids contributed, they were just really solid, hard-working teams.”

When you go down the list of the top scorers in UML’s nearly 50-year hockey history—a list that totals more than 600 names—it is astonishing how many come from those years: four of the top five, six of the top 10, nine of the top 20 names.

It began with Tom Jacobs, number three on that list, who arrived just before the scholarship years and therefore had endured some tough seasons. Then came Craig MacTavish (number 19) and Kevin Charbonneau (number four), both recruited from Canada, who, along with Jacobs, made up the first line of the ’78-79 national-championship team. There was Dean Jenkins (number five on the list), a walk-on from Billerica who played wing on the ’81 team; Mike Carr (number one, the top scorer in UML history), who played on a line with Jenkins and Charbonneau; Ken Kaiser (six) and Paul Lohnes from Woburn, who tallied 167 points (number eight) as a defenseman. Then there were the goalies, Brian Doyle and John MacKenzie, with 117 wins between them; and the assistant coaches, Gary Bishop and Mike Geragosian, both of
whom who had played for Riley in the early seventies, just prior to the golden years.

Many of these players, says Riley, he remains in touch with today: “We formed a bond. I could push them hard and know that they’d take it, because they knew I cared for them, that I’d do anything I could to support them—in hockey or in life. When you have that kind of trust in each other, you can accomplish a lot of things.”

At least three of his players from those years—MacTavish, Jenkins and Mark Kumpel (number 55 on the scoring list)—went on to play in the NFL, where MacTavish remains today, as coach of the Edmonton Oilers. (MacTavish, who holds the all-time school record for most points in a single season, 88, might well have out-pointed Carr for the number-one career tally had he not left after his sophomore year to join the Bruins, where he was a standout for six seasons.)

“We were a talented group of players,” remembers Dean Jenkins, the Billerica walk-on—today a real estate developer in Lowell—who played on a line with Carr and Charbonneau. “Some of the guys—not me, really, but some of the others—were players who’d been passed over by Division I teams, but maybe had Division I abilities. Then along comes Bill [Riley], who recognizes their talent and finds a place for them…”

“He was a master recruiter, and a master motivator of men that age. Well-educated and tough-minded. He had a vision, and he wasn’t going to stop ’til he got it.” —Dean Jenkins

In the 1983-’84 season, a year after closing the season 29-2 (including a 10-1-1 record against Division I foes) to finish second in the nation, ULowell was elevated to a Division I team. Now with opponents like Michigan State, Ohio State and Northern Arizona, it would be four more years before they saw another winning record. (“When we went to Michigan State that first year,” Bill Riley remembers, “they had a sign hung over one side of the rink—’What’s a Lowell?’” They lost both games of a two-game series, by a combined score of 16-4.)

Riley would stay on as coach another seven years after that, tallying two more winning seasons, before he would step aside to take the position as events coordinator. (He is also assistant commissioner of officials in the Hockey East conference.) He still manages to get to most UMass Lowell homes games, he says, as well as to some weekend games at Bowdoin, where his son is today an assistant
coach. But his coaching days are over—and he wouldn’t have it any other way.

“It was a lot of work, and I enjoyed it. But it’s a young man’s game. You keep going too long, you start to lose your fastball. I like to think that when I quit, I still had most of mine.”

His old players wouldn’t argue that.

“The team was a reflection of him,” Dean Jenkins says. “Of his toughness, his smarts, his work ethic. And the things we accomplished, I think, they kind of raised the status of the school. We were number one in the country for three years—that’s a memory that doesn’t fade overnight.”
It was one of those rare, glorious early spring days in New England – sunny and warm. A day to just lie on the grass, soak up sunshine and do — nothing.

That was the way Tara O’Brien ‘01 and her Kappa Delta Phi sorority sisters felt that morning in 1999.

“It was a nice early spring day,” she says. “Like summer. We all just skipped class and hung out on the front lawn of Eames. We were all scheduled to work the Phonathon that evening, too, and four or five of us just didn’t feel like going.

“We called Brian (Andriolo, of the Advancement staff) and told him we all didn’t feel well. We had Jessica (Werner) make the call and we had her write out a script of why we couldn’t come in. We still laugh about that. Brian laughs about it now but I don’t think he was laughing then. I’m a supervisor now and I think, ‘Oh, if my staff did that to me . . .’ ”
Andriolo remembers that day, too. He also remembers that Tara was one of the most successful phonathon operators he has ever supervised and that, well, maybe it wasn’t such a terrible idea to cut some slack for a hard worker and her friends on such a beautiful afternoon.

Tara – now Tara O’Brien Hastie – is one of eight alums who reminisced recently about their fraternity and sorority days in Lowell. The others are Al Gilet ’55 of Phi Gamma Psi, Carol Canovai ’56 of Phi Sigma Rho, John Tardelli ’64, ’70 of Delta Kappa Phi, Hank Brown ’67 of Sigma Phi Omicron, John Pulichino ’67 of Phi Gamma Psi, Larry Acquarulo ’81 of Pi Lambda Phi and Jake Burke ’89, ’90, ’92 of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

“We’re always impressed with the dedication of our Greek alumni,” says John Davis, vice chancellor for Advancement. “So many give back to the University both financially and in volunteer roles. Most of the Greek houses maintain strong alumni contact and have yearly reunions. Although the University doesn’t officially recognize Greek houses anymore, they still exist in our area and have been an important part of our long history here at UMass Lowell and its predecessor institutions.”

The fond memories of the old UML alums include the usual whacky stories – “sewer” parties, “night trains” to the local bar, a faculty automobile found on a commencement platform. But the alums who tell these stories also say those were great days because of the lifelong friendships they forged and the experiences they had, which, in many cases, helped pave the way to successful careers.

Tara Hastie, for example, says, “The sorority was a great learning tool. It truly helped me become the person I am today. It helped me venture out of my shell and made me feel that I could talk in front of others without being completely embarrassed.”

That confidence serves her well today as a residential supervisor for five Merrimack Valley group homes for adults with developmental disabilities. Her employer, Bridgewell, was known as Greater Lynn Mental Health when she began working there as an undergraduate “to make ends meet.” Then, discovering that she enjoyed that type of work, she abandoned an earlier thought of a teaching career and pursued her master’s in social work.

As it turned out, half a dozen sorority sisters – Tara Pickard, Marcie Rondeau, Jessica Werner, Kerrie Dauphinais Bushnell, Michelle Howes and Karyn Carmichael — followed her into Bridgewell employment. “It was kind of a snowball effect,” Hastie says.

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The best part of that group, she says, was “just the feeling that you had a family away from home. A lot of people lived far away. If you didn’t have a car, you always had a ride. If you didn’t feel that you had somewhere to go for Thanksgiving, your sisters would take you home with them. It just was an amazing family connection.

Although there are those who join sororities and fraternities for the drinking and partying, they’re the stereotype. We definitely had our fun, which did consist of partying, but the sorority was an amazing family connection.

“I don’t know where I’d be today if I hadn’t become part of that family.”

Jake Burke remembers the camaraderie of college days, too, but he also recalls the “sewer” parties and the annual Christmas shopping events that still begin at – and once never left – the Bell in Hand in Boston’s Faneuil Hall area.

The shopping trip began 20 years ago, with all good intentions. Burke and four fellow scholars from Tau Kappa Epsilon – Dave Stordy and his brother Scott, Eric “Sluggo” Ramstrom and Kevin Swindon – embarked on a trip to Faneuil Hall the Saturday after Thanksgiving to buy Christmas presents for their girlfriends.

The five stopped first at the Bell in Hand to slake their thirst and an odd thing happened. They never left.

“We were there, literally, for 12 hours,” says Burke. “Thank God for public transportation.”
This November will mark the 20th time that the group has assembled for a Thanksgiving weekend shopping event.

“We haven’t missed a year since 1988,” says Burke.

But some things have changed. This get-together, which Burke calls “arguably the largest alumni event not sanctioned by the University,” still starts at noon but now ends at 7 p.m. instead of midnight. And now the gifts are for wives, not girlfriends.

Moreover, the group has grown from five to last year’s attendance of nearly 30. And, while they’re not all Tau Kappa Epsilon brothers these days, they are mostly UML alumni.

With obvious affection, Burke describes those shoppers of the early years as “a pile of misfits,” then goes on to extol their successes. “If you take an assessment of what they are now, you have an FBI agent, engineers who helped design the Big Dig, U.S. Marshals, entrepreneurs in the plastics industry...”

Burke himself is vice president of Business Development for CareerSearch, a company he began working for after several years in the Admissions office and the office of Career Services at the University.

He and Dave Stordy, both of Medford, recently established a UML scholarship fund for Medford high school students.

Aside from the annual shopping spree, Burke remembers the bizarre “sewer” party that the fraternity staged every year during Spring Carnival.

“For weeks ahead of time we’d collect about 100 of those big cartons that refrigerators and washing machines come in,” he says. The brothers would then build a “sewer,” actually a tunnel made of those boxes.

The tunnel would start outside the fraternity house, weave around the lawn, up the stairs, through the living room and down into the basement where the party was held.

“Whether they were guys or girls, wore skirts or pants, they had to go through the sewer unless they were Teke brothers. Some Teke brothers were stationed inside the sewer with flashlights to make sure no one got stuck or freaked out.”

This event, he says, “drove (Dean of Students) Leo King crazy.” Eventually, Lowell police and fire units would arrive to break up the tunnel, declaring it to be a fire hazard.

Ask Larry Acquarulo about his days in Pi Lambda and he’ll tell you about theme parties and athletic championships. But, in the next breath, he’ll say, “The fraternity was a critical part of my life and helped to shape who I am today. I learned about leadership and helping others.”

The theme parties he credits to Dennis Roddy, the social chairman. “The Calypso party and the Ho-Down...”
party go down as the best ever,” Acquarulo says.

The Calypso party featured a steel band from Jamaica and the fraternity gave away two tickets for a weekend in Jamaica.

“You came to the party with a suitcase and if you were the winner, the limo picked you up at the house and drove you to Logan to catch your flight.

“I remember Pi-Lam winning the Duff Cup intramural championship (named for John Duff, the first president of the University of Lowell). That was a real brotherly team effort such that we had to enter teams in virtually all intramural sports categories to win overall team points.

“Hockey games at 2 a.m. and then hot dogs right before bed made for a tough morning in class. (Prof.) Rudy Deanin always had a 7:30 Friday morning Plastics Materials class, I think just to show us what it’s like in the real world. You play, you pay.

“We had a lot of plastics majors in the house and several football players as well, when ULowell had a good, albeit club, football team.

“Once a year we had a leadership conclave with Pi-Lams from other schools, most notably MIT and Rensselaer. We got to know the brothers at MIT pretty well and would travel down on weekends to visit. We’d do the sights in Boston and then relax with the brothers at their house on Beacon Street. It was a real treat for us, coming from Lowell. They had maid service and a cook. We took full advantage of the pantry services.”

A native of East Haven, Conn., Acquarulo became interested in plastics engineering after reading an article, written by Prof. Steve Driscoll, that appeared in a handbook his high school guidance counselor gave him. Because plastics engineering wasn’t offered in Connecticut, he was able to attend ULowell and pay in-state tuition.

Acquarulo says fraternity life “was a vitally important part of what made ULowell such a great place to go to school and keep in contact for a lifetime.” Then he quotes the Pi Lambda Phi motto: “Not four years but a lifetime.”

John Pulichino, who joined Phi Gamma Psi with two good friends, Bob Gomes and Cal Lewis, says he remembers those fraternity days with fondness.

“The fraternity provided a camaraderie with guys I liked and an oasis from that transition that every kid goes through when he leaves home and high school friends to gravitate to a new passage. It’s interesting because by the time you get into the sophomore year the thought of high school friends becomes a distant memory.”

By his junior year, Pulichino had moved into the house and had gotten involved in the inner workings and activities of the fraternity. In his senior year he was elected president of the chapter.

“It was interesting from a couple of perspectives, the whole process of being elected, being up against closest friends. It was a real learning curve and my first real exposure to management,” says the man who went on to become president and CEO of American Tourister.

That management experience included the house and its problems and discussions with Dean of Students Richard Ivers regarding fraternity issues.

“Dean Ivers had a reputation of being a very tough guy. All of a sudden I was involved in a fairly high level of negotiation and settlement of issues with him, sometimes explaining what had happened on the previous Saturday night. Our guys let their hair down on weekends.

“That was a whole element I didn’t anticipate but being bestowed the honor of being president of the fraternity created a need for me to step up to new management challenges. It probably was some of the very beginnings of my desire, not to be an individual contributor as an engineer, but wanting to get into general management in the corporate world.”

Pulichino’s university days were not all leadership responsibilities and studies, however.

“Our house was situated a stone’s throw from a local watering hole,” he says. “On any given night around 11:30 someone bored of studying would start the ‘night train.’ He’d be the ‘engine’ and would go around banging on doors, shouting ‘night train,’ trying to get ‘cars’ to couple onto him for the ‘train’ down to the local bar for a few beers. Inevitably, he’d eventually get half a dozen guys to go with him.”

(Charlie Hoff ’66, a University benefactor [Hoff Scholarships] and former
member of the Board of Trustees, was another one of the Phi Gamma Psi brothers during Pulichino’s time at Lowell.

What attracted Hank Brown to “Sig O,” was “an idea that today might be called ‘diversity.’ ”

When Brown joined Sigma Phi Omicron, it was only in its second year, a “fledgling with no tradition. I was in the first pledge class ever. There hadn’t been a pledge week before that.

“I liked the idea of helping to develop something, an organization that valued everyone’s opinion. It wasn’t just about jocks or physics majors or whatever. I liked the idea of helping to develop something and getting involved in something that valued people and their different viewpoints.

Hank Brown and his Sig O brothers have kept in contact with one another and have joined in support of their alma mater.

In connection with the renovation of Costello Gym last year, the University made an appeal for contributions to the Buy a Brick campaign that would support the transformation of the entrance lobby into Alumni Championship Hall. The Sig O alum response was overwhelming: a contribution of 43 “bricks” that cover the entire middle section of one of two memorial walls flanking the lobby.

Visiting the gym recently, Brown reminisced about several Sig O brothers who were at Lowell during his undergraduate days and whose names are on the bricks. They included Carl Pitasi and Charles Cordeau of the class of 1966 and Ray Noga, John F. Kennedy and Bob “Scuba” Marseglia of the class of 1970 – all of whom, he says, have been big supporters of the University and are keys to keeping fellow alums connected to the school.

“Carl Pitasi was the founder of the house. It was really his brainchild and he was the energy behind it. He was a fantastically interesting character.

“For the second pledge class, we had to go on a road trip that week because we didn’t have a house. We went to Kittery, Maine, where one of the brothers who had graduated had rented a place. I think we had 12 pledges.”

Later, Brown says, he and Pitasi found the house on 11th street and spent a lot of time working on it and getting it organized. “Once we had the house, the pledging was heavy on fixing it up.”

Ironically, Brown never lived in the house because, he says, he couldn’t afford it. He commuted to school from his family’s home in Chelmsford.

“We ended up with a very broad spectrum of people. I learned a lot in terms of understanding diverse attitudes and opinions, trying to get a consensus in meetings with disparate opinions and being comfortable with a wide range of personalities.

“I’m not outgoing but I’m comfortable with a variety of personalities. The fraternity helped me communicate with people of different backgrounds and different interests. In a brotherhood, you have to do that.”

Dean Ivers was a big supporter of fraternities, according to Brown, but he also maintained tight control over things. One year there was an outside graduation event scheduled and a platform was built in front of Cumnock Hall as part of the program. One morning, a faculty member’s Volkswagen was found atop the platform and the dean summoned Pitasi to find out what he knew about it.

“Carl didn’t know anything about it but he did offer to get some guys to remove the car,” says Brown.
When he became president of the fraternity in his senior year, Brown himself had to make a few appearances in the dean’s office as a result of neighborhood complaints.

“We weren’t an animal house. We were just a little noisy,” he says.

About 40 of the members had a reunion in Merrimack, N.H., in February of 2006.

“I hate to admit I was the only one who didn’t make it,” Brown says. “It was snowing and I totaled my car in the storm on the way down from Laconia.”

John Tardelli says his memories of Delta Kappa Phi fraternity days “mostly have to do with the guys,” but he also credits the experience of conducting chapter business with providing valuable life lessons.

“There’s nothing quite like a fraternity business meeting,” he claims. “You’re young, in college, and haven’t been exposed to a lot of things. The first time you go to a fraternity business meeting you find out you have to learn to communicate and deal. I was active in state and local politics when I was in high school but it was nothing like politics in a fraternity structure.

“I learned a lot about human nature and how to participate successfully in a fraternity. It was the equivalent of the math I learned at Lowell Tech. Those two things alone have carried me to where I am today.”

Tardelli, who began his career at American Science and Engineering in Cambridge, has been with Arcon in Boston for more than 25 years, now as director of Digital Speech Processing.

In addition to conducting fraternity business, he recalls competition among fraternities in all kinds of events, one of which was golf. He notes that the UMass Lowell chapter has a tradition of having an annual golf tournament.

When members of Omicron Pi convene in Marina del Rey, Calif., this October, it will mark the seventh reunion of the UMass Lowell chapter since 1994.

Dick Dauksys ’62 says it all started early that year when he and classmate Jamie Aimone were recalling the good old fraternity days and saying how great it would be if they could put together a mini-reunion.

Using an Alumni Directory, they located 16 brothers, and Jamie “volunteered” to host a reunion in Plymouth in September.

Three years later, Jamie and Dick co-hosted a second reunion, this time in Point Pleasant, N.J., and the brothers have gotten together every two years since then. The locations and hosts have been Lowell, Bill Lipchitz ’63 and Dick Sawyer ’57; Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Tom Johnson ’65; Fort Myers, Fla., Dick Dauksys; and Estes Park, Colo., Tom McAvinue ’63. Walt McHendry ’64 will host the reunion this October.

Over the years, attendance, including wives, has grown from about 30 to more than 60.

“Although the official reunion time is over a weekend, many of the brothers arrange to get together earlier and/or stay later,” Dauksys says. “There is usually a Friday night buffet, golf during the day and a Saturday dinner where awards are presented for golf, and various other activities – all of which are geared to provide an abundance of laughter.

“Dick Sawyer, piano player extraordinaire, coaches an all-brother choral group and directs skits that bring the house down. An interesting side feature is that many of the wives that had never met prior to the reunions are now very close friends.”

Senior O Pi brothers can contact Dauksys at ticktoc@peoplepc.com for more information.
them being ice sculpting that was part of the annual Winter Carnival.

“We found a way of winning most of those years one way or another,” he says. “We had good design ideas. Once, right after the Civil Rights legislation passed in the early ’60s, we had a sculpture of a black man shaking hands with a white man. It would have been politically incorrect for us not to win.”

Most social life in the ’60s was run by fraternities, he says, much of it being driven by the Interfraternity Council.

Delta Kappa Phi also did its share of outreach projects, too, Tardelli says. As a result of a brother being seriously injured in an auto accident, the fraternity ran a seat belt campaign, when seat belts were not all that popular. They found a supplier, sold the belts to University and community residents virtually at cost, and arranged to have them installed.

Tardelli even had one put in his 1958 “bug eyed” Sprite, a sports car he still has today.

“The brothers used to jump start it and take it out of the parking lot and go for joy rides all over town,” he says.

Having clearly enjoyed his fraternity experience, he says he believes that the University should consider recognizing the Greek community once again.

“I think it would be a benefit to the school. It’s known nationally that Greeks donate more money to their universities than any other group of alumni.

“And they also are more heavily represented in things like reunion weekends.”

Carol Dunn Canovai remembers that her sorority life in Phi Sigma Rho “was quite different from regular sorority life. We had no sorority house in which to eat, sleep and be merry.

“In the whole college there were only nine of us in 1952 and 20 of us in 1956. But, truthfully, a house didn’t matter, and because there were so few of us among so many young men, we bonded very well.”

What substituted for a house was a third-floor room at the back of Falmouth Hall that served as a lounge and meeting room. It was, she says “off limits” to the guys.

“The highlight of my sophomore year was the trip to Atlantic City for The Machinery Show. The parade down the boardwalk was led by four sorority sisters proudly holding the Lowell Tech banner.

“In the fall of 1954, Cumnock Hall was completed. I can remember looking out the window during business law class and seeing the construction in progress. Vice President Richard Nixon came to campus for an honorary degree during the dedication.

“But it wasn’t all fun and games for Carol, the first in her family to graduate from college.

“When we were in school, we’d spend 30 to 35 hours in classes, which is a lot different from today. I remember my sophomore year second semester was really difficult. I had classes from 8 a.m. until 4 or 5 p.m. with a one-hour break – and then a night class from 7 to 9 p.m.”

When she graduated with a degree in textiles, Carol went to work for United Elastic Corporation, the company that had provided her with a four-year scholarship. She left there to become a sportswear buyer for a Boston store before marrying Peter Canovai ’59. Later, while they were living in New Jersey, she went to work in the Testing Laboratory at Good Housekeeping magazine.

“When Good Housekeeping put its seal of approval on any textile product, I was one of the people who did the testing. For instance, if a company claimed its product wouldn’t fade after several washings, I washed.

“I attended our 50th college reunion last October and had an opportunity to talk with many of my classmates. Most of them reached very high positions in companies and in education or actually have companies of their own. I’m very proud of their accomplishments and it was a pleasure to see them.

Rush Us Your Information and We Pledge to Keep You Connected

Over the years, many hundreds of students belonged to fraternities or sororities during their college days in Lowell.

We’d like to know where you are, what you’re doing and what fraternity/sorority you belong to so we can include you in a data base that will make it possible for us to communicate with you about future reunions and keep you apprised of news about your “Greek” friends.

Give us a call at (978) 934-3140 or e-mail us at alumni_office@uml.edu
“I also renewed my friendship with my sorority sister Marcella Czekanski Szczepanik, and we’re corresponding by e-mail. That alone was worth the trip to the reunion.”

Fraternity life, says Al Gilet, was “a great experience.”

A Lowell native, Gilet followed his father, Albert Sr., to the college to major in textile manufacturing with a wool option. Before that, he had attended Keith Academy with two other prominent Lowell alums – Frank McConne ’56 and Hank Powell ’55.

“We were told that when people all over the world looked at schools in the United States, the three that were mentioned most of the time were Harvard, MIT and Lowell Tech. At that time, the whole New England area was textiles. And LTI was the number one textile college in the world.”

In his freshman year, Gilet remembers, there were four fraternities at the school and he joined Phi Gamma Psi, the only national textile fraternity in the United States. The house was on Pawtucket Boulevard.

“It was a great experience. You got to know people, You became closer to them because you associated with them more. There was an excellent camaraderie.

“At that time, the majority of key players at the school were Phi Psi members. I’m sure that’s changed over time. My father said that when he was there the Delta Kappa Phi members were the ones.

“I was president of the junior class and Hank Powell was president in the senior year.

“Those were good times – going skiing up in New Hampshire with a bunch of Phi Psi guys on weekends and to parties on Crane’s Beach in the spring. We even had fun at the various fraternity meetings because we were all in the same bracket, with the same family backgrounds.

“It was a great bunch. We worked hard together and played hard together. I know there was a lot of drinking associated with fraternities but I can’t say that we ever got extraordinarily out of line.”

When Gilet graduated, he went to work for Huyck Felt, where he became the youngest production superintendent the company ever had.

From there he moved on to Lodding Engineering, back to Huyck, and then to Ahlstrom, Inc., a Finnish company, for 10 years.

“My last hurrah,” he says, “was with Albany International – and Frank McConne was the president. They were the world leaders in making fabrics for the pulp and paper industry.”

When he finally retired in 2000, he established Gilet Enterprises, serving as a manufacturer’s representative and selling fabrics.

“I’m just keeping my hand in a couple of days a week. I’m not working too hard.”
It was the spring of 1984. Computers were the wave of the present and foreseeable future. Wang Laboratories in Lowell, then at its zenith with $3 billion in revenues and a local workforce of 4,500, was a heavy recruiter among seniors at ULowell. A job offer from Wang, among business or computer science majors, was viewed widely as a ticket to the top.

Rob Manning, a senior with a major in business administration, got a Wang offer. He got another offer, too: from a mutual-fund company in Boston, MFS Investment Management, that was looking for analysts. The MFS offer was for half the salary; the Wang job would be trendier and closer to home—it should have been an easy choice.

But one of Manning’s ULowell professors, Kevin Perry, had connections at MFS, thought highly of the company and counseled his student to think seriously about their offer. As for Wang, Manning remembers today: “I figured computers would be around for awhile.” He took the job at MFS analyzing junk bonds, and started work that same fall.

Most of the rest is public record. Wang’s troubles began at just about that time. There were issues with management and unfulfilled commitments; the founder’s son was made president, then fired three years later; the founder himself died a year after that. In the summer of 1992, the company filed for bankruptcy protection. It is rarely heard from nowadays.

Rob Manning meanwhile rose year-by-year through the ranks at MFS, from analyst to research director to portfolio manager to vice president. In February 2004, following a widely-publicized shake-up, he was elevated to the posts he occupies today: CEO, president and chief investment officer. The company, at last count, manages $150 billion in assets for five million investors world-wide.
“It’s funny how things work out,” he said one day early last winter on a visit to the campus. “If I’d taken the Wang job, I’d probably be a programmer somewhere today. I’ve never regretted it for a minute—but there were certainly no guarantees at the time.”

That recent campus visit came in a new capacity for Manning: he is one of the newest members of the 21-member UMass board of trustees, named by the governor last fall. In addition, he was serving by then as a member of the selection committee charged with the search for a new UMass Lowell chancellor (see related story).

His visit served a third purpose: as a chance to introduce himself to Melissa Tarallo and Laura Beth Tempia, the first recipients of the Robert and Donna Manning Endowed Scholarship Fund. The fund, created by Manning and his wife—also a ULowell product—with a pledge of $100,000 (augmented by $50,000 from the state), will endow two $3,000 scholarships per year, one each from the College of Management and the nursing program of the College of Health and Environment.

“Just remember, when the time comes—it’ll be your turn then to give back,” he said to the two students on that January day in the Alumni Office when they thanked him for his help. Then he shook their hands a final time, reminded them again to remember, wished them luck and said goodbye.

Rob Manning has never stopped remembering. He lives in Swampscott today—has lived there now 15 years—with his wife Donna and their black Lab Coal. But the ULowell memories are never more than a thought, or a circumstance, away.

Donna herself is the most constant reminder. They were sweethearts long before their college days, then together again for three years at ULowell. But apart from the chance to be together, those weren’t the easiest times:

“We both commuted every day”—from Methuen—“and carried a full load of courses. Her dad was a machinist, mine worked at Raytheon. The tuition, if I remember, was around $1,500 a year. That was a lot of money at the time.”

They made it through, and went on to life: Rob to his job at MFS, Donna to an MBA at ULowell, then to a nursing career. She is today an oncology nurse at Boston University Medical center—and also serves on the advisory board of the UMass Lowell Nursing Department.

But, far more than most of us, Rob Manning held those years in his mind. “They changed my life,” he says. “That’s no exaggeration.”

Then he goes on to talk again about Kevin Perry, and about another faculty member, a math professor named Bernie Shapiro: “a take-no-prisoners kind of guy, but with this great big heart. He was a mentor first, then a friend.”

He talks about the “terrific education” he was given—about how, when he went on to Boston College for his master’s in finance, he was waived out of a core program because of the proficiency he had already achieved. “I got some really good training. I was incredibly well-prepared.”

So today, he says, he has made it his mission to give back, whether as a board member or through the donation of scholarship funds—“with no ulterior motives, with no other wish except to help”—and to reach out to others to do the same:

“There are lot of others like us out there—I’m convinced of it—a lot of alumni with the means to help, who probably even would want to help. They just don’t realize how badly we need them.”

“Just remember, when the time comes—it’ll be your turn then to give back.”

— Rob Manning
More than 500 alumni families attended the annual Alumni Hockey Night on February 24 and cheered on UML’s River Hawks versus the Boston College Eagles during an exciting evening of men’s Division 1 Hockey East action.

The annual Alumni Hockey Night included a pre-game reception at the Campus Recreation Center. On hand to greet alumni and to help with a raffle for UML memorabilia was interim Chancellor David MacKenzie, third from left.

Enjoying this year’s Fine Wine and Dine Extravaganza at La Boniche Restaurant in Lowell, UML alumni, Patricia Talty ’77 and Frank Talty ’78.

Among the alumni and guests who enjoyed the “Old World; New World” Epicurean Extravaganza on February 25 were, from left, Ron Strauss ’82, Susan Strauss and Ann Scannell ’73.

Seen at the annual Fine Wine Dinner were from left, J.P. Durand ’91, Mary Ann Durand, Dana Hubbard and adjunct faculty member Stacey Hubbard ’93.

Local-area alumni enjoyed a picnic gathering followed by a Red Sox baseball game in Fort Myers, Fla. From left, Mary MacKenzie, UMass Lowell Chancellor David MacKenzie and Hank Powell ’55.
UMass President Jack Wilson threw out the first pitch at UMass Day at City of Palms Park. Included in the alumni picnic gathering were, from left, Omicron Pi brothers Mike Anderson ’66, Jerry Lydon ’66, Bill Lipchitz ’63, Richard Dauksys ’62, Rick Hoeske ’66 and Stu Pearce ’64.

Cheering on the Boston Red Sox during a spring training game and alumni gathering in Fort Lauderdale were, from left, Daniel Bellino ’94, David Parker, Diana Vega and Fernando Vega ’77 and daughter.

Enjoying the alumni picnic gathering prior to the Red Sox baseball game in Fort Lauderdale were Nancy Sposato and Bill Laudani ’67.

Alumni and friends enjoyed an elegant evening at the Mar-a-Lago reception in Palm Beach, Fla. Pictured from left, UMass President Jack Wilson, Professor Emerita Patricia Tyra and Mary Jo Leahey ’37.

Alumni had the opportunity to meet UMass Lowell’s incoming chancellor, Marty Meehan ’78, at the Mar-a-Lago reception. From left, David Day, Meehan, and host Joe Day ’66.
Alumni and guests enjoyed reconnecting with one another and meeting other alumni at the annual Mar-a-Lago reception. From left, Richard Crandall ’62, Diane Crandall, Jackie Chiarepko and Henry Fredette ’65.

Attendees at the Mar-a-Lago reception included, from left, Gloria LaTorre, Donald LaTorre ’60 and Diane Earl, University Advancement.

At the Palm Beach reception were, from left, UMass President, Jack Wilson, Roy Zuckerberg ’58, David Pernick ’41 and Marty Meehan ’78.

Crew alumni gathered for a boat dedication in memory of their friend and fellow crew alumna, Maureen Donahue Fallon ’88. They are, from left, John Carmichael ’89, George Strom ’90 and his son, Maryellen Abraham Robert ’88, Sheila Barter and Mary Cullen ’89.

Marylou and Richard Hoadley raised their glasses to UMass Lowell at the Mar-a-Lago Club reception. Marylou is a retired UML staff member.

Local alumni enjoyed a pre-game barbeque followed by a UMass Lowell baseball game at LeLacheur Park on April 28. Participating in the festivities are, from left, a UML friend, Marty Burke, Michelle Cote ’02, Jim Hunt ’63, David Tedford ’02 and daughter Taylor, and Gary Hunt ’69.
## Deceased Alumni, Faculty and Staff 4/28/06 – 3/15/07

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## In Memoriam

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## Faculty and Staff

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**UMASS LOWELL MAGAZINE  SPRING 2007  37**
Roy Zuckerberg: From Textile

He had been a supporter for years. His first gifts to the University, going back to the early ’80s, had been targeted mostly at athletics—on the tennis team himself in his Lowell Tech days, he was a big believer in the power of sports teams to draw attention, and new applicants, to a school:

“It only takes one strong team,” Roy Zuckerberg says today. “One team can do a lot to raise awareness. I really thought that was a good direction for my help.”

Then he learned about Sam Afroh. Afroh, once a top-tier amateur tennis player himself, had been paralyzed from the neck down in a freak car accident during the summer of 1991. That same year, by coincidence, the UMass Lowell Computer and Electrical Engineering Department had begun work on a program—to be known as assistive technology—designed to ease the lives of handicapped persons through the creative use of technology. In Afroh’s case, students in the program developed a system to allow him to control most of the functions of his Lowell apartment—heat, air conditioning, lights, TV—through simple verbal commands. “It’s amazing,” the wheelchair-bound man would tell this magazine later. “I feel like I have a part of my life back. How can I ever thank them?”

For Roy Zuckerberg, this seemed an inspiration. “It just struck me as a truly great program. To be able to make that sort of difference in someone’s life simply by applying knowledge and technology—it was a program I thought deserved all the support it could get.”

His support was $250,000, (augmented by a 50 percent matching grant from the UMass Foundation), which was donated to the University in the fall of 1999. Proceeds from the $375,000 total continue to generate about $19,000 a year for the assistive technology program—and, though Sam Afroh himself has since succumbed to his afflictions, to make the daily lives of others like him that much less difficult to bear.

Roy Zuckerberg, though, has been an innovator nearly all his life—beginning decades ago, when he broke ranks with his father (“we had different philosophies about things”) and left the family textile business to go to work for Goldman Sachs, from which he would retire 31 years later as vice chairman. So it was probably inevitable that, sooner or later—for all the importance of the causes he’d supported—he would look to put his signature on something all his own.

That day came in late 2001, with the announcement of his largest gift to date: an $850,000 pledge for the establishment of the Roy J. Zuckerberg Endowed Leadership Chair. The first UMass chair to be endowed at the Lowell campus, it offered a yearly award of $60,000 ($35,000 to support teaching or research, the remainder as a stipend) to “people of courage, conviction and selflessness who have devoted their time and talents to helping the University of Massachusetts accomplish its goals.”

The key to the award, says its donor today, is its open-endedness. While the chair itself is to be based on the Lowell campus, any employee in the UMass system, either staff or faculty, on any of the five campuses, is eligible to be considered.

“I’m trying to encourage leadership—wherever it may be found. Any sort of positive leadership, coming from any [UMass] campus. It could be a hockey coach at Lowell or a professor from Amherst. As long as there’s real leadership shown, they should be eligible for the chair.”(The first two yearly awards, for 2005 and 2006, have gone to professors from UMass Boston and the UMass Medical School.)
Apprentice to Wall Street

"Philanthropy plays an important role in society, an increasing role, the order of magnitude—it’s just much, greater than it ever was before.” — Roy Zuckerberg

But at least as vital as his financial gifts, which long ago cleared the million-dollar mark, have been the gifts of his time and expertise—three-plus decades of managing investments at Goldman Sachs—as chair of the investment committee of the University of Massachusetts Foundation. The Foundation, which serves as a depository for charitable contributions to UMass, had a market value of just under a quarter-billion dollars at the close of the last fiscal year. This reflected an increase of $35 million, or roughly 17 percent, over the previous 12 months—a gain that far exceeded that of the market as a whole, and was in large part the product of Roy Zuckerberg’s investment advice.

“There’s quite a lot of work involved in what we do there,” he says. “I think last year we had four meetings [of the committee] in Boston, as well as several conference calls. It’s a very strong committee—good people, smart people. “I’ve enjoyed my time with them. I like to think we’ve done a pretty decent job.”

All this largesse had some improbable beginnings.

Roy Zuckerberg, in the mid-1950s, was a New York teenager with a family in the textile business—a business, it was thought, Roy might one day take over himself. So, when the time came to look at colleges, the Lowell Textile Institute was near the top of a very short list:

“Lowell Tech in those days was one of the few really fine engineering colleges in the country,” says Zuckerberg today. “An unusual, highly specialized school, with a terrific reputation. Textiles, paper, plastics, it was known for all of those. My choice in the end came down to Lowell Tech versus North Carolina. And I had a friend at Lowell. But it could have been either one—both schools drew students from all over the U.S.”

His circle of friends at Lowell Tech was testimony to the breadth of its student base: Tom Zau, an engineering student from Hong Kong who would go on to a successful career in both Asia and the U.S; Arturo Wallerstein, from Mexico City, a teammate on those late-'50s Lowell Tech tennis teams (“He was a wonderful player, really exciting to watch”); and the fraternity he pledged to, Tau Lambda Phi, made up almost entirely of out-of-state students:

“We had kids in there from New York City, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Utica, N.Y.—all over the country. The fraternity was known for that. I got to know a lot of them pretty well. A really diverse mix of people. And the education, if you were headed for engineering, was pretty tough to beat.”

He graduated in the spring of 1958, and took the expected next step—to a job in his father’s Long Island textiles firm. He stayed with it eight years, long enough to learn the business; but to learn also, he says, that he and his father had different directions in mind: “We just had differing views of the way to do business. And I decided I wanted something else.”

He spent six months in the Army. Then, building on some Lowell Tech business courses and a mounting interest in finance, he got hired in 1967 by Goldman Sachs. He was 29 years old. He would stay until he was past 60—retiring in 1998 as vice chairman, the firm’s largest shareholder and the longest-serving partner in company history.

It’s been nine years since his retirement. He has been anything but idle. In addition to his post with the UMass Foundation, he has given his time, during those years, as trustee of the Greater New York American Red Cross, chairman and executive-committee member of the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, director of the Joseph P. Kennedy Enterprises, Inc. and chairman of the Board of Governors of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He has also continued to serve his former firm as senior director of the Goldman Sachs Group. In 1999, he was the recipient of the UMass Lowell Distinguished Alumni Award; five years later, he was honored with a doctorate of Humane Letters, and in 2002 with the President’s Medal.

“Philanthropy plays an important role in society, an increasing role,” he said recently when asked to reflect on the growing influence of philanthropic giving. “The order of magnitude—it’s just much, greater than it ever was before. The Ford, Carnegie and Mellon Foundations have always done wonderful things. And now, of course, you have the new directions taken by [Bill] Gates and [Warren] Buffett…

“Let’s hope, as the world gets older, it also get wiser—and between the advance of all that wisdom, and our new technologies, we get better at identifying the problems that need our attention the most.”
1937
F. Thelma Blakeman, who celebrated her 90th birthday last March, stays very active driving her ’93 Buick, oil painting, playing the piano and organ, and camping with her family. Thelma has two children, five grandchildren and one great granddaughter. She has been a “Reach-to-Recovery” volunteer for the American Cancer Society for many years.

1950
Norman Gale and wife Peggy will celebrate their 60th anniversary in July. He served in WWII and, after graduating from Lowell Textile Institute, was called back for service in the Korean conflict. He later returned to St. Louis and entered the clothing business and is now semi-retired. He has three children and five grandchildren. Norman would love to hear from his former classmates.

1955
Ellen (Cahill) Burton, who has lived in Monterey, Calif., for 22 years, has four children and five grandchildren. For 21-plus years she has been a volunteer guide at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and a volunteer at the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and is the local community organizing coordinator of gardening volunteers in the city parks of Monterey.

1963
Thomas C. McAvinew P.E. has been named vice president of the ISA Standards and Practices Department in Louisville, Colo. He also serves on the ISA executive board, the Society’s senior governing body. A resident of Louisville, Tom is a Senior Control Systems Engineer for the Denver office of the Jacobs Engineering Group.

He first joined ISA as a member of the Connecticut Valley Section in 1964 and is a three-time past president, and currently a Life Senior Member and delegate of the Denver Section. He is also active in his community as a member of the City of Louisville Planning Commission.

1965
Paul A. Schneider of Maryland was nominated by President George W. Bush to be Under Secretary for Management at the Department of Homeland Security, where he previously served as an independent aerospace consultant. Prior to that, he was an acquisition executive at the National Security Agency. Earlier in his career, he served as principal deputy assistant Secretary of the Navy.

1967
Frank Smalarz retired in June after a 37-year career with Litton Industries/Northrup Grumman. He now occupies his time remodeling his house, traveling and camping with his wife of almost five years.

1968
Syed A. Rashid retired after a successful 30-year career in the pulp and paper industry. He and his wife now live in Texas and enjoy their days with their grandchildren.

1969
Les Bechich, founder and president of Equipment & Systems for Industry, Inc., of Hopkinton, was elected 2007 chairman of the Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) at the organization’s annual meeting in Las Vegas in January. AED is an association of independent distributors, manufacturers and other organizations involved in the distribution of construction equipment and related products and services throughout the world.

1972
Glenn R. Coulter has been appointed chief executive officer of The DiStefano Hair Restoration Center in Worcester. The Center also has locations in Worcester and Newton; Warwick, R.I.; Bedford, N.H.; and Rocky Hill, Conn.

1973
Georgios Ioannidis has been appointed CEO of Romtelecom. Previously he was chief executive officer of OTENET and held several other positions at OTE, including chief technical officer, telecommunications engineer, telecom maintenance, planning and telematics. In 1993, he took a position with Vodafone Greece as a software engineering manager. In 1998, he became engineering manager and then chief technical officer of Cosmote.

1977
R. Stephen Rosenholm, whose practice includes preparation and prosecution of patent, trademark and copyright applications in the U.S. and abroad, has joined the Syracuse, N.Y., firm of Hiscock & Barclay LLP. Before joining the firm, he was an associate with Wall Marjama & Bilinski LLP in Boston. Prior to private practice, he was a software developer for Bell Telephone Laboratories, and a patent examiner at the U.S. patent and Trademark Office while attending law school.

Thomas Vaughn, who has devoted his life to the improvement of science education, was chosen as the Massachusetts Science Educator of the Year for 2006. He says his work in making science “live” for students and his active involvement in science programs has been a gratifying experience.

1978
James Webb has accepted a position with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Rockville, Md., as a project manager/health physics in the Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, Decommissioning Directorate. He is assigned to several decommissioning projects throughout the country.
1984
Mark Durkenberger recently founded New England Breeze, LLC. Based in Hudson, the company supplies and installs renewable energy systems, including wind turbine, solar photovoltaic, and solar water heating systems. Durkenberger will be spending the next year making presentations in and around Metro-West Boston, discussing how individuals, businesses, schools and other organizations can be a major part of the solution to the growing crisis of global warming.

1985
Bruce Manns writes that he was a three-tour, twice-wounded combat Marine tanker in Vietnam. He is now a Disabled Veterans service representative at the Springfield, Vt., and White River Junction Medical Facility where he serves by “making sure that the present troops aren’t treated the way the Vietnam troops were when they came home.” Bruce writes that as a hockey fan he looks forward to rooting for the River Hawks as they play either UNH or Vermont.

1986
Deanna L. Leroux received a Team Lead Management position in January. She is starting a business career again after 17 years as a home educator. Deanna has two daughters in high school.

Kristina (Nash) Richards of North Smithfield, R.I., has been appointed a project manager at Woodard & Curran, a 500-person integrated engineering, science and operations company. She has 20 years experience providing environmental compliance assistance to clients in the private/public sectors. She has experience with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state industrial storm water permitting programs and has fulfilled every aspect of compliance for her clients, including conducting applicability determinations, completing permit applications and notice of intent forms, preparing storm water pollution prevention plans, and conducting training.

1987
Rick M. Desmarias returned to Massachusetts last October after living in Europe for four years. He continues to work for DePuty Mitek within the J&J family of companies and is now working at the Raynham J&J campus.

1988
Anthony Laploto, vice president of Marketing at VidSys, has more than 15 years of experience in the networking and video industries. He is an expert on video surveillance technologies and trends, and the convergence of physical and IT security. He recently led the marketing team of Cisco Systems’ Application and Content Networking division and was responsible for application acceleration, streaming media, layer 4-7 switching, content delivery networking and caching products.

Before receiving his degree in Radiological Science and Protection, Harunur Rashid worked at Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission. After receiving his degree, he resumed his work back in Bangladesh. He moved recently to Toronto, Canada.

1989
Brenda J. Bond ’89, ’95 has earned a doctorate in social policy from Brandeis University’s Heller School for Social Policy & Management while continuing her research at the Kennedy School at Harvard, focusing on crime and youth violence in Lowell.

Victor E. Johnson is a new partner at the Morgan Lewis Intellectual Property Practice. Johnson counsels clients in various aspects of intellectual property matters, including the areas of patent and trademark procurement, due diligence, and opinion work (freedom to operate, invalidity, and non-infringement). He has experience in the development and management of worldwide intellectual property portfolios for both startups and mature companies. He also has experience with various technologies, including molded containers and closures, semiconductor fabrication equipment, bio-analytical measurement systems, chromatography equipment, medical and dental devices, and agricultural and food processing equipment.

1992
Vitalem Alriche was a music instructor at Holy Trinity Music School in Sarasota, Fla., before returning to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, his home country, where he volunteers in the provinces.

Neil E. Boudreau has been promoted to state traffic engineer for the Massachusetts Highway Department.

Paula C. Pierce is the proud mother of three energetic boys. In September, they had “three huge milestones”: Her 5-year-old started kindergarten, her 9-year-old started middle school and her 12-year-old started high school. She has been married for 14 years and loves her work with autistic preschoolers.

Sgt. Michael R. Hamel, who enlisted in the Army shortly after the 2001 attacks on New York and the Pentagon, died of pancreatic cancer in early December in Colorado while awaiting assignment to Iraq. An attorney who lived in Lowell, he had served in the Navy before attending UMass Lowell and had also worked as a police officer. His commanding officer, Capt. David Larimer, said that Hamel had been a respected leader in his unit and was “inspiring” in his determination to beat the disease that ultimately killed him.

1993
Donna M. Barron and husband Jim welcomed their third child, Matthew, in December. Matthew joins Anna, 4, and Alison 2. When not enjoying time with her family, Donna teaches chemistry part-time at Hudson Valley Community College.

Stephanie (Powers) Connon, Esq. and husband C.J. are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Sophia Catherine, on November 26.

1994
Jason L. Ruffin has completed an assignment of nine years on the Boston Central Artery/Tunnel Project with Bechtel Corp. He recently was transferred to the McCarran International Airport Capital Improvement Project in Las Vegas.

1995
Catherine Flood, who heads a private law practice in Lowell specializing in real estate transactions, was appointed recently to the Board of Directors at Bridgewell, a Lynnfield-based non-profit dedicated to the support of individuals with disabilities. Flood, who lives in Chelmsford, received her law degree from Suffolk University.
1996
Sara (Coe) Anastam and Christine (Gatto) Braga announce the opening of their new physical therapy practice, Functional Fitness and Physical Therapy, LLC located in North Easton. They can be contacted at www.functionalfitnessandpt.com

1997
Jason Strunk, a lieutenant in the Lowell Fire Department, has published a book, "Lowell Firefighting," that traces the history of the department from the days when men fought fires with bucket brigades all the way to modern times. Strunk, who earned his degree in American studies, says, "I love firefighting and I appreciate history. There's a lot of history in this department and I wanted people to be exposed to it."

Taniya Nayak host of HGTV's Designed to Sell, credits a Core Com marketing class at UML for providing the skills and practical experience she needed to land the on-air position she sought. At UML, Nayak was required to create and launch a product using a business plan, marketing proposal and production specs — steps she replicated in selling herself to network officials. Designed to Sell airs on HGTV, and features Nayak and other designer hosts who help owners sell their homes quickly by investing no more than $2,000 in upgrades. Nayak, the daughter of an architect, grew up with exclusively white walls in her home. Today, she changes her own digs around all the time. For more information, visit www.designdigs.net.

1998
Stephanie L. (Kushnieruk) DeLuca was married in 2001 and bought her first new house in 2006. She has been at Charles River Labs for the past six years as a senior research specialist, working with creation, maintenance, genetic analysis, troubleshooting and customer project management for transgenic animal models.

1999
Julie Appolloni is director of Corporate Relations Business at the American Red Cross in Philadelphia.

Jimmie Lee Davis Jr., a senior software systems engineer for MITRE's Signal Processing Center, has been honored with the 2007 Black Engineer of the Year Award in the category of Community Service. This award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated leadership in the minority technology or science community through volunteer work or other related contributions.

Jennifer K. Peterson and husband Dana welcomed their first child, Aiden Jack, last August 25.

Stacey Seremetis and Joe Lachiana '99 were married in October. Stacey is an investment banker at Mellon Financial Corp. in Everett. Joe owns On The Run in North Reading. They reside in Andover.

2000
Denise M. (Serverius) Meyer was married last October 28. She and her husband relocated from New Hampshire to Indiana where she is now a marketing communications specialist for Polycom, Inc.

Brandee L. Graves-Woodward was married in 2002. She is now completing her M.B.A. and running a small consulting company in Kentucky.

2002
Marie McGee has 3-year-old twins, Colleen and Andrew, and says she is thoroughly enjoying her time as a mom and working part-time as a physical therapist at Orthopedic Physical Therapy in Nashua, N.H.

2003
Michelle T. Donnelly is in scientific staffing as an associate recruiter for Kforce and offers to connect interested students and alumni to jobs.

2005
Mark Henderson and two friends, Matt Studivan and Dan Adam, have taken their creative exploits in a new direction, creating the dance pop, electro-laden sound that defines No Pilots No Demos. The trio has been writing songs and creating the sound of their newest endeavor in their spare time.

Megan Baldwin and Steven DaSilva '99 were married in the summer of 2006. Megan works in local public health enforcing food and housing regulations. This past year she worked with the Watertown Health Department to obtain a TURI grant to begin a Safe Shops program. The program will be supplying auto shops with safer alternatives to lead wheel weights.

Michael F. Wall married Kelly Flaherty on October 21, 2006.

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Florence Lacouture ’59 Dies Following Extended Illness

Florence Lacouture, a dedicated University employee for more than three decades, died at her Chelmsford home on Dec. 21 after a long battle with cancer. She was 68.

A 1959 graduate of Lowell State College, Florence had long been a member of the University Advancement staff, serving as coordinator of alumni records prior to her retirement in 2003. She was the unofficial archivist for the University and alumni office, and was the first secretary of the Lowell State Alumni Association.

In 1999, she established a scholarship endowment in the Graduate School of Education. She also served on the School’s centennial committee and was working on a pictorial history of the School.

A room in Lydon Library has been selected as a future University Archives facility and will bear her name.

Florence also was active in the community and, in 1990, received a community service award for her work at the House of Hope Inc., a Lowell homeless shelter.
New Band Director, in His First Job, Is Filling Some Large Shoes

Abram Taber faced a daunting task this January, when he took over as band director at Nashua High School North. Coming in on the heels of departing director Melynda Matheke, perhaps the most popular NHSN band director ever, who had departed mid-year to take a position in New York, Taber conceded that he faced an uphill climb.

“I’d be lying if I didn’t admit I was nervous,” he told a reporter at the time. “I had some experience conducting in college”—he is 2005 graduate of UMass Lowell, where he completed a five-year program that earned him a master’s degree in music teaching—“but being in charge of my own performing ensemble is something new.”

And he admitted to some trepidation about the shoes he was hoping to fill:

“Mrs. Matheke forged a strong relationship with the band, and here I am, the unknown new guy. I have no desire to drastically alter what she did, but I am my own musician, conductor and educator, with my own way of doing things.”

The early signs were promising (“He’s doing a pretty good job so far,” one student told the reporter. “He has a really tough job ahead of him trying to fill Mrs. Matheke’s shoes”). Still, as some of the students conceded at the time—and as Abram himself no doubt felt—the jury was still out.

But by March, when we caught up with him, things had started to look up. It had been a busy few months, he said—in addition to his work with the band, he was teaching a guitar class, a jazz lab and a freshman seminar—but he had managed, along the way, to initiate some changes in the band’s curriculum (including a new policy, “practice minutes,” for which students can receive credit for up to 10 percent of their grade), and was beginning to find his groove.

“I’m really starting to feel comfortable,” he said. “It’s a lot of work, but I’m enjoying myself. I enjoy teaching music—challenging students, passing on what I know. And I think I’m really starting to put my stamp on things.”

A Christmas Mission: Skin Soaps, Deodorant and Peanut M&Ms

Laura Olisky-Kostura wasn’t home for Christmas last year. She did celebrate it, though—and made it merrier and more abundant, for more people, than she could possibly have done at home.

Olisky-Kostura spent her Christmas in Iraq. She had been there since the fall, when she left her new husband, Daniel—whom she had married on the same weekend last June as her UMass Lowell graduation, which she missed to attend her wedding—to join the army in Baghdad as a nurse.

In the course of an e-mail correspondence with UML Nursing Prof. Mary Ellen Doherty, her former professor and mentor, Olisky-Kostura had written, among other things, of some of the physical privations being suffered by Baghdad’s hospital nurses. It’s the little things they miss, she had written: skin soap, cleansers, moisturizer, manicure kits, peanut M&Ms. For all the hardships they witness—and do their part to lessen—sometimes it’s a clean face and healthy skin that bring comfort at the end of the day.

“So I got to thinking,” says Doherty, a former nurse-midwife—as Olisky-Kostura aspires one day to be. “I got to thinking about how nurses are known for helping others, and about how this was our chance to do something to help them.”

So she passed along some of the e-mails—to faculty colleagues and some of the student nurses, who then passed the news on to family and friends—and before long a cause had been born. And then a collection. Soaps, deodorants, skin cream, manicure kits, candies, small treats, or sometimes the money to buy them—the piles just started getting bigger. And then the packages went out.

“I think of it as bringing Christmas to the nurses in Iraq,” said Doherty at the time. “To thank them for all the people they’re helping, for what they’re doing for the country. And Laura was our way to do that. She was our Santa Claus.”
Stott Retires From Verizon Wireless

Bob Stott, who earned an associate’s degree in mathematics at the University of Lowell during his climb through the management ranks of New England Telephone, has retired as president of the New England region for Verizon Wireless.

A Lowell native, Stott had only a high school diploma when he began work as a central office equipment installer four decades ago.

He eventually “got on the management track” and, in 1977, New England Telephone moved him to the engineering department. Ten years later, he earned his mathematics degree after taking night school classes in Lowell and, later, while still working full-time, he earned an M.B.A. from Pace University.

Trusting that mobile phones were the instrument of the future, he took over as general manager of engineering and operations in New England for Nynex Mobile in 1986. At the time, there were only about 6,000 customers and 19 cellphone towers in the region.

By 1998 Nynex had become Verizon and Stott was named president of Verizon Mobile’s New England region. He retired at the end of December.

Now a resident of Windham, N.H., he also spends a few winter weeks in Ft. Myers, Fla.

Safier ’04 Named Assistant Superintendent in Billerica School System

Richard Safier, who earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership from UML’s Graduate School of Education in 2004, has been named assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in the Billerica school system.

The School Committee, meeting in December, unanimously approved the appointment of Safier, who had been principal of Billerica Memorial High School.

The assistant superintendent oversees a broad reach of duties, including professional development of teachers, curriculum development and implementation of academic requirements.

When the new position opened, Safier said, “I saw an opportunity to take on expanded responsibilities within a school district to which I feel a very strong commitment.” He succeeds C. Milton Burnett, who accepted the position of superintendent of schools in Peabody.

In addition to his doctorate, Safier holds a master’s degree in education administration from UMass Boston, a master’s in performance from the New England Conservatory of Music, and bachelor’s degrees in music from UMass Boston and in science from the University of Connecticut.
Janice LaCroix is in the business of helping people.

But sometimes to help people effectively you need to have more than a good heart. Sometimes—depending on how many people there are—the first thing you need to know is how to evaluate the problem. Other times, you just need to know the best way to make things work.

LaCroix runs an addiction counseling center, the Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (SOAP) at Lowell House, Inc., one of the few such programs in the state. A year ago it had three clients. Today there are 20, 30 or more, depending on how you count. But for all the tough love she's dispensed, and all the hugs and sour kielbasa and sloppy joes she's handed out, it couldn't have happened, she'll tell you, without the sort of hard skills that can best be learned in a classroom, taught by teachers who have been there themselves.

Linda Silka is one such teacher. Bill Berkowitz is another. Both she encountered along the way to the master's degree in psychology she earned in 2005, at the age of 44—five years after the bachelor's degree she earned while holding down three jobs.

“What I learned from Professor Silka [in a RESD course in program evaluation]—I couldn’t begin to tell you, today, how important that’s been for me. It enabled me to manage the start-up at Lowell House; I still refer to it almost every day. And Professor Berkowitz’s course in social psychology—it was indispensable training for the people I deal with and the problems I face all the time.”

“This is not just addiction recovery we do here,” she told a Lowell Sun reporter last winter. “It’s about the healing issues around drug use. We look at mental health, family situations, all those things that might be really causing the addiction.”

LaCroix's eight-week program, which accepts clients from hospitals, detox centers and the courts, is funded by The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership and the state Department of Mental health. It offers counseling, healthcare management, employment training and other services.

Behind all of this work is a strong back and a good heart—often more than one. But without the skills to pull it all together, then to make it work, there would be a lot of wheel-spinning going on.

“The things I learned in the classroom—I had no idea at the time, no idea at all, how vital they’d turn out to be. And when you’ve learned how to deal with the problems, how to implement solutions the way we were taught—well, it just makes it all seem that much more workable...

“And when you know what you’re doing, there’s a whole lot more you can do.”
UMass Lowell Alumni Gift Items

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Heavy Weight Golf Shirt.
Navy golf shirt with embroidered left chest logo. Available with Lowell Tech or University of Lowell logo. S-XXL. $34.98 Item #4

University Picture
Framed picture available with picture of Southwick, Cumnock or Coburn Hall. Available in 10x12 pen & ink style for $85 or full color painted for $140. Personalization is available on the pen & ink drawing for an additional $10. Item #6

Champion Heavy Weight Sweatshirt
Screen-printed collegiate sweatshirt available in gray only. S-XXL. $49.98 Item #2 (Available in November-January)

Champion Crewneck Sweatshirt
Screen-printed logo on 50/50 blend fleece. Charcoal. S-XXL. $24.99 Item #5

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50/50 blend fleece with wool patch “UML” and 3-color embroidery. Available in sizes S-XXL. Oxford gray. $49.98 Item #3

Champion Alumni Tees
Grey tees available in Lowell Tech, ULowell, and Lowell State imprint. $14.98. M-XXL Item #7

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Reunion Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>Red Sox vs. Oakland A's Baseball Game and Alumni Gathering</td>
<td>Oakland, Calif.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Alumni Reception</td>
<td>Medford</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Hockey Alumni Golf Tournament</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant Golf Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>Red Sox vs. Braves Baseball Game and Alumni Gathering</td>
<td>Atlanta, Ga.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 23</td>
<td>Red Sox vs. San Diego Padres Baseball Game and Alumni Picnic</td>
<td>San Diego, Calif.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>Nuclear Engineering and RAD Sciences Alumni Reception</td>
<td>Boston Marriott Copley Place</td>
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<td>July 8</td>
<td>Red Sox vs. Detroit Tigers baseball Game and Alumni Reception</td>
<td>Detroit, Mich.</td>
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<td>July 21</td>
<td>Mary Jo Leahey Band Camp Concert</td>
<td>UML South</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Chamberas Golf Tournament</td>
<td>Wentworth by the Sea</td>
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<td>Rye, N.H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 7</td>
<td>Red Sox vs. Anaheim Angels Baseball Game and Alumni Gathering</td>
<td>Anaheim, Calif.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>Alumni Volunteer Appreciation Night</td>
<td>LeLacheur Park</td>
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<td>Lowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Alumni Reception</td>
<td>The Brewhouse Café &amp; Grille</td>
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<td>Lowell</td>
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<td>September 22</td>
<td>Boutin Memorial Golf Tournament</td>
<td>Sky Meadow Country Club</td>
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<td>Nashua, N.H.</td>
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<td>October 6</td>
<td>Homecoming 2007 – “Celebrate the Spirit”</td>
<td>UML North</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>University Open House</td>
<td>Tsongas Arena</td>
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<td>Lowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Red Sox vs. Baltimore Orioles Baseball Game and Alumni Gathering</td>
<td>Baltimore, Md.</td>
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Visit the alumni website at [www.uml.edu/alumni](http://www.uml.edu/alumni) for a listing of all events and detailed information.

For information regarding UMass Lowell Athletic schedules, please visit [www.goriverhawks.com](http://www.goriverhawks.com)

For information regarding The Discovery Series or STARTS Program, please contact the UMass Lowell Center for the Arts at (978) 934-4444.
Improving the Workplace
A $5 million grant from the National Institutes of Occupational Health will create a center to promote health in New England workplaces.

Promoting Safer Chemicals
UML’s Toxics Use Reduction Institute identifies safer, less toxic alternatives for industries dependent on hazardous chemicals, such as formaldehyde.

National Champions, Again
The UML field hockey team won the Division II National Championship in 2005, the sixth national championship in the University’s history.

Improving Drug Delivery
Drugs will be administered more efficiently thanks to Encapsion, a biopharmaceutical company spawned by UML research and nurtured in the University’s incubator program.

Encouraging Scientific Kids
Middle schools receive invention kits to encourage after-school science and technology programs in this pioneering UML program.

Smart Student-Athletes
Thirty-five UML athletes were named to the Northeast-10 Conference 2005 Honor Roll, 12 on the Gold Scholar List (top 5 percent in GPA).

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