

# UMass Lowell

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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Winter 2011

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## A Message From Chancellor Martin T. Meehan '78

According to his biographer, "Socrates said he was not an Athenian or a Greek, but a citizen of the world." Almost 2,500 years later, a global outlook is more critical than ever.

We know that our students will live and work in a world where national boundaries are increasingly meaningless for businesses, nonprofit organizations and centers of learning and research. Economic, social and environmental ripples triggered anywhere will spread around the world.

In response, UMass Lowell has made globalization an important strategic focus over the past three years. We have forged scores of partnerships with universities and research centers in the Middle East, South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. More of our students are studying abroad and more international students are studying in Lowell.

We have begun joint academic programs, such as a dual master's degree in peace studies developed with Haifa University in Israel, and joint research programs, such as the archeological project with Queen's University in Belfast that you can read about in this issue of the UMass Lowell Magazine.

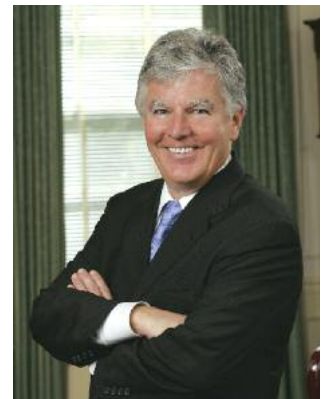
We want our graduates, like Socrates, to be citizens of the world.

Please look through this magazine to stay up to date with all the progress on campus; all of our measures for student success, research and community engagement are soaring and the facilities continue to be enhanced.

We hope that you will visit the campus to see the changes and to see how today's students, just like past graduates, are motivated, enthusiastic and hard working.

Our deep thanks to the many alumni, faculty, staff and community and corporate partners whose generous donations help the University provide excellent opportunities for our students. This issue of the magazine includes the names of those who have contributed over the past fiscal year.

Our students continue to need your help. You can learn how and get all the news about the University at [www.uml.edu](http://www.uml.edu).



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marty Meehan".

Marty Meehan  
Chancellor

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Jan. 14:** Annual Fund Donor Appreciation Night @ River Hawks vs. UMass Amherst hockey game, Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell

**Jan. 29:** Alumni Night @ River Hawks vs. BC hockey game, Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell (Residence Life, Student Government and Orientation Reunions)

**Feb. 11:** Young Alumni Reunion Night @ River Hawks vs. Northeastern hockey game, Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell

**Feb 18:** Faculty and Staff Night @ River Hawks vs. Maine hockey game, Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell

**Feb. 19:** Sigma Phi Omicron Reunion @ River Hawks vs. Maine hockey game, Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell

**March 23-25:** UMass Lowell goes to Florida: Mar-a-Lago and Red Sox Spring Training

**March 30:** Management Student-Alumni Networking Night, Alumni Hall

**April 7:** Roger Cressey '87 Dinner Reception and Discussion, UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center

**April 8:** Smith Hall Reunion and time capsule opening, UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center

**May 27-29:** 40th & 50th Reunion, UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center

**May 28:** Commencement Eve Celebration, UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center

E-mail [alumni\\_office@uml.edu](mailto:alumni_office@uml.edu) for more information.

# UMass Lowell

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 3

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*A rusted iron nail and pieces of clay pipe from the 1800s.*

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#### Editor's Note

You may notice some changes as you page through this issue of the UMass Lowell Alumni Magazine. The redesign is a work in progress, and it's guided by reader feedback. Please let us know what you think. E-mail Director of Publications Mary Lou Hubbell at [Marylou\\_Hubbell@uml.edu](mailto:Marylou_Hubbell@uml.edu) or Editor Sarah McAdams at [Sarah\\_McAdams@uml.edu](mailto:Sarah_McAdams@uml.edu).

# Campus Life



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## OUTLOOK

### UMASS LOWELL TOPS SALARY LIST



For the second year in a row, a national survey says UMass Lowell graduates earn the highest average mid-career salary of all public colleges and universities in New England. UMass Lowell also ranked No. 1 in starting salaries among Massachusetts public institutions.

PayScale.com's national survey of graduates with bachelor's degrees found that the median mid-career salary for UMass Lowell is \$91,000, the highest of any public institution in New England. The median starting salary is \$47,600.

In the mid-career salary category, UMass Lowell placed No. 106 nationally among both private and public institutions, up from No. 124 last year, of more than 900 colleges and universities around the country.



## UMASS RATED A TOP UNIVERSITY — WORLDWIDE

The University of Massachusetts was rated as one of the best universities in the world in the 2010 World University Rankings released by the Times of London newspaper — making it the only public university in New England on the prestigious list.

UMass ranked 56th in the Times of London's Top 200, which the newspaper describes as "the gold standard for world-class research institutions." Said Times Higher Education Editor Ann Mroz: "The top 200 universities in the world represent only a tiny fraction of world higher education and any institution that makes it into this table is truly world class."

In the rankings, UMass comes in at fourth in Massachusetts (behind Harvard, MIT and Tufts) and sixth in New England (after Harvard, MIT, Yale, Tufts and Brown). UMass is the 14th highest-rated American public university and the 33rd highest-rated American institution, public or private.



### BOSTON FED CEO SPEAKS ON CAMPUS

Eric Rosengren told the bankers, money managers, housing experts, professors and students in the room what they already knew: "It's not much of a recovery." Nonetheless, Rosengren, president and CEO of the Boston Federal Reserve Bank, had the audience at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center in a thrall for 90 minutes as he explained recently how the U.S. economy became mired in a deep recession.

Rosengren spoke as part of the Lunchtime Lectures program series co-sponsored by the Parker Lectures, UMass Lowell and Middlesex Community College.

The National Bureau of Economic Research declared that what is now called "The Great Recession" ended in June 2009. If it doesn't feel that way, it's because unemployment remains at 9.6 percent and inflation is less than 1 percent, said Rosengren, who is a voting member of the Fed's policymaking Federal Open Market Committee.

Today, he said, "The economy looks more like previous shallow recessions. And it's not a recovery in the labor markets." The pain is also unevenly distributed, he added, noting that Massachusetts is doing better than some areas of the country.

How did it get so bad? A "garden variety" recession

that stretched from 2007 to 2008 was exacerbated by the financial crisis that shook Wall Street in late 2008.

Rosengren described how deeply this recession hurt everything from employment to "real" Gross Domestic Product growth and sales growth. He also showed how mortgage rates, personal and business savings and yields on government bonds have been impacted by the recession. The bottom line: a full recovery is three to five years away, says Rosengren.

### CO-OP PROGRAM EXPANDS

In spite of the economy and the fact that he doesn't graduate until June, Liam Driscoll already has a job waiting for him. What's his secret? Co-op.

Driscoll was among the 26 plastics engineering majors who had their first official co-op placement last summer. Although co-op placements and internships have long been available to students, the plastics pilot program introduced a structure that includes a preparatory professional development seminar, increased communication and on-site visits during the co-op employment period and a post co-op assessment/reflection course.

Diane Hewitt, associate director of co-op programs, reports that nationally "co-op is a differentiator for people entering the workforce. On average, their starting salaries are \$8,000 higher than for comparable new employees without co-op experience."

The plastic pilot program's success has been expanded into other colleges and departments; meanwhile, the Career Services and Co-operative Education Center has more staff and new digs.



The campus burst to life on Sept. 1, when UMass Lowell opened its doors to nearly 15,000 returning and new students, including undergraduates, graduates and continuing education learners. The class of 2014 is the biggest incoming class ever — 1,641 freshmen and nearly 900 transfers — for a total of 2,505 new students.



## UMASS LOWELL UNVEILS RENOVATIONS TO TSONGAS

Fans enjoyed a whole new experience when they arrived at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell for the first home hockey game of the season on Friday, Oct. 22.

A new, 18,000-pound video scoreboard now hangs over center ice. Seventy padded, leather-backed seats provide comfort for lucky fans who purchased premium tickets for the hockey season or will do so for upcoming events. The luxurious new, 4,800-square-foot Lowell Cooperative Bank Pavilion offers a prime view of the action. A new sound system equipped with 60 speakers is in place throughout the arena. Over at Rowdy's Roadhouse Café, authentic barbecue is made on the premises and other concessions feature burritos, local favorite Sal's Pizza, the same all-beef hot dogs made famous at Fenway Park and new beverages.

While UMass Lowell's Division I hockey team will play at the 6,500-seat facility, the new Tsongas Center experience will feature much more. Grammy nominee Drake rocked the arena in October; Bob Dylan played to a sold-out crowd in November. Other hit shows were "Riverdance on Ice," "Disney Live: Mickey's Magic Show!" and Kiss 108's Jingle Ball. Up next: Snoop Dogg and the Dropkick Murphys.

Featured sports will include the Atlantic 10 women's basketball championship and the state high-school boys' basketball tournament in March, as well as regional cheerleading competitions and figure-skating exhibitions. Watch for more upcoming events at [www.uml.edu/tsongascenter](http://www.uml.edu/tsongascenter).

## SHENKAR, UMass LOWELL SIGN HISTORIC AGREEMENT

UMass Lowell and Shenkar College of Engineering and Design in Israel established an international graduate engineering program at a special event in New York City this fall. The new international graduate program will be in plastics engineering with a course of study that includes the emerging fields of nanotechnology and the use of polymers for environmental, medical and industrial purposes.

The international agreement also provides for an annual exchange of students and faculty between UMass Lowell and Shenkar College over the next 10 years,

after which the agreement may be renewed.

Participating in the signing of this significant new agreement were UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan and Prof. Yuli Tamir, president of Shenkar College of Engineering and Design.

During the event, Shenkar College conferred an honorary fellowship on Meehan and presented the Frontiers in Science Award to David Pernick, UMass Lowell class of 1941 and life chancellor of Shenkar College, for his role in spearheading the new agreement. Pernick has made significant contributions to advancing education in plastics engineering at both institutions.



David Pernick '41, Shenkar College President Yuli Tamir and UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan

## UMASS LOWELL NOW OFFERS ROBOTICS MINOR

UMass Lowell began offering a robotics minor in the fall as part of an interdisciplinary program in the Departments of Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.

"Massachusetts is among three national regions that have concentrations in robotics industry and research; the other two are California and Pittsburgh," says computer science Assoc. Prof. Fred Martin. "It is a significant and growing part of the high-tech sector here in the region. Everyone expects robotics to be a growing field, and here in the Commonwealth we are national leaders, both in education and industry."

# VETERANS CENTER TO OPEN IN 2011

## U.S. SEN. BROWN JOINS FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

With 1,270 student veterans at UMass Lowell – a figure that has grown dramatically since the newly passed GI Bill – the needs for increased staff and dedicated space have grown proportionately.

At a ceremonial flag-raising in honor of Veterans Day, Chancellor Marty Meehan told those assembled, “We have committed space to create a combined Veterans’ Benefit Office and Drop-in Center, with full-time and part-time staff, so that our student veterans can find the resources they need and the support of other veterans on campus.”

Meehan pledged to work with student veterans to ensure the space is truly responsive to their needs. The facility — which has been strongly supported by U.S. Rep Niki Tsongas — will be ready by September 2011.

During the flag-raising ceremony organized and hosted by the Student Veterans Organization (SVO), U.S. Sen. Scott Brown took the podium along with other elected officials, invited by SVO President David Boyd.

“I am honored to be invited by the Student Veterans Organization, who took the initiative to organize this event,” said Brown. “Student veterans offer a unique experience to the campus. They have gone from high school to war to college, and we can benefit from their creativity and ingenuity as student leaders.”

State Sen. Stephen Panagiotakos and State Rep. David Nangle also spoke at the event about the importance of supporting veterans and active-duty military personnel, as well as their families.

In solemn ceremony, an honor guard of the Air Force ROTC on campus presented the colors. The flag, kept on display in Allen House, is one that had been flown over Camp Slayer in Iraq and raised in a previous Veterans Day ceremony on campus. The UMass Lowell Marching Band played the National Anthem as the flag was raised.



U.S. Sen. Scott Brown, pictured above with members of the UMass Lowell Air Force ROTC, visited campus in November to take part a ceremonial flag-raising in honor of Veterans Day. At the event, Chancellor Marty Meehan announced that UMass Lowell will create a student veterans’ center by September 2011.

## UNIVERSITY PLEDGES TO BE CARBON-NEUTRAL BY 2050

UMass Lowell is already pretty green; it will be *really* green by 2050.

“We have committed ourselves to President Clinton’s goal of making the United States carbon neutral by the year 2050,” says UMass Lowell Environmental Health and Safety Director Rich Lemoine.

Among its most significant components will be the installation of photovoltaic panels on the roofs of four campus buildings: Costello Gym, and Dugan, Leitch and Bourgeois halls. The panels, which were expected to be in place by the new year, are being funded through a mix of state and federal grants and will save the University \$40,000 a year in energy costs, say Lemoine.

An even more ambitious initiative was the installation of sub-meters on buildings throughout the campus, which will allow the University to precisely track its energy use for all fuel types – electricity, oil, natural gas and water. This new measure, being funded through a \$1.5 million state grant, is part of a larger, state-wide program to monitor energy usage across 17 million square feet of state-owned building space. The meters

will help building managers make immediate, informed adjustments to cut waste – with the anticipated savings then being applied to fill academic and other University needs.

Then there are the hybrid cars. Long a pioneer in the use of electric vehicles, the University has now entered into an agreement with Chrysler for the use of two hybrid Ram trucks, complete with plows, for three years. The vehicles, which will be used for student transportation as well as other University needs, are part of a Chrysler fleet of 200 prototype vehicles.

- Other energy-saving initiatives will include:
- an upgrade to the lighting system in Falmouth Hall, with 300 fixtures to be retrofitted with specialized bulbs and energy sensors;
  - the completion of the University’s five-year Green House Gas Emissions Study;
  - the upgrade or replacement of several 1950s-era boilers, pumps and heating units;
  - the improvement of University walkways and pedestrian routes and
  - the expansion of the popular bike-share program.





## DESIGNCAMP KIDS MORE LIKELY TO BECOME ENGINEERS

Liquid-propelled rockets, arcade games, smart robots and remote-controlled submarines – these are just a few of the projects that students in UMass Lowell’s DesignCamp built last summer. Now 11-years-old, the summer camp annually attracts more than 350 students from 100 cities and towns in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The camp consists of four week-long sessions in July.

Eleven workshops include interactive design-and-build projects such as “Electric Jungle,” “Carnival Contraptions,” “Inventions and Gizmos,” “Crime Science,” “Architect’s Studio” and “Flight School.”

DesignCamp was created to engage young people in fun design projects to encourage them to study engineering and other sciences. And data show that DesignCamp works. Of students who attend camp for more than one year, 24 percent choose to study engineering and 16 percent choose science-, technology-, engineering- and mathematics-related fields. According to 2006 SAT data, students who participated in DesignCamp choose engineering at a rate five times higher than other Massachusetts college-bound students.

Thanks to the financial support of companies such as Raytheon, Goodrich, Tyco Electronics, 3M, Millipore and the Cabot Corp., more than 35 percent of the students receive financial assistance and 25 percent receive full scholarships to attend the camp.



## UMASS LOWELL CLASSROOMS: 100 PERCENT ‘SMART’

To increase student success, UMass Lowell has equipped 100 percent of its classrooms with technology that helps faculty explain complex topics to students.

The University’s technology-enhanced classrooms include a teaching podium, computer, digital document camera, DVD/VCR player, laptop and network connections, integrated sound and a system that controls all audio and video from the lectern. Some classrooms also include an interactive LCD touchscreen that acts like an electronic writing tablet with the ability to save, share and print class notes.

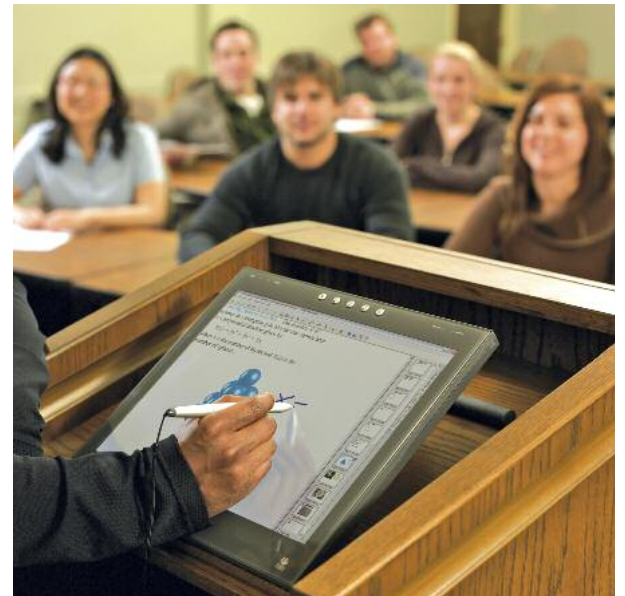
UMass Lowell also recently outfitted 60 classrooms with Echo360 lecture-capture technology, the largest deployment of its kind in New England. Echo360 creates a rich digital media version of the classroom experience that includes archived video of the instructor and presentation materials used in class so students can access them later from any

computer or mobile device to aid in studying.

Nursing major Marcia Schleier, a junior from Wilmington, said that getting a second chance to view the slides and listen to the lectures has helped her understand complex information.

“Listening to lectures after class has really helped me remember information,” says Schleier. “While in class, I am taking notes and reading the slides, but sometimes I need to fill in some information. But then I go online and watch and listen to the lecture. It’s amazing because when I am taking the test later, I actually hear my professor’s voice and can remember what she said. It really works.”

In addition to using Echo360 lecture-capture technology, many teachers also use a “clicker” system during class that lets them know how well students are learning the information they are presenting. Each student uses a handheld device to answer the professor’s questions by aiming it at a slide and clicking on their choice of possible answers.





## PLAN PROVIDES A VISION FOR UMASS LOWELL IN 2020



The UMass Lowell executive leadership team gathers at Allen House on South Campus. In the back row are, from left: Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Joanne Yestramski; Vice Chancellor for Advancement Edward Chiu; Chief Public Affairs Officer Patricia McCafferty; Provost Ahmed Abdelal. In the front row are, from left: Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney and Chancellor Marty Meehan. Abdelal and Moloney co-chaired the development of the UMass Lowell 2020 strategic plan.

While the core mission of UMass Lowell has remained the same since the 1890s – educate, research, serve the community – the UMass Lowell of 2010 bears little resemblance to its early predecessor schools. In fact, the UMass Lowell of 2010 is much different than even five years ago, as enrollment soars, new academic programs are added, new buildings are constructed and a global flavor takes hold.

How does the University manage this growth? How does it respond to changing societal needs? How does it function in a climate of steeply declining public funding? What should the school look like in 2020?

Those questions are answered in, “UMass Lowell 2020: A Strategic Plan for the Next Decade,” developed over the past 18 months by more than 200 faculty, staff and students, with feedback from the entire campus as well as an external advisory group comprised of alumni and community leaders. The effort was led by Provost Ahmed Abdelal and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney.

The plan articulates a vision of UMass Lowell in the year 2020 and maps out the blueprint to get there. It sets out a comprehensive strategy that will differentiate the University by its excellence across the following areas:

- Student success, as evidenced by retention and graduation rates as well as a high percentage of students living on campus.
- Robust teaching and learning, with a greater focus on interdisciplinary collaborations, experiential learning, technology enhanced teaching and a global approach that includes much more study abroad for students, more international students and faculty on campus and a wide array of global research partnerships.
- Strengthened research and scholarship, giving students a chance for more hands-on learning as well as introducing innovations that solve technical and social problems and create jobs.

- A deep, integrated understanding of the value of inclusiveness, bringing greater diversity on campus.
- An entrepreneurial spirit that brings more resources to the campus.
- Strengthened engagement with industry, nonprofit organizations, K-12 schools and municipalities, enriching the intellectual, personal and cultural development of students as well as fostering economic development in the region and the state.

The result? Today and tomorrow’s students will uphold the reputation of today’s alumni as being tenacious, innovative, hard-working and well-prepared individuals ready to contribute to the world’s ever-changing complex business, community and cultural challenges.

To read the full report, go to [www.uml.edu/2020](http://www.uml.edu/2020).

### UNIVERSITY WINS DIVERSITY AWARD

Diversity is on the rise at UMass Lowell. Among African-Americans, the numbers are the most dramatic: a 40 percent increase in the past four years. The number of Asian faculty members, meanwhile, has increased by 25 percent. Overall, about 21 percent of the full-time faculty and staff today identify themselves as minorities, up from 18 percent four years ago.

Especially encouraging “is an increase in the number of African-Americans applying for senior leadership positions,” says Equal Opportunity and Outreach (EOO) Director Oneida Blagg. “That is significant.

It tells us that we are now starting to be considered as an employer by people of color at the executive level.” Much of the growth can be attributed to the efforts of Blagg, who came on board in 2005, and her EOO staff, who have been reaching out to minority communities all over the region.

Those efforts haven’t gone unnoticed. The EOO team was recently presented with the Diversity Spirit Achievement Award from the California-based City Career Fair, which hosts top-rated Diversity Employment



Day Career Fairs all over the country.

Though pleased to be recognized, Blagg says there is much more to be done. “Our job in EOO is to do the outreach, get out to the community and attract people to the campus,” she says. “We still have work to do, firming connections and deepening relationships, but we’re making real progress.”

Case in point: Boston-based job seekers are increasingly viewing Lowell as a welcoming, diverse community worth commuting to.

“At job fairs in Boston, we used to hear the question, ‘Oh, you’re not UMass Boston?’ Now we hear, ‘Oh, UMass Lowell, my daughter is a student there. You say there’s public transportation? What kind of positions do you have?’” says Rebecca Hall, EOO’s equal opportunity associate.

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



The USS Constitution

### USS CONSTITUTION: FROM SCRAP WOOD TO PAPER

Earlier this year, chemical engineering Prof. John Walkinshaw and his undergraduate students were able to turn some of the wood material from the historic ship USS Constitution into paper.

First launched in 1797, the Constitution is the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat. The group's project was initiated by A. Michael Edgar, a retired Navy captain and wood-working hobbyist from Hampton, N.H. Since 2000, Edgar has been making pens using small pieces of scrap wood from the Constitution's renovation that he

purchased from the ship's museum.

Edgar asked Walkinshaw to make paper from the sawdust he had saved, which he could then turn into certificates to present as gifts to retiring Navy chiefs and officers as well as Marine Corps officers and enlisted men, other service members, Department of Defense civilians and World War II veterans. Using a traditional paper-making process, the students were able to produce a batch of six-by-nine-inch parchments from the material they received from Edgar.



From left, chemical engineering undergrads Molly Clay, Sara Ghadiyali, Pradeep Fernando and Andrew Bawn demonstrate the paper-making process to Michael Edgar, right.

## DOCUMENTARY PROBES 1860 PEMBERTON MILL COLLAPSE



This newspaper illustration from the time shows the collapse of the Pemberton Mill in Lawrence.

On the afternoon of Jan. 10, 1860, the Pemberton Mill in Lawrence buckled and crashed without warning, instantly killing dozens of people and trapping hundreds more under tons of rubble. As rescuers frantically tried to free victims from the debris, a fire broke out, igniting the piles of splintered wood and oil-soaked cotton bales at the site. One trapped man reportedly cut his own throat with a knife rather than be burned alive; he was eventually rescued, but later died from his injuries. In all, an estimated 145 workers perished and 166 were injured in the horrific collapse and ensuing conflagration.

The collapse of the Pemberton, a five-story brick factory, ranks as one of the worst industrial disasters in the Commonwealth's history. "The largest number of workers who lost their lives were women, some as young as 15 and 16; most were Irish immigrants," says History Prof. Robert Farrant, co-director of UMass Lowell's Center for Family, Work and Community.

"The Pemberton Mill's structural failure was preventable," says civil engineering Asst. Prof. Tzu-Yang Yu. "The mill's designer and chief architect, Captain Charles H. Bigelow, wanted to build the largest and most efficient mill in New England, and he made some mistakes in its design and construction."

Farrant and Yu were featured in an hour-long documentary about the mill tragedy that was produced by Louise Sandberg of the Lawrence Public Library. The program, entitled "The Case against Captain Bigelow," aired on Lawrence cable television this fall. Farrant helped create context for the mill's collapse and the nation's rapid industrialization prior to the Civil War. Yu's role was to investigate the reasons behind the collapse.

As for the effect of the Pemberton collapse on mill safety, Farrant says there was next to none.

"Laborers did not have any worker's compensation at the time and many families who lost wage-earners became destitute as a result of the mill's collapse," he says. "No one was punished for the Pemberton disaster. It took another major tragedy — the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City in 1911 — to begin to create workplace safety reforms. However, it was not until 1972 that the country obtained national health and safety regulation with the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration."



## UMASS LOWELL: BECOMING 'DESTINATION NANO'

Imagine a portable “mini-mutt” that is many times more sensitive than a bloodhound in sniffing out traces of harmful chemical agents or explosives; or a network of tiny sensors that can detect microscopic cracks or other structural defects in the body armor or vehicles used by soldiers on the battlefield; or flexible, lightweight and inexpensive organic photovoltaic cells that can be used in practically any weather for electrifying remote, isolated villages.

These are just some of the exciting possibilities of nanotechnology explored at Destination Nano, a two-day conference UMass Lowell hosted on campus recently in partnership with the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative’s John Adams Innovation Institute.

“I understand the importance of nanomanufacturing to our economy, and that is why I helped secure \$4 million for UMass Lowell’s nano work with the Army Research Lab in Fiscal Year 2011 federal appropriations,” said U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas in her opening remarks.

Later at the conference, Chancellor Marty Meehan announced an agreement between the National Science Foundation Center for High-rate Nanomanufacturing (CHN) — a collaboration of UMass Lowell, Northeastern University and the University of New Hampshire — and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the federal agency charged with preventing work-related injuries.

Under the agreement, UMass Lowell researchers in the School of Health and Environment — Prof. Mike Ellenbecker, researcher Candace Tsai and others — will work with Chuck Geraci, coordinator of the NIOSH Nanotechnology Research Center, to study occupational health and safety concerns related to the nanotechnology industry. They will recommend solutions to small- to medium-sized companies and research laboratories around the country.

Meehan also announced that UMass Lowell and NIOSH will co-sponsor the Fifth International Symposium on Nanotechnology, Occupational and Environmental Health that will be held in Boston in August.

## IRAQI DELEGATION VISITS CAMPUS

A high-ranking delegation from Iraq recently visited the College of Engineering as part of the United Nations’ Habitat Program to improve the quality and relevance of technical and vocational education and training in the country.

During the visit, the Iraqi educators met with Engineering Dean John Ting; Prof. Clifford Bruell, chair of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department; Assoc. Prof. Kenneth Lee of civil engineering; and students Walter Thomas

and Julianne Rhoads of the UMass Lowell Solar Decathlon Team.

The delegates’ objective was to acquire up-to-date knowledge on housing and building construction technology and establish educational partnerships and channels with technical institutions and colleges in the United States. Their hope is to modernize Iraq’s technical and vocational education and training sector, thereby helping prepare young Iraqis in joining the country’s workforce.



*This is a scale model of the energy-efficient house that Team Massachusetts is constructing for the 2011 competition.*

## STUDENTS CHOSEN BY DOE FOR PRESTIGIOUS CONTEST

Solar engineering students from UMass Lowell have joined forces with architectural students from Massachusetts College of Art (MassArt) to build an affordable, energy-efficient and attractive solar-powered home. The home will be displayed in Washington, D.C., in 2011 as part of a federally funded effort to support the development of practical alternative energy.

The U.S. Department of Energy chose Team Massachusetts as one of only 20 teams from around the world to compete in the agency’s next Solar Decathlon. Over the next several months, Team Massachusetts will design a house about 1,000 square feet in area, build it during the summer of 2011 and put it on public display somewhere in the state. Afterward, the house will be disassembled, shipped to Washington, reassembled on the National Mall and opened for public viewing for about 10 days.

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCES



Juliette Rooney-Varga

### HELPING STUDENTS UNDERSTAND CLIMATE CHANGE

If the scientific community and policy makers are at odds about climate change, what is an elementary, middle or high school student to think? Concerned about the issue, NASA recently awarded \$614,691 to a partnership that includes UMass Lowell to create a unique and stimulating approach to global climate-change education.

The project will integrate science with video to create a unique and stimulating approach to global climate-change education for students in K-12, as well as in college. Under the grant, videos produced by students will incorporate their peers' questions, concerns and perspectives.

"In today's media world of Twitter, blogs and sound-bites, confusion about the scientific reality of climate change frequently dominates the discourse in classrooms and communities," says Assoc. Prof. Juliette Rooney-Varga, who heads the University's Climate Change Initiative. "We aim to change this by integrating climate change science with the expressive power of video to create a unique and stimulating approach to global climate change education."

### NSF PRESENTS PROF. LIU WITH \$400K AWARD

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently recognized Benyuan Liu, then an assistant professor in the Computer Science Department, with a prestigious faculty early career development award, called the "CAREER" award. This highly competitive annual program selects the nation's best young university faculty-scholars "who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization."

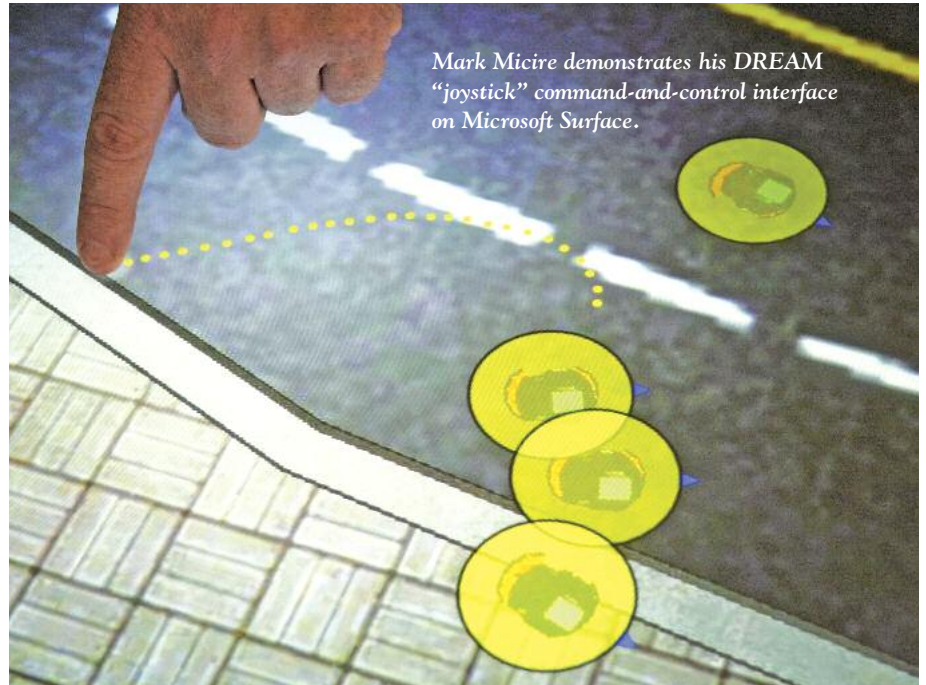
Liu, who was recently promoted to associate professor, is interested mainly in the areas of algorithm design and performance analysis of wireless networks. Using a mix of theoretical and applied experimental approaches, he hopes to push the design and performance of wireless networking technologies to their limits.

Liu will use the NSF award, worth \$400,000 spread over a period of five years, to support his research project entitled "Coverage, Capacity and Connectivity of Wireless Sensor Networks."

"This is a critical issue in environmental monitoring, battlefield surveillance and infrastructure-security monitoring," he says.



Benyuan Liu



Mark Micire demonstrates his DREAM "joystick" command-and-control interface on Microsoft Surface.

## GRAD STUDENT CAN CONTROL ROBOTS WITH A FINGERTIP

Imagine being able to control an army of robots with a touch of your fingertips. Sound like science fiction? Not to Mark Micire, a Ph.D. student in the Robotics Lab in the Computer Science Department.

Micire has developed a simple yet effective multi-touch interface for commanding and controlling a swarm of robots as part of his doctoral thesis. Such technology could conceivably be applied to military and police planning, disaster relief, search-and-rescue operations, warehouse inventory and environmental monitoring.

Micire revealed his program to the public last summer during his thesis defense and his presentation has become an online hit. "In addition to having a full audience in the room, he broadcast the talk online," says Assoc. Prof. Holly Yanco, the lab's director. Micire's presentation has since been featured in numerous technology blogs, including Slashdot, Wired and Popular Science.

As of Nov. 30, his YouTube video demonstration has been viewed about 93,000 times. Micire achieved breakthrough by merging an existing technology — Microsoft's Surface computer — with his new, innovative onscreen "joystick," which he dubbed the DREAM controller. Microsoft Surface is an interactive computer with a large, 30-inch tabletop flat-screen display. It lets users grab and manipulate digital content and move information using simple touch and hand gestures and object recognition instead of a typical mouse and keyboard.

His DREAM controller is a simple, intuitive command and control interface that uses rapid hand detection and recognition algorithm. "The DREAM controller can provide all the functionality of a physical joystick through multi-touch interaction," he says.

The controller, which is displayed on Microsoft Surface directly underneath each user's hand, automatically tracks hand movements and can respond to as many as 10 points of contact simultaneously, compared to only one finger as with a typical touch screen.

In his demo, Micire uses the joystick to control a swarm of hypothetical smart "robots" to navigate and explore a virtual city block. Through simple fingertip commands, he is able to select robots from a group, tag them, set waypoints and coordinate their formation from above, quickly and precisely and with very little effort.



Robert Giles

## GILES NAMED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Prof. Robert Giles, chair of the Physics and Applied Physics Department, has been selected as a UMass Lowell University Professor. His appointment will run through June 30, 2013.

The title honors an individual who, over a period of years, has consistently demonstrated exemplary teaching, internationally significant research and extraordinary service to the University community. Giles joins biology Prof. Susan Braunhut (2008–11) and work environment Prof. Kenneth Geiser (2009–12) in holding this recognition.

Among his numerous accomplishments, Giles was recognized for his work as director and principal investigator at the University's Submillimeter-Wave Technology Laboratory (STL). The Lab, which recently received a five-year \$27 million renewal grant from the U.S. Army's National Ground Intelligence Center, is a leader in terahertz transmitter and receiver technologies and a pioneer in the design and fabrication of broadband solid-state multiplier sources, ultra-stable optically pumped lasers and laser/microwave hybrid systems.

Giles was awarded the Physics Department's Teaching Excellence Award in 2003 and 2006.

## UMASS LOWELL SHARES IN \$7.5 MILLION TO DEVELOP FUTURE MOBILE INTERNET

Asst. Prof. Guanling Chen of the Computer Science Department will be working with fellow researchers at Rutgers University and other institutions across the country as part of a three-year \$7.5 million project funded by the National Science Foundation to build a more reliable, robust and secure mobile Internet.

"The goal is to make mobile Internet more reliable, available and secure," says Chen. "Namely, the technology will help reduce spam and phishing attacks."

The Rutgers-led collaboration, dubbed "Mobility-First," aims to design a "clean-slate" network architecture to accommodate the shift of Internet traffic to smart cellular phones, tablet computers and emerging mobile data services. In addition to Chen, 15 investigators from Rutgers, UMass Amherst, University of Michigan, Duke University, University of North Carolina, MIT, University of Wisconsin and University of Nebraska are involved in MobilityFirst.

For its part, UMass Lowell will receive a total of \$300,000 for the project, with Chen as principal investigator. He plans to hire two Ph.D. students to work with him.



Guanling Chen



## GETTING KIDS EXCITED ABOUT MATH, SCIENCE

UMass Lowell joined more than 800 of the nation's leading science organizations in exhibiting at the USA Science & Engineering Festival held in the fall on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The goal of the event, which attracted about half a million visitors, was to get youth interested in math and science.

The expo featured more than 1,500 hands-on activities. In addition, there were more than 75 stage shows and performances showcasing science celebrities, Nobel laureates, inventors, magicians, comedians, jugglers and rappers.

UMass Lowell's exhibits were manned by members of the Computer Science Department, the NSF Center for High-Rate Nanomanufacturing, the Plastics Engineering Department, the SLICE (Service Learning Integrated throughout a College of Engineering) Program, the Baseball Research Center and the UMass Intercampus Graduate Program in Marine Sciences and Technology.

"There were so many kids eager to learn about engineering and science. The highlight for me was seeing the kids' faces light up as they learned something new," says chemical engineering grad student Nicole Sambursky.



Visitors — including Internet inventor Vinton Cerf — enjoyed the Computer Science Department's iSense exhibit.

## COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



Andre Dubus III, left, with Prof. Kay George Roberts (the first recipient of the Nancy Donahue Endowed Professorship in the Arts) and Nancy Donahue, right.

### DUBUS RECEIVES DONAHUE PROFESSORSHIP

Prof. Andre Dubus III has been named the second recipient of the Nancy Donahue Endowed Professorship in the Arts. The professorship, a gift from the Richard K. and Nancy L. Donahue Charitable Foundation of Lowell, serves to strengthen the music, art and theatre programs by expanding the University's relations with local music, arts and theatre communities.

Dubus, who teaches courses in creative writing at UMass Lowell, grew up in the Merrimack Valley and began writing fiction after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin. He is most notably the author of the best-selling novels "House of Sand and Fog" and "The Garden of Last Days."

He has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, The National Magazine Award for fiction, The Pushcart Prize and was a finalist for the Rome Prize Fellowship from the Academy of Arts and Letters. An Academy Award-nominated motion picture and published in 18 languages, his

novel "House of Sand and Fog" was a fiction finalist for the National Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, BookSense Book of the Year, and was an Oprah Book Club Selection and No. 1 New York Times bestseller.

### GRANT BRINGING BROADBAND TO THE PEOPLE

Years ago, having electricity separated the "haves" from the "have-nots." Today, it's all about Internet access.

UMass Lowell professors and students are working to change that – providing access and training to at-risk youth, the undereducated, seniors and immigrants. Getting Internet to the people who need it will benefit the entire regional economy, the researchers hope, by lifting the skills of individuals and improving information access for whole groups.

"Lowell and the Merrimack Valley lag behind the rest of the state in terms of broadband access," says Economics Prof. Carol McDonough, who leads the

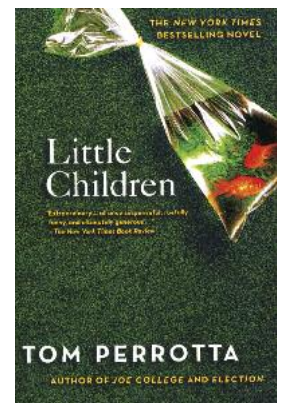
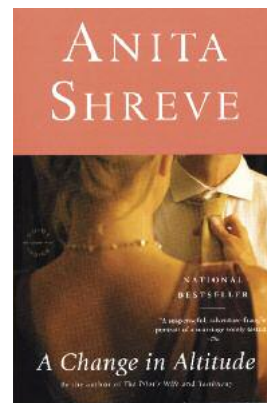
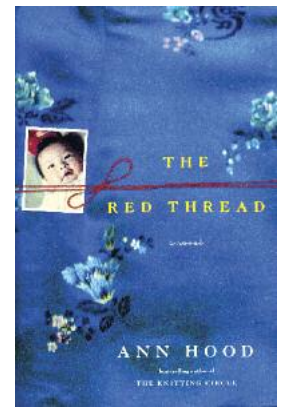
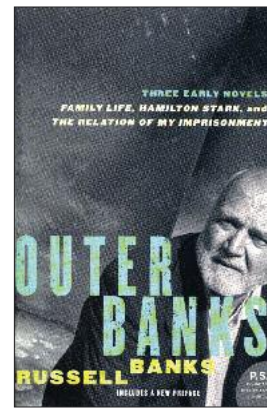
project, funded by a grant of \$780,000 from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Co-leading is history Prof. Robert Forrant, director of the Center for Family, Work and Community, which hires and trains the student instructors.

To date, nearly 400 participants have been helped, in more than 665 total hours of training. Preliminary data show that 41 percent of participants are much more likely to use a computer and access the Internet now that they have finished training, 27 percent reported that they are more comfortable using the computer and 32 percent are more aware of what the Internet has to offer.



### FBI SPECIAL AGENT TEACHES AT UMASS LOWELL

When Brian LeBlanc '03, '04 isn't busy investigating potential terrorists for the FBI, he's teaching students in the Criminal Justice Department at UMass Lowell. LeBlanc is a Miami-based special agent with the FBI, specializing in counterterrorism. He earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in criminal justice from UMass Lowell and teaches three graduate courses online – on terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and physical security – as part of the University's Graduate Certificate in Security Studies program.



## ALL-STAR AUTHORS PARTICIPATE IN KEROUAC FESTIVAL

As part of the 25th Anniversary Jack Kerouac Literary Festival & Lowell Celebrates Kerouac, world-renowned writers gathered in Lowell this fall for four days of events, readings, bus tours, pub crawls and gallery exhibits.

The new, expanded Kerouac Festival, co-hosted by UMass Lowell, featured readings by notable writers and poets, a keynote discussion about Kerouac and bohemian culture, a panel discussion on art and commerce, tours of Kerouac's literary sites in Lowell, a children's book illustrator exhibit, musical performances, films and more.

Celebrated authors who visited campus included Russell Banks ("Outer Banks," "Cloudsplitter"); Ann Hood ("The Red Thread"); Tom Perrotta ("Election," "Little Children") and Anita Shreve ("A Change in Altitude," "The Weight of Water"). Many of the writers sat on a panel moderated by the University's Andre Dubus III ("House of Sand and Fog," "The Garden of Last Days").

Other hosts of the festival included Lowell Celebrates Kerouac, the Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL) and the Lowell National Historic Park.



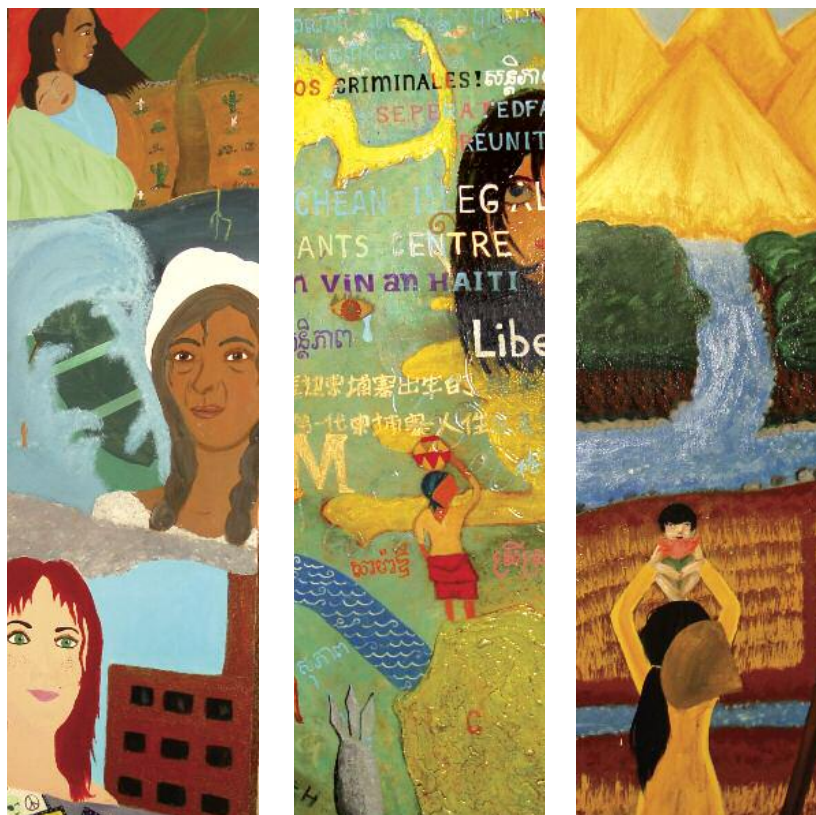
### THAWNGMUNG WINS FULBRIGHT

Ardeth Thawngmung, associate professor of political science, has been awarded a J. William Fulbright grant for 2010-2011 by the U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Program. She is conducting research in Burma to examine how ordinary citizens cope with their daily lives.

Burma has many minority groups, varying by language, ethnicity and surrounding environment. Thawngmung is particularly interested in grassroots research on how minorities cope with conditions under repressive governments and in developing countries.

She has received prior funding from the Asian Research Institute of the National University of Singapore, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore and the East-West Center in Washington, D.C. A post-doctoral fellowship from Australian National University supported publication of her first book, "Behind the Teak Curtain," and her second is in final review.

On campus, Thawngmung facilitates the Research Forum for support and cross-disciplinary critique of research proposals in the social sciences, arts and humanities.



Lowell High School students created large-scale murals based on research on immigration by UMass Lowell professors.

## ART PROJECT ENGAGES TEENS IN HISTORY

This spring, students from Lowell High School created 17 large-scale portable mural panels depicting Lowell's immigrant history. The project embraces and celebrates Lowell's long history of immigration and ethnic diversity, creating a culturally rich community.

The murals build on research on immigration in Lowell in the 19th and 20th centuries funded by the Lowell National Historical Park and conducted by UMass Lowell historians, Asst. Prof. Christoph Strobel and Prof. Robert Farrant.

As part of this effort, 35 interviews were conducted with recent Lowell immigrants and the themes from their stories were integrated into the murals. A book containing 10 of the interviews and an essay by Strobel and Farrant was recently published by Loom Press. The mural project itself was funded in part by a University of Massachusetts President's Office Creative Economy Grant.

The artists, ages 15-19, created the murals at the Revolving Museum in Lowell, working under the direction of Michael Miller, a painter with a studio in the Western Avenue Studios and brother of English Department Chair Marlowe Miller, and student Lianna Kuchi, a master's degree candidate in the Economic and Social Development of Regions program.

"The students themselves have connections to the immigrant experience through their own personal or family history," says Farrant. "They worked extremely hard all winter and put so much of their personalities and thoughts on the immigrant experience into their work."

### NUMBER OF ENGLISH MAJORS UP 85 PERCENT

For years, the University attracted 150 English majors each fall, give or take a few. The pattern remained relatively steady until 2005, when the number jumped to 191. A fluke? No. In fact, every year the number has grown, charting an 85 percent increase in the past decade to a whopping 279 students in 2010.

One of the biggest draws? Customization, says Melissa Pennell, interim dean of Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

"Our program has expanded from two concentrations – literature and writing – to four, in literature, creative writing, journalism and professional writing and theater arts," she says.

Other changes include requiring a different core of classes for each concentration and expanded opportunities for internships and practicum experiences. This customized model is appealing to students who seek course depth in their specific area of interest.

"The expanded course concentrations are another way the University is working to benefit its students," says Giselle Sterling, a veteran of the armed forces and an English major in the writing concentration. "I know I speak for most of my classmates in saying that we genuinely want to be good students – encouraging us to focus on classes relevant to our specific interests makes learning more enjoyable, and helps us do well."

To support the burgeoning number of students, the English Department recently made five new hires, in poetry, college writing, American literature and theatrical design.

## SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

# UMASS LOWELL WINS \$1.8M GRANT TO IMPROVE HOME CARE

The national demand for home health-care nurses and aides is expected to increase 50 percent by 2018 due to the aging population. And as more people live longer with chronic illnesses, the type of care needed in homes is becoming increasingly complex. These factors put more health-care workers and patients at risk for injuries and accidents in the home.

But help is on the way. UMass Lowell is embarking on a new study to promote health and safety in the home-care industry. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) awarded the University a \$1.8 million, four-year grant to research issues facing Massachusetts home-care nurses and aides and develop education and training programs.

“Home health-care nurses and aides are dedicated professionals and proud of the work they do. If they come into a home with little space to work and they know that this patient needs assistance, they will not leave until they find a way,” says Margaret Quinn, the study’s principal investigator and a professor in UMass Lowell’s Work Environment Department.

The study builds upon Project SHARRP (Safe Homecare and Risk Reduction for Providers), a previous UMass Lowell study funded by NIOSH that evaluated the risks to home health-care workers associated with needle-stick injuries and other blood exposures. The results – published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, the most influential publication in the field – indicated that needle-stick injuries pose a serious risk to home health-care nurses and aides.

But Quinn and her research team found that such workers encountered other serious risks. Typically working alone, these workers often make difficult decisions about patient care and their own safety.

“We were really surprised at the seriousness of the conditions that home-care nurses and aides confront on a daily basis. We uncovered a world where these ‘invisible’ workers face issues such as needles and dressings left on counters, cluttered rooms with no place to work and physical strain of lifting patients without assistive devices,” says Quinn. “At times, they encounter much more serious issues, including evidence of elder neglect and violence in the home or in the neighborhood. Our work ultimately aims to identify safer practices and to work with home-care agencies, trade associations and unions to implement them. Safe and healthy home-care workers means better patient care.”



The Safe Home Care project research team includes, from left, front, Pia Markkanen, Margaret Quinn and Susan Sama; back, Catherine Galligan, Rebecca Gore and Natalie Brouillette.

## DISCOVERY CHANNEL FEATURES UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS

UMass Lowell researchers Bruce Young and Amy Reichlen conducted studies of the backbones of lizards and snakes that caught the eye of a Discovery Channel Canada producer, but it is actually an Asian water monitor lizard that stars in the program.

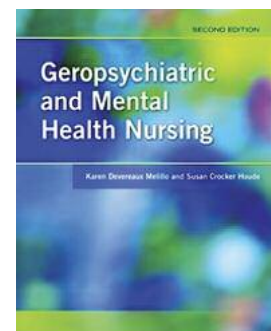
Assoc. Prof. Young, director of the Anatomical Laboratory in the Department of Physical Therapy, and biomedical engineering Ph.D. student Reichlen were featured this fall in an episode of “Daily Planet,” an hour-long TV series that features news, documentaries and discussions on the scientific aspects of current events.

“The Asian water monitor lizards that Amy and I are studying were filmed in my lab exercising on a treadmill and swimming in a special tank,” says Young.

Young’s project centers on the mobility of the vertebral column and how that mobility can evolve.

“Specifically, Amy and I are interested in the transition from a lizard vertebral column, which only moves laterally, to the snake vertebral column, which moves laterally and up and down,” he says. “While Amy is looking at the vertebral mechanics, I am exploring related issues such as how the transition in the vertebral column is related to the loss of legs in snakes and how this is different in vertebral mechanics regulated by spinal nerves.”

Young is a recognized expert on the subject. He has conducted field work in the Amazon, South Africa, the Gulf of Mexico, Guam and India.



“*Geropsychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*” will be used in classrooms nationwide.

## GERIATRICS TEXTBOOK TO BE USED IN CLASSROOMS NATIONWIDE

Colleges throughout the country will be using a one-of-a-kind textbook that combines the study of aging with that of psychiatric mental health to teach nursing students and professionals the best ways to identify and care for the growing number of older adults with mental health issues.

Chair of the Nursing Department Karen Devreux Melillo and Assoc. Dean of the School of Health and Environment Susan Crocker Houde co-authored and edited the second edition of “*Geropsychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*.” Many UMass Lowell nursing faculty and graduates authored chapters on topics such as sleep disorders, family caregiving, problem behaviors and nursing interventions in dementia care.

“It’s a big issue due to the aging baby-boomer generation and the fact that we are living longer,” says Melillo. “Today, 13 percent of the population is 65 years old or older. By 2030, that number will grow to 20 percent. Disability due to mental illness in that age group is expected to become a major public health problem.”



## GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

## 21 LAWRENCE FRESHMEN GET JUMP START ON CAMPUS



Incoming freshmen from Lawrence visited Walden Pond in Concord last summer, as part of the University's College Success Program.

When Joshua DeCotis signed up for UMass Lowell's College Success Program, part of the allure was the \$500 stipend he was promised to receive upon completion. "It was a deal maker," says DeCotis, who registered for the three-week summer program after deciding, as a senior at Lawrence High School, to attend UMass Lowell this fall.

But after finishing the program, he realized it provided an even bigger benefit: "It gave me a great head start and eased the transition into UMass Lowell," he says. "Meeting new people, making new friends, meeting professors, getting to know the campus, getting to feel how living in a dorm was, and feeling how a college class would be."

DeCotis was one of 21 incoming freshmen from Lawrence who participated in the program, now in its second year, which offers orientation and academic year services to increase student success and retention in college. Any student coming to UMass Lowell from Lawrence was eligible to participate.

Cynthia Bent, assistant program director in the Office of School Partnerships (OSP), which is part of the Graduate School of Education, runs the program, which is sponsored by the OSP — "with a lot of support from [OSP Director] Judy Boccia and [Vice Provost] Don Pierson," Bent says.

For the first week of the program this August, students commuted every day from Lawrence. For the second two weeks, they lived in Donahue Hall on campus. The daily schedule remained consistent: Monday through Thursday consisted of English and math classes with UMass faculty Tom Hersey (English), Alex Olsen and Manzia Jamil (math), as well as many workshops on college living. Topics for the latter included everything from how to research topics at the campus libraries to dressing for interviews; from how to live a healthy college lifestyle to using credit cards responsibly. On Fridays, students took field trips — twice to Concord, where they studied the works of Henry David Thoreau and explored the well-known spaces around Walden Pond and throughout the town.

The students will continue to receive support throughout the academic year, with regular meetings and social gatherings. As the year continues, Bent will keep tabs on participants, encouraging them to attend meetings. "We call it proactive advising; the students call it stalking," she jokes.



New York Times bestselling author James Bradley spoke on campus in the fall.

### 'FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS' AUTHOR SPEAKS ON CAMPUS

After his father died, James Bradley discovered something shocking when going through his papers: The elder Bradley was one of the Marines who raised the U.S. flag on Iwo Jima during World War II, a moment that resulted in one of the most memorable and duplicated photographs in history.

On Oct. 6, Bradley told a rapt crowd gathered in Coburn Hall about how that discovery led him to become a bestseller of historical non-fiction. For his first book, "Flags of Our Fathers," he interviewed many of the family members and friends of the men depicted in the famous photo. The book, which was published in 2000, spent 46 weeks on The New York Times bestseller list, and was eventually made into a critically acclaimed film by Clint Eastwood.

Bradley told the roomful of history and education students and faculty on South Campus that the popularity of the book and movie led him to the subject of his next book, "Flyboys: A True Story of Courage."

"He was called by a World War II GI, who suggested that he look into the disappearance of a specific group

of American aviators in the Pacific during World War II," says Asst. Prof. Patricia Fontaine of the Graduate School of Education, who invited the noted author to campus.

Bradley did exactly that — eventually telling the story of how the Naval aviators were captured after an air raid and later executed and eaten by the Japanese.

"However, one of the group members was not captured — his name is George H.W. Bush," Fontaine says.

In 2003, Bradley published "Flyboys," which also became a bestseller. In 2009, he published his third New York Times best-selling book, "The Imperial Cruise," which explores America's relationship with Japan during the presidency of Teddy Roosevelt, as well as American imperialist policy in the late 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

During his talk, Bradley told the audience how he researched all three of his books — providing valuable insights for the students and teachers listening.

"It was wonderful having James Bradley on campus," says Prof. Robert Forrant, of the Department of History. "He demonstrated how the power of curiosity and wanting to find something out are the spark that produces exciting and important books, capable of illuminating the past."





School teachers from around the country attempt to create a model canal system as part of a summer workshop at the Tsongas Industrial History Center.

## NATION'S TEACHERS FLOCK TO GSE SUMMER WORKSHOP

Eighty teachers from across the nation gathered in Lowell in June and July to immerse themselves in the city's history. They picked and carded wool and handwove cloth. They built a model canal system and determined how much to charge mills for the use of water. They visited Old Sturbridge Village and Walden Pond in Concord. They worked on assembly lines and played games of "Millopoly."

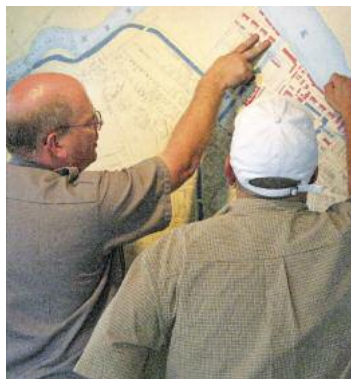
All of these activities were part of two intensive one-week workshops, which enable K-12 teachers to go back to their schools in the fall and "teach about the American Industrial Revolution in more powerful ways," says the Graduate School of Education's Sheila Kirschbaum, assistant director of the Tsongas Industrial History Center, where the workshops were based.

Called "Inventing America: Lowell and the Industrial Revolution," the summer workshops were funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant. This is the fifth year the program has been funded by the agency, making it "the most frequently funded NEH workshop," says Kirschbaum.

With the help of history lectures by UMass Lowell professors, hands-on workshops and a variety of tours – walking tours of Lowell, mill tours, boat tours and trolley tours – participants develop a keen sense of the historical importance of the city. The workshops also included breakout sessions targeted at attendees' specific needs, such as tailoring the experience to elementary school students.

Mary Nine, who teaches fifth-grade social studies and science in Indianapolis, called the hands-on activities "stimulating and rejuvenating."

"I have a really nice lab at my school, and I'm already trying to figure out how I can take pieces of the workshop's canal system exercise and adjust them for my students," she says.



Park Ranger Frank Clark, left, demonstrates Lowell's canal system.

### UMASS LOWELL LAUNCHES PROJECT WITH COUNTERPARTS IN IRELAND, ISRAEL

For three days last summer, two Graduate School of Education faculty members holed up in a conference room in O'Leary Library with four international peers, two each from Israel and Ireland. Their goal: come up with a plan to help public schools help themselves.

"Our goal was to identify evidence-based practices for school improvement that can be led by school-level folks – teachers, principals, parents, students, community members – and to then design intervention strategies to assist communities in improving their schools," says UMass Lowell Asst. Prof. James Nehring.

Joining Nehring and his GSE colleague Asst. Prof. Stacy Szczesniul were two professors from Haifa University in Israel – Lily Orland-Barak and Rivka Eisikovits – and two from Belfast's St. Mary's College at Queens University – Martin Hagan and Frank Hennessey.

It makes sense for the three teams to work together on this project, Nehring says.

"All three countries have diverse populations with some groups that are privileged and others that are marginalized. This inequity expresses itself in student learning outcomes between privileged and marginalized groups," he explains. "Also, all three countries regularly perform in the middle or lower end of international indicators of student achievement among developed nations."

The intensive summit – which included visits to Lowell High School, Daley

Middle School in Lowell and University Park Campus School in Worcester – "changed all of us and has set us on a trajectory for an exciting multi-year project," Nehring adds.

### SUPERINTENDENTS GATHER ON CAMPUS

Superintendents from more than 20 Massachusetts school districts joined UMass Lowell academic deans and administrators at the University's Inn & Conference Center for the fourth annual Chancellor's Breakfast for Superintendents this fall.

University and school leaders discussed ways in which they can team up in teaching, learning and research partnerships. The focus of this year's event was STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Presenters were:

- **Plastics Engineering**  
Prof. Carol Barry, who spoke of K-12 outreach activities and encouraged districts to participate in the regional Science Fair sponsored by the Center;

- **Mathematics Education**  
Prof. Regina Panasuk, who described her work helping Lowell and Methuen teachers build their knowledge of mathematics;

- **Marylou Bergeron**, superintendent of Lawrence Public Schools, who outlined the district's several partnership programs with UMass Lowell, including a Women in Engineering day held on campus; and

- **John Doherty**, superintendent of the Reading Public Schools, who described his district's technology initiatives and engaged the audience in texting to demonstrate new teaching tools.

The breakfast was organized by the Office of School Partnerships.



## COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT FROM BUSINESSMAN TO RELIEF WORKER

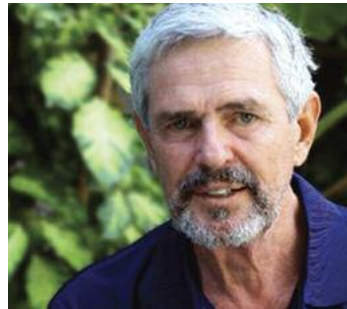
On Dec. 26, 2004, a 9.0-magnitude earthquake erupted in the floor of the Indian Ocean. The quake, the third-strongest on record, generated a tsunami that sent waves as tall as 100 feet crashing onto the shores of Indonesia, India, Myanmar, Thailand and Malasia.

Before the day was over, as many as 150,000 people were dead and in the weeks to come, the death toll would climb to more than 230,000. But it was the horror facing those left behind and their struggle to rebuild that called David Campbell to action. Campbell – a Carlisle resident whose 40-year career in business includes roles as a technology executive, corporate board member and investment banker – recently spoke to about 75 College of Management students and faculty.

In his quest to help, Campbell headed for Phuket Island, determined to volunteer. His one-week stay in Thailand stretched to a month and then to three months. By the time he returned home, Campbell was one of the founders of HandsOn Thailand, which organized volunteers and used the Internet to communicate directly to the public to raise money for the victims of the tsunami.

Campbell found that the same skills that had helped him succeed in the business world could be applied to humanitarian relief efforts: organizing, delegating and dealing with people from a variety of backgrounds.

He also learned that the same model he used in Thailand could work in other places. The group – which is now known as All Hands Volunteers – also provided relief following Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Haiti. Other relief efforts have targeted victims of flooding in Iowa, Tennessee, New York and Rhode Island; tornadoes in Arkansas and Missouri; and other natural disasters in Peru, the Philippines, Indonesia and Bangladesh.



## MBA PROGRAM IS AMONG TOP IN NATION FOR FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW

UMass Lowell's MBA program is continuing its standard of excellence. The College of Management's master's degree in business administration was selected for the fourth consecutive year as one of the top programs in the nation.

"The Best 300 Business Schools: 2011 Edition," was recently released by the Princeton Review and Random House. UMass Lowell and 299 other MBA programs nationwide were chosen based on student surveys. In those surveys, UMass Lowell's MBA was called "a good balance between reputation and affordability" and an "excellent online program [that] allows you to blend online with on-campus courses" as

students prefer for their "freedom and flexibility."

The book, which does not rank the 300 schools numerically, includes profiles on each institution that discuss student life, admissions, academics and faculty.

Students praised UMass Lowell professors as being "excellent and helpful," "highly accomplished and dedicated," "demanding, which helps students to a better job" and "not pretentious." The surveys also stated that faculty and administrators are "hands-on, always follow up and contact you regarding any questions." Other comments from the survey noted that the MBA program costs less than a third of what a private institution's would and that the case studies, textbooks and other materials are the same as those used in Ivy League programs.

## STUDENT FUND MANAGERS PULL OFF THREE-PEAT

For the third year in a row, UMass Lowell's team has beaten competitors from other UMass campuses in the system's annual Student Managed Fund competition — making it the only winning team in the contest's history.

The competition began in 2007, when teams from the campuses in Lowell, Amherst, Boston and Dartmouth were each given \$25,000 by the UMass Foundation to invest in the stock market for a real-world lesson in fund management. The winner is selected based on the largest return on investment.

In this most recent round, UMass Lowell's team again beat the competition — and the Standard & Poor 500 stock index — by a substantial margin. The fund earned 15.88 percent — compared to 14.42 percent for the S&P 500. The team built its initial \$25,000 seed fund to more than \$33,000.

"Since its inception, the Student Managed Fund's return is up 22 percent while the market's return is down almost 25 percent. That's a difference of almost 47 percent," notes Asst. Prof. Ravi Jain, the team's advisor.

Why does UMass Lowell's team consistently beat the competition and the market? Jain says it is because the team "follows a simple investment style and does not change it with market conditions. Rather, market volatility helps us by offering good prices for stocks. We haven't lost significant money in any of our investments."

RESEARCH

# UMASS LOWELL CO-HOSTS ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUMMIT



Prof. Ziyad Salameh with the UMass Lowell all-electric car on display at the Electric Vehicle Summit and Workshop in Lowell

About 200 people got a firsthand look at the latest in electric-vehicle technology at an event presented by the state Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and UMass Lowell on campus in October. The Electric Vehicle Summit and Workshop featured presentations and discussions on the latest in alternative-fuel technology and promoting zero- and low-emission electric vehicle use in Massachusetts. UMass Lowell faculty are leading the way in research in this area.

Vice Provost for Research Julie Chen, who moderated a UMass Lowell faculty panel, said the University is eager to partner with area industry to move the Commonwealth toward a future where renewable energy sources are affordable for all.

In addition to conducting research into electric vehicle technology — such as that by electrical engineering Prof. Ziyad Salameh, who has helped keep the University’s fleet of 10 electric vehicles running for more than a decade — UMass Lowell educates students who want to pursue their own research in the field.

Margo Tsigiotis Oge, who received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from UMass Lowell (then Lowell Tech) in the 1970s, and who is director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Transportation and Air Quality in Washington, D.C., joined the participants in the summit via video.

At the event, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles, the summit’s keynote speaker, announced that the state would take applications from cities and towns interested in installing electric-vehicle charging stations.

Chancellor Marty Meehan also spoke at the event, discussing UMass Lowell’s efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and energy expenses. “UMass Lowell has made great strides recently implementing energy-conservation measures and switching to renewable energy sources,” he said. (See related story on Page 5.)

But there’s still more to do. Says Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney: “As much as things have improved at UMass Lowell over the last few years, some things have not changed. We continue to pursue cutting-edge research.”

## ‘LET’S COME TO OUR SENSES,’ SAYS PROF. KUHN

Studies show that college students, like their K-12 counterparts, learn better with hands-on approaches. iPads in a music class. Lego blocks in a biology seminar. Soldering irons in a psych lab. What’s going on in the ivory tower? Surely a university-level course should have respectful students listening intently to a learned professor.

Not according to Prof. Sarah Kuhn of the Psychology Department, who says, “Research on learning in higher education shows that multi-sensory learning is far more effective than lecture.”

The National Science Foundation agrees with her, awarding nearly \$200,000 to a research project called Thinking with Things, which will explore the implications of “embodied” cognition at the college level.

Kuhn has developed a studio learning space that includes tables that can be rearranged, shelves of diverse materials, displays of prior projects and lab benches — including computers, glue guns and, yes, soldering irons.

“What can I say?” says Kuhn. “I’m a social scientist who has become convinced that one of the best ways to promote students’ sense of agency in the 21st century is to teach them to solder.”



## RESEARCHERS TO TAKE A DEEPER LOOK AT SEXTING

Teen sexting behavior — the practice of sharing sexually explicit content through the use of cell phone and social network technologies — has received increasing attention from the media and policy-makers.

“Surveys to date have found that 15 to 24 percent of teens report some involvement in sexting behavior,” says Asst. Prof. Andrew Harris of the Criminal Justice and Criminology Department, “but beyond this, we know very little about the underlying dynamics of teen sexting.”

Harris is leading a three-state, multidisciplinary team in one of the nation’s first in-depth studies of teen sexting. The research is funded by a two-year, \$670,000 grant from the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Harris is working with Assoc. Prof. Judith Davidson of the Graduate School of Education, an expert in qualitative methodology; Criminal Justice Asst. Prof. Karin Tusinski-Miofsky, who conducts school-based research on bullying; and colleagues in psychology from Miami University (Ohio) and the Medical University of South Carolina.

“To date, the issues surrounding sexting have been framed by generalized adult alarm and consternation, without full consideration of the behavior’s social context,” says Harris. “Our research aims to understand the problem through a more youth-centric perspective. We feel that this level of understanding will translate into actionable recommendations for prevention policy and practice.”



Geoffrey Douglas with five new friends in Bagamoyo, Tanzania

## FROM BAGAMOYO, TANZANIA: A DIRT-FLOOR SCHOOLHOUSE, AND A LESSON IN LIFE

*Editor's note: Last summer, part-time Public Affairs staff writer and adjunct English Professor Geoffrey Douglas spent a month teaching English at an art school in a small city in coastal Tanzania. Here, he looks back on his time in the East African country.*

The school was a half-acre of dirt piled randomly with African stone sculptures, many of them broken; at one end, four wood posts held up a thatch roof that leaked badly and has since, I'm told, collapsed. Under this, five or six wood stumps and a single plastic chair – the “Teacher’s Chair” – sat around a warped length of plywood, roughly five feet long, mounted atop the rusted remains of what had once been a metal table frame. A wobbly blackboard stood to one side.

There was no real lesson plan. It would have been unworkable. The students, sometimes as few as two, other times five or six, all males in their 20s and early 30s who would arrive anywhere between 10 and 40 minutes late, spoke English at wildly different levels: one student’s “Good Morning” was another’s “I want to fly to America in a fast airplane.” (America, by most lower- and middle-class Tanzanians, is conceived as a utopia; and though Swahili is the national language, a knowledge of English is viewed by many as the first rung on the ladder out of poverty.) The cardboard-covered notebooks they all carried in their pants pockets, each one ancient and filthy and molded to the shape of their butts, with words and numbers scrunched in tiny print on both sides of every page, seemed far too taxed to allow for anything ambitious.

So we did what we could. Some days I would write words on the blackboard – colors, numbers, professions, types of weather – and ask the more advanced ones to translate for the others. Other times we would do slang: “hot,” “cool,” “in the groove,” “on a roll.” One morning, inadvertently, I replied “Bingo!” to a student who had answered a question correctly – and from that day on, “Bingo!” was our word. “Bingo!” “Bingo!” they would shout at one another across the little table when a question was answered correctly; “Teacher, is a Bingo!?” they would demand of me 12 or 14 times a day.

I have had better students, and worse ones. But never have I had students more hungry to learn, or who did more with less, or were so touched by joy in the process. And never before, certainly, has teaching been such fun.

I have been home several months. The longer I am back, the more I miss what I left. And the better I understand this: Our crude little classroom in Bagamoyo, its

people and its setting, was a near-perfect mirror of the city it was part of, and – from all I could tell – of Tanzania itself.

Simple nouns have different meanings there. Or at least embodiments so different that their meanings may as well have changed. Our “art school” was a half-acre of dirt and stone. Its “city” – Bagamoyo, with between 80,000 and 250,000 people, depending on what source you rely on — is less a city than a patchwork of dirt streets and mud-hut neighborhoods, where electricity is scarce, most cooking and plumbing take place in gutters outdoors, house-fires often burn unopposed (there being no working fire engine or modern equipment), and the “hospital” is a gray concrete, mostly windowless monolith, often with no blood in its blood bank, where the patients lie unattended on gurneys in hallways with visible wounds under days-old bandages that attract buzzing green flies. Roughly one person in 12 in the city (6 percent nationwide) is HIV positive. Nearly all of these will die.

Almost no one has a “job,” at least as we conceive of one (the average income countrywide is \$440 a year), though you can’t walk far on any “street” without seeing a handwritten sign for a “Hair Salon” – or “Saloon,” or “Sallon” — on the doorway or rooftop of a home. Inside, the woman of the house can be seen – at almost any time of the day or night, often by candlelight – ironing or perming the hair of a neighboring woman or child, for a few pennies or the barter of a chicken or loaf of bread. A few miles away, along the beaches of the Indian Ocean, other women (women are the staples of most of the commerce I saw) arrive at dawn to plant sticks in the sand at low tide; hours later, they will return to harvest the seaweed caught on the sticks, which they will then carry from the beach on their backs in bags almost bigger than they are, to deliver to buyers for their value in the making of toothpaste, air freshener and shampoo.

Such hard lives, so few rewards. And yet. And yet every weekday morning at a little before eight, from all corners of the city, orderly processions of 7- and 8-year-olds, most walking in twos, their shorts and white shirts or dresses spotlessly clean and (somehow) pressed – and always in matching blues or greens – appear from the endless rows of mud and thatch and cinderblock and begin their parade to school. They are not only clean, they are smiling – and will do their best with “Good morning!” (sometimes confused with “Good af-tahnoon!”) as soon as they glimpse your white face. They are the picture of happiness. Of joyfulness. It is really something to see.

I can’t account for it. I don’t know where all those flatirons come from. Or the soap, or the hot water, or all those mothers’ tireless pride. But this, in the end, more than anything else, is what I came away with from my month in Tanzania. The joy. From the students in my “classroom” to the children in the streets, to the fishermen and street peddlers and safari guides we would meet later – in all the time we spent in the country, I never saw a single frown. Not one, not even from a distance. ■



# On the Site of Smith Hall:

## A Beckoning to the Future, a Message From the Past

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

It's a plain copper box, roughly two feet across by a foot or so wide and maybe nine or 10 inches deep. There's a light layer of corrosion across the top and sides, giving it a streaked, reddish hue. Even with its contents, which clatter when you shake it – due, perhaps, to a smaller box or toy of some sort– it probably weighs less than a dozen pounds.

It's sealed, and has been since April 26, 1947, when it was embedded inside the cornerstone of Smith Hall at that building's dedication. In a photo that survives of the event, then Chairman of the Board Samuel Pinanski – the owner of New England's largest chain of motion-picture theatres at the time – stands alongside, smiling, with a ceremonial trowel in his hand, as the box is lowered into the hollowed-out cornerstone. Lowell Textile Institute President Kenneth Fox, former President Charles Eames and several other dignitaries look on.

The box, apparently a time capsule, was unearthed in early July, when workers demolishing Smith Hall, at the corner of University Avenue and the VFW Highway – a site that will be home to the University's new \$70-million Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center – were alerted to its presence by UMass Lowell Music Professor Alex Ruthmann and his wife, who had come across the 1947 photo in the University's centennial history, "To Enrich and to Serve," published in 1995.

"I was very happy to learn that it was still there when they removed it," says Ruthmann. "Cornerstone ceremonies, though conducted less often in recent years, are important symbolically..."

The time capsule, he said, will hopefully contain "a tangible set of artifacts preserved for future generations, documenting the state of affairs at the time of the cornerstone's laying."

The box, sealed as of this magazine's deadline, will be opened at a ceremony in the spring.

Whatever its contents, one thing seems almost certain: They will not be what they would have been had the box been buried five years later, or five years before, or at almost any other time in the University's history. There probably will not be any beer labels, nor fraternity pins, nor Rita Hayworth pin-ups nor packs of Old Gold or Lucky Strike. This was 1947— less than two years after the end of the war in Europe, the third full year of GI Bill benefits – and the students at Lowell Textile,



*Construction Project Manager Kenneth Grizzell removes a time capsule from the cornerstone of Smith Hall.*

nearly 75 percent of them veterans, were a studious, serious bunch.

"He is a new kind of student," proclaimed the cover article "Veterans at College," in *Life* magazine on April 21 of that year, an eight-page spread featuring photos of near-middle-aged, pipe-smoking veterans walking the University of Iowa campus hand in hand with toddlers, or scrunched with their wives into the small trailers that that school had made available for its deluge of married students. "He is poor and hard-working. He has been around enough to make subjects like geography tough to teach... [He] is anxious to make up for the time [he] has lost. He wants a fast, business-like education and is doing his best to see that he gets it. He is getting better grades than the non-veteran, and has forced higher standards on everyone else."

There were close to 1.8 million veterans already on U.S. campuses, the *Life* article reported, with millions more to come (nearly 7.8 million would attend college

**"CORNERSTONE CEREMONIES, THOUGH CONDUCTED LESS OFTEN IN RECENT YEARS, ARE IMPORTANT SYMBOLICALLY... A TANGIBLE SET OF ARTIFACTS PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, DOCUMENTING THE STATE OF AFFAIRS AT THE TIME OF THE CORNERSTONE'S LAYING."**

—PROF. ALEX RUTHMANN

University officials help lay the cement for the cornerstone of Smith Hall on April 26, 1947. From left: former President Charles Eames, Trustee Harold Leitch, President Kenneth Fox and Trustee Chair Samuel Pinanski. In the center of the photo is the copper time capsule they hid in the cornerstone.



**SMITH HALL, ONCE THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST DORMITORY, THE BRICKS-AND-MORTAR EMBODIMENT OF ITS ENTRY INTO A THEN-NEW ERA, IS TODAY THE SITE OF AN 84,000-SQUARE-FOOT FACILITY THAT WILL EXPLORE WORLDS UNDREAMT-OF IN 1947.**

on the GI Bill between 1944 and 1956). More than a third were married; most of these had children. And nine out of 10, when asked, “Do you know what you want to do when you graduate?” answered yes. All in all, concluded the Life editors, it was making for “the biggest and most sudden impact American education has ever received.”

At Lowell Textile, it was transformative. The school, which had faced extinction only two years earlier as both students and faculty had been drawn away by the war effort – the 1945 graduating class had consisted of just 12 students – now was inundated: 500 students in 1946-47, 600 a year later, 2,100 by the 1949-50 school year. The majority were former GIs: “people who demanded much, and tolerated little triviality,” UMass Lowell history professor and University Historian Mary Blewett would write of them half a century later in the school’s centennial history. It was a sentiment Joseph P. Kennedy clearly shared in 1945, when he said of the area’s returning veterans, in creating a graduate scholarship at LTI in memory of his oldest son: “You can’t give them applause. You will have to give them jobs and opportunity.”

The Institute’s new president, Kenneth Fox, named in 1945 to succeed the retiring Charles Eames, was, at 29, the youngest college president in the nation – roughly the age of many of the veterans now returning to fill his school. A Lowell native and graduate of the class of 1938, he knew the needs and perils of the Textile Institute as well as anyone, and – against the backdrop of the Institute’s immense overnight growth – would preside over an astonishing expansion.

One of his first moves, in late 1945, was the creation of a unique summer term for freshmen – three-quarters of them veterans – that would vault them into the sophomore class by the fall of 1946. Following that, he presided over a building boom at the Institute that exceeded anything that could have been imagined only a year or two before: two new dormitories – the first ever built at the school – a library, a new engineering building (complete with fluorescent lighting) and funds for an administration building – Cumnock Hall – that would be completed several years later.

The shift in the cultural landscape, meanwhile, was every bit as seismic. With each yearly wave of arriving

veterans, the school’s horizons widened as its barriers continued to shrink. A broader curriculum – including three new departments – saw the inclusion of new business and liberal arts courses; a cooperative program with MIT that enabled shared research projects and the exchange of students and faculty; and a shorter academic work week that eased the lives of students with outside jobs. Freshman hazing ended in 1946 (though it would resume three years later as the veteran tide began its ebb); ethnic and religious divisions within fraternities began to erode. A self-governing student council, put in place in 1948, mirrored the needs of an older, more disciplined population.

The first female faculty member, Vittoria Rosatto, hired several years before Fox’s arrival, was named head of the Textile Design Department. She would be the last woman on the faculty until 1963. In 1948, a young chemistry student, Ludwig (“Luddy”) Rebenfeld, a displaced Jew whose family had fled the Nazis in Poland, was named by a member of the chemistry faculty to be a teaching assistant. When members of the department opposed the hiring, the professor, Ernie James, threatened to resign. The student was hired.

This time of great growth and change, spiritual as well as physical, mirrors, in many ways, today’s climate. Which is why it seems so fitting that Smith Hall, once the University’s first dormitory, the bricks-and-mortar embodiment of its entry into a then-new era, is today – as the site of an 84,000-square-foot facility that will explore worlds undreamt-of in 1947 – once again the site upon which its future will be inscribed.

But not before the contents of a rusty copper box will send us all a message from its past. ■



The 84,000-square-foot Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center will open on the former site of Smith Hall in 2012.

**WITNESS TIME CAPSULE UNVEILING AT SMITH HALL REUNION**

Did you live in Smith Hall? Join us for a reunion on April 8! At the event — open to all — the University will unveil the contents of the time capsule discovered in the cornerstone of Smith Hall, originally laid in the foundation in 1947. A new time capsule – which will be buried on the same site in the Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center – will be dedicated. To share stories about Smith and sign up to get information about the reunion, visit [www.uml.edu/smith](http://www.uml.edu/smith).



# *Oyster Shells, Rusty Nails and Rosary Beads*

Irish 'Dig' Reveals Clues to Lives of 19th Century Canal Builders





Six UMass Lowell students and two Queen's University archaeologists dug for artifacts in front of St. Patrick's Church in Lowell.



Colm Donnelly of Queen's University in Belfast led the dig.

One of the first things they uncovered was a small section of a rosary.

"Divine intervention, you suppose?" was what Colm Donnelly would ask later. He could have been kidding. It was difficult to tell.

They hadn't been digging long when they made that find. They were down only a few inches. Hundreds of other artifacts followed. By the end of the dig, more than 1,300 had been collected.

The bowl of a clay pipe. Some pipe stems. Small shards of pottery – some white and some blue – but all of it inexpensive by the standard of the day in 19th century Ireland.

The list went on and on. Pieces of glass. Buttons. Shards of slate. About 200 rust-encrusted nails. Pieces of animal bone, likely the remnants from long gone stew pots. And, of all things, oyster shells. The people who once lived there obviously ate oysters.

The project that unearthed all of these objects, an archaeological dig, took place in August on the sun-baked lawn in front of St. Patrick's Church in the Acre section of Lowell. It was the area in which Irish workers lived when they came to the city in the early 19th century to dig the canals that provided water power for the booming mills of that era.

The purpose of the modern-day dig was to unearth clues about the lives of those Irish laborers. The project was the result of a collaboration between UMass Lowell's Center for Irish Partnerships and Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The Center is one of six in which the University is working with universities around the world to provide student exchange opportunities, joint degree programs and cooperative research projects (see sidebar, on page 25).

The dig was led by Colm Donnelly, senior research fellow at Queen's University, with the assistance of two others from Queen's – Ronan McHugh, the principal surveyor, and Harry Welsh, an archaeologist and historian.

The actual digging was carried out by six UMass Lowell students: Dimitrios Booras, an undergraduate

English major from Lowell; Eunice Delice, a RESD graduate student from Methuen; Kim Scarfo, a history major from Chelmsford; Alaina Puleo, a biology graduate student from Tyngsboro; and Amanda Veiga, a RESD graduate student from Lowell.

### 'SHANTY TOWN' CREATED AFTER 30 IRISH LABORERS WALKED TO LOWELL FROM CHARLESTOWN

The site for the dig was chosen because it was about the only place left in the city's Acre section that hadn't been built over since the mid 1800s.

It was in April of 1822 that the first Irish laborers arrived. Thirty of them had walked to Lowell from Charlestown, led by another Irish immigrant, Hugh Cumiskey, a native of Ireland's County Tyrone.

According to historical records, as more immigrants arrived, spirited disputes broke out between the early arrivals and the newcomers, and Cumiskey reasoned that they might all get along better if they had a church in which they could find common ground.

So he pleaded his case with Boston Bishop Benedict Fenwick, who persuaded Kirk Boott, the agent for Merrimack Manufacturing Co., to donate corporate land for a church and school. So it was that an acre of land was provided to the immigrant workers and that area of the city became known, as it still is today, as The Acre.

The first church, a wooden structure that was consecrated by Bishop Fenwick in 1831, later burned and was replaced, in 1854, by the neo-Gothic stone church that stands today on that same Suffolk Street site.

It was on Acre property that many of the original Irish laborers lived in small dwellings called "shanties." (The word shanty comes from two Irish words – sean tig – which is pronounced "shan-tee" and means an old house.)

### DIG ATTRACTED DAILY MEDIA ATTENTION

The dig, which was carried out for five days, took on a festive air.

Throughout the week, visitors appeared, fascinated and curious about what was being uncovered in the two trenches. Their questions were answered readily by the three affable archaeologists – Donnelly, McHugh and Welsh.

And the media arrived almost daily – television, radio and print – local, national and international. The Boston Globe provided extensive coverage, both prior to and during the dig, including a front-page story.

"I didn't think we'd generate this much interest," said Donnelly.

The size of the artifact harvest was surprising, given the fact that the two trenches were only six feet square (or two meters, archaeologists would say) and neither one appeared to be more than a foot and a half deep at the end of the project.

Near the end of the week, Donnelly was asked to assess the project.

"When we opened the trenches we didn't know if we'd find anything," he said. "Of course, any excavation is like that to a certain extent. But it became clear after

the first day that we were going to be able to tell a story of what was going on here in the period between 1820 and 1850.

"I would say the project has been very successful."

The only thing he found mildly surprising was the number of nails they uncovered.

"I probably shouldn't have been surprised," he said, "because, after all, the first church was built of wood and so were the shanties."

Donnelly expressed great admiration for the work of the six students who, despite having come from diverse academic disciplines and who ranged from a freshman to graduate students, gelled easily into two three-member teams. Armed with trowels, hand shovels and brushes, the dust-covered students painstakingly cleared level after level of earth – collecting, bagging and recording artifact after artifact.

"The students have been great," Donnelly said. "They had no previous experience with archaeology, but they've been really hard working and they've demonstrated that they're aware of what an archaeological excavation is all about. We're really impressed with them."

One of the students, Booras, the English major, said, "For me, this is a lot of fun. Doing this work, you're able to view history from a different perspective. You're learning things but it's not from a textbook. You can actually see history as you go down through different layers of dirt. It's exciting."

Veiga, a graduate student who teaches history in a middle school in Peabody, said, "Throughout the entire experience, the field of archaeology has been eye-opening and from a personal experience it's been incredible. As a history teacher, it has been a dream come true to work on something that has so much meaning to people."



*A piece of a clay pipe from the 1800s*

#### FOUR MORE DIGS PLANNED FOR LOWELL AND IRELAND

Frank Talty '77, a co-director of Center for Irish Partnerships, described himself as "de facto project manager" of the dig for UMass Lowell. He was well qualified for that assignment despite his admitted lack of archaeological experience. In addition to being a Lowell native, he also is a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a status made possible by the fact that his paternal grandfather, Hugh Francis Talty, came from County Clare. He also teaches a course in Irish politics – in addition to being director of Academic Programs in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

(The other co-directors of the Center are Profs. Ann Marie Hurley of mathematical sciences and Stephen McCarthy of plastics engineering.)

Discussing the project during the week of the dig, Talty said, "We felt this was a prime site where we might find evidence of the early Irish lifestyle. And, within a few inches of the topsoil on the first day we were discovering things.

*Continued*

**THEY HADN'T BEEN DIGGING LONG WHEN THEY MADE A FIND. THEY WERE DOWN ONLY A FEW INCHES. HUNDREDS OF OTHER ARTIFACTS FOLLOWED. BY THE END OF THE DIG, MORE THAN 1,300 HAD BEEN COLLECTED.**

#### IRISH CENTER PROMOTES ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS

The UMass Lowell Center for Irish Partnerships is one of six such centers through which the University develops international alliances and expands global learning experiences for students and research opportunities for faculty.

The Center fosters collaborations and partnerships with educational institutions in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland across an interdisciplinary spectrum that includes the social sciences, the natural sciences and engineering, the humanities and health and education fields.

Examples of these collaborations include programs offered by Queen's University in Belfast and St. Mary's University, an affiliate of Queen's. This year and last, UMass Lowell students have spent three weeks at the International Summer School at Queen's University studying Irish history, politics, literature, music and culture.

UMass Lowell students also are attending a full semester of study this academic year at both these partnering universities.

In 2009, UMass Lowell, in partnership with Queen's and Dublin City University, hosted the first U.S./Ireland

Emerging Technologies Conference at the UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center. Plans are already underway for Emerging Technologies II to be held in both Dublin and Belfast in 2011.

Also in the planning stage is the first-ever NCAA college hockey game to be held in Belfast when the UMass Lowell River Hawks face an as-yet unnamed opponent there in October of 2011.

The Center for Irish Partnerships has three directors: Prof. Frank Talty, director of Academic Programs in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; and Profs. Ann Marie Hurley of the Mathematical Sciences Department and Stephen McCarthy of the Plastics Engineering Department. Victoria Denoon Drakoulakos, assistant to the Chancellor, is an associate director of the Center. A native of Northern Ireland, she earned a law degree at Queen's University.

More information about the Center is available at [uml.edu/International/Irish](http://uml.edu/International/Irish). ■



Though the St. Patrick's parish was formed in 1827, the church wasn't officially consecrated until 1831.

**“WHEN WE OPENED THE TRENCHES WE DIDN'T KNOW IF WE'D FIND ANYTHING, BUT IT BECAME CLEAR AFTER THE FIRST DAY THAT WE WERE GOING TO BE ABLE TO TELL A STORY OF WHAT WAS GOING ON HERE IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1820 AND 1850.”**

—COLM DONNELLY,  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

“The samples correspond to similar samples found in Northern Ireland in the same time period. We're fairly certain that we've discovered evidence of people living in the (church) lawn area, which was probably the earliest encampment for the canal diggers. A lot of things they're finding are precisely what we anticipated.

“We've been able to confirm that this is a site but not necessarily the only one. We hope the interest generated in this dig will spur another round of research.”

The idea, he said, is that over the next two years, this dig will be followed up by four more – one week-long dig each year in both Lowell and in County Tyrone, the latter being at the home site of Cumiskey, the immigrant who led the Irish laborers from Charlestown to Lowell nearly 190 years ago.

At week's end, the students filled the trenches back in. But first they spread plastic sheeting at the bottom to preserve the sites and placed plastic pegs at each corner to mark the dimensions of the excavations.

“If we get funding, we hope to come back next year and open the trenches again and continue to dig,” said Donnelly. “And we may extend the project. Open up other areas.”

The partnership between UMass Lowell and Queen's was formalized in 2009 when Chancellor Marty Meehan led a delegation to Ireland to meet with representatives of the Belfast university.

Speaking more recently about the project in The Acre, Meehan said, “Our priority with these Centers is to provide graduates with a global perspective, one that will contribute to their career success by deepening their understanding of multiple cultures, which, in today's shrinking world, is no longer optional but required.

“This archaeological dig is one of many concrete ways that students are already benefiting from our agreements with notable international universities.” ■



Students Alaina Puleo  
and Jonathan Brown

## UMASS LOWELL ALUMNI HAVE COME FROM MORE THAN 80 FOREIGN COUNTRIES

When he arrived here two years ago, Provost Ahmed Abdelal said one of his priorities would be to “internationalize” UMass Lowell. His efforts in this initiative have included the creation of six centers that provide students and faculty with opportunities to study and conduct research with academic partners in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and the Middle East.

But, from the standpoint of enrollment on the Lowell campus, the University has been “international” for a long time. This academic year alone, there are nearly 400 international students enrolled from 46 countries.

Moreover, the alumni rolls include more than 1,200 graduates from more than 80 foreign countries. India, with 419, is, by far, the country with the largest number of UMass Lowell degree holders. Next come Taiwan with 197 and Canada with 101.

UMass Lowell has prepared these graduates to return to their own countries armed with the knowledge and skills to enjoy successful careers and to be effective community leaders.

One example of a graduate who has returned home to raise the quality of life of her fellow citizens is **Salinee Tavaranan**, who in 2004 earned a master's degree in solar engineering. Tavaranan moved back to her native Thailand where she is director of the Border Green Energy Team, an organization that works with villagers in ethnic minority areas on both sides of the Thai/Burma border – improving solar home systems, teaching renewable energy practices and helping with solar electricity construction for medical clinics.

**Yanir Shaked** is an example of a graduate who has achieved success in both the corporate and academic worlds. Shaked, who earned his doctorate in plastics engineering in 2007, is director of research and development at Polyram Co., Israel's leading manufacturer of engineering thermoplastic compounds for the automotive, electrical and construction industries; and he also is a senior faculty member in plastics engineering at the Shenkar College of Engineering and Design.

Three others among the 1,200 graduates from foreign countries who have achieved success in their chosen fields are from Taiwan, Korea and India.

**Edward Chang**, who earned a master's degree in plastics engineering in 1992, is vice president of Simplo Technology, a Taiwanese company that produces a variety of battery pack products for customers such as Dell, Hewlett-Packard and Apple.

**Jae Hyun Kim**, who earned his master's degree in chemistry in 1999, is managing director of Dongjin Semichem Co. in Korea. Dongjin makes electronic materials and foaming agents for semiconductors and flat liquid crystal displays.

**Nayan S. Parekh** '94 is director of Nikamal Ltd. in India, a company that manufactures plastic moulding products. Parekh earned a master's degree in plastics engineering. ■

## IN FOCUS

# Globetrotting: UMass Lowell Partnerships Span the World



New ideas, heightened enthusiasm, cross-cultural experience – a campus with international programs and research is a more exciting place to be, for faculty as much as for students. That excitement is the foremost benefit of expanding partnerships. UMass Lowell also directs its partnerships to geographically strategic areas, where developed technologies, population density and existing universities offer the greatest potential benefits to both partners.

## ASIA – RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA AND INDIA

UMass Lowell's Computer Sciences Department works in China with CERNET, the China Education and Research Network, to run a summer program for Chinese students leading to enrollment in the MS degree program at UMass Lowell. Strong ties exist with Tsinghua University in Beijing, supported by a UMass Online agreement and the China Institute established by the

UMass President's Office to coordinate university programs and state agencies.

UMass Lowell's focus of collaboration is on engineered nanoparticles and understanding the link between health, environment and manufacturing. With Tsinghua's related industry connections in China, a team of UMass Lowell professors (from work environment, biology, plastics and mechanical engineering) take exposure measurements, modify manufacturing processes, research nanocomposite properties and investigate toxicity. The researchers have also submitted a joint research proposal and have been invited to speak at a U.S. workshop on nanostructured materials for energy and the environment.

In India, UMass Lowell's renowned Assistive Technology program is being replicated at the B.V. Raju Institute of Technology in Hyderabad, and the Shri Vishnu Engineering College for Women in

Bhimavaram. UMass Lowell staff and graduate students support Indian students through visits and by distance communication. More than 50 projects are completed or ongoing.

## MIDDLE EAST – CHALLENGE, OPPORTUNITY IN EGYPT, ISRAEL, JORDAN AND TURKEY

University collaborations can contribute to better international communication and understanding, a goal that UMass Lowell fosters through the Middle East Center for Peace, Development and Culture.

In Egypt, UMass Lowell works with the University of Cairo to collaborate in Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology for graduate studies and research, and across departments of economics, political science and women's studies. At the High Institute of Applied Arts, UMass Lowell will host an exhibition of Contemporary Egyptian Digital Art in 2011 in the first phase of a multi-dimensional partnership.

A joint degree in Peace and Conflict Studies, scheduled to launch in 2011, has been developed by an inter-disciplinary faculty group with the University of Haifa, in Israel. The partnership was extended to include Queen's University in Northern Ireland to establish the Belfast-Haifa-Lowell Educational Research Group. The group held a summer summit for collaboration on improving public schools set in challenging environments. At Shenkar College of Engineering and Design, near Tel Aviv, an innovative joint graduate program in Plastics Engineering allows students in both UMass Lowell and Shenkar's Master of Science (M.S.) programs to attend classes and conduct research at both campuses.

In Jordan, science and engineering faculty are developing joint research projects with the University of Petra.

Collaborations with two universities in Istanbul, Turkey – Yeditepe University and Bahcesehir University – include a National Science Foundation-funded workshop on Assistive Technology, as well as summer joint M.B.A. electives and courses in engineering. At Bilkent University in Ankara, College of Management faculty members are teaching during the winter break, accompanied by UMass Lowell students. Joint research is planned in the areas of nanotechnology, biotechnology, plastics and biomedical engineering.

## AFRICA – ADVANCING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN GHANA, NIGERIA

In the first of planned faculty and student exchanges, a UMass Lowell professor taught a semester of biology at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology in Kumasi, Ghana. Faculty in engineering and nanotechnology are building research collaborations with the University of Ilorin, in Nigeria.

## IRELAND – HERITAGE TIES THE UNITED STATES, NORTHERN IRELAND AND IRELAND

Archeological research (described on Page 23) was conducted in Massachusetts and Ireland by students and faculty of UMass Lowell and Queen's University in Belfast. Other programs include a partnership between Dublin City University, UMass Lowell and Queen's University in presenting the first U.S./Ireland Emerging Technologies Conference, in Lowell, at which researchers discussed biopharmaceuticals, medical devices and nanotechnology with representatives of leading companies in manufacturing and product development. The second conference will be held in Ireland in 2011. ■

## 'Be Militant in Your Thoughts': Carving the Path to Change at 1960s LTI

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS



As many as 300,000 people marched in support of the passage of civil rights law on Aug. 28, 1963 (far right).

**“BE MILITANT  
IN YOUR  
THOUGHTS.  
BUT AS FAR AS  
YOUR ACTIONS,  
JUST KNOW  
THAT HOW  
YOU EXPRESS  
YOURSELF,  
THAT’S GOING  
TO AFFECT  
NOT ONLY  
YOU BUT A  
LOT OF OTHER  
PEOPLE, TOO.”**

—JOHN ANDREWS '69

It's hard to say for sure how many black students there were at Lowell Tech in the late 1960s.

William Bannister, an LTI chemistry professor who was a mentor to some of them, says there were nine; John Andrews, their leader for a time, put the number at 13. Other estimates range from as low as seven to as high as 18.

“Nine, thirteen, whatever. The reality was, it depended on when you counted,” says Preston Butler '70, who was one of them. “People would come, and then they'd leave; they'd be there, then they'd look around and see how things were, and they'd be gone.”

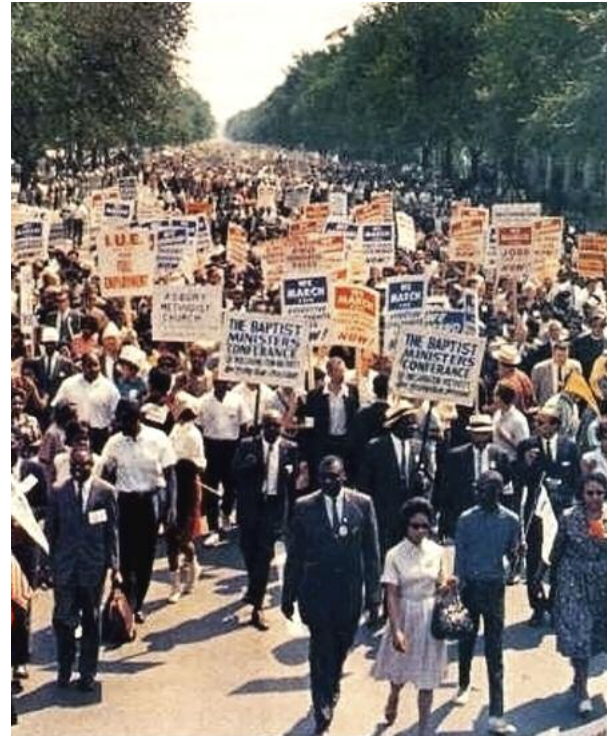
There were, in 1968, roughly 4,000 undergraduate students at LTI: “No black faculty members, no black staff members (including janitorial), no black members of the Board of Trustees, and less than one half of 1 percent black student population,” according to a grant application for federal minority funding that would be submitted several years later. Which, for the handful of black students on campus, made for what Preston Butler remembers as “a very uncomfortable social fit.”

“It was kind of like landing on the moon and finding out your air hose has a hole in it,” he says today. “It was very tough. The first challenge was just to survive. You knew if you could just hang onto the life raft, just stick together and hold on tight, that you'd make it to the other side. But a lot of people didn't make it.”

It was a turbulent time in America. Those were the days of race riots in the cities – Los Angeles in 1965, Detroit and Newark two years later – civil-rights marches and campus sit-ins; of Malcolm X, the Black Panthers and the Weathermen. At Columbia in 1968, student protests turned violent, as they did at Duke a year later. A year after that, at campuses in Ohio and Mississippi, six students would pay for their dissidence with their lives.

At LTI, with its nine or 13 or 18 black students, these rumblings had not gone unheard. Which is what brought a handful of them, some time in the winter of '67 or the spring of '68, into the office of chemistry Professor William Bannister. They were members, they told him, of a campus group that called itself the Afro American Society (AAS), and they had come to ask his help.

“There was a rule in those days – it may still be in place, I don't know – that any student organization, if it wanted to be recognized by the University, had to have a faculty adviser,” remembers Bannister, at the time a young professor and Navy Reserve officer, in his first year at LTI. “Well, two of the guys in the group, they said they were members of the Black Panthers; they were talking about taking over the president's office, that kind of radical stuff. I was pretty conservative in



my thinking at the time, and some of that stuff – I didn't know what to make of it at all, I didn't know what I was getting into. But I did think they had a right to have their group. I agreed to represent them.

“And as I got to know these guys, it turns out that most of them – including the two Black Panthers – are some of the nicest people I've ever known in my life. Just young kids who are ticked off at the way things are, and they want to try to make them right – only they don't know quite how to go about it, so they've come up with all these ideas they've been hearing and reading in the news.”

Over the next year or so, under Bannister's counsel, and with the moderating influence of one of its members, John Andrews '69 – and faced always with the reality of being impossibly outnumbered – the AAS grew more pliable. Neither its agenda nor its commitment ever wavered; but as time passed, the calls for violence grew steadily less shrill.

“Oh, we had a couple of brothers who were pretty militant, one guy who liked to dress like the Panthers and used to write these articles in the [school] paper about how he wanted to close down buildings, occupy Cummock Hall, all that sort of stuff,” remembered Andrews, who passed away shortly after being interviewed for this story. He was already past 30 at the time, married with children, a Korean War veteran who had arrived at LTI



A 1968 meeting of the Afro American Society.

in the mid-sixties. “All I saw coming out of that was the state police or the National Guard [being called in], and a bunch of people getting hurt. I was afraid for people’s safety.

“So we talked about it – I was older than most of them, maybe a little more mature – and I said to them, ‘Be militant in your thoughts. But as far as your actions, just know that how you express yourself, that’s going to affect not only you but a lot of other people, too.’ And I guess they heard me. Anyway, in the end I was able to persuade them to cool it a little.”

By this time, the group had had its charter approved by the University – with Andrews its first president – and had been given a space in which to meet. “They gave us a little room and a desk in the basement of the library,” said Andrews, “where we’d meet and talk about what we wanted to see happen. We wrote up a program of the things we wanted – more black students, the hiring of black employees, changes in the curriculum to show black achievements [in texts], those sorts of things – and we took it to the administration. Bill [Bannister] advised us on a lot of it. He was the only one on the faculty interested enough, and bold enough, to help.”

“He had this way of explaining things,” remembers Butler. “He could take the most complicated thing and make it seem simple, show you how something was practical, how it needed to be done. That’s how he showed us to negotiate – always well-planned, well-timed requests, always reasoned and practical.”

“Bill’s role with that group, as long ago as it was, is a real example of the importance of advocacy,” says Oneida Blagg, today’s UMass Lowell director of Equal Opportunity and Outreach, in discussing the events of those years. “And the fact that he was an educator, that his heart was dedicated to it being educational for them, no matter what else happened – well, they were just very, very lucky to have had him.”

Still, it would be a long, uneven route to progress. Another four or five years would go by – meetings, negotiations, petitions, the last of the original AAS members by then departed – before anything like real change would come to pass on the LTI campus.

“There was no improvement while I was there, none at all,” said Andrews, who could still recall his frustration the day he was invited in 1968 to address the Board of Trustees: “Look at your record, just look at your record!” I kept saying to them – until one woman on the board, she actually started to cry. A dean asked me later to

apologize, but I wouldn’t. I was on a real rampage over things. It’s a wonder they let me graduate.”

A year later, the AAS’s second president, Alvin Frost, made a similar appeal to the LTI Board, requesting courses in African-American history, as well as greater financial aid for black students and recruitment of black students and faculty. There were at the time, Frost told the Board, 18 black students on campus, which included only eight from Massachusetts.

So progress was slow. But it would happen – just not soon enough for some of those early pioneers to enjoy. By 1972, there were two black members of the LTI faculty, a number that would grow almost yearly after that. Black staff members by then included an admissions officer, two secretaries, a staff assistant and three janitors. Several courses featuring black history had been added to the curriculum. A community-action program, proposed and developed by the AAS, to foster talent among the city’s black population, had been approved and funded by the LTI Board – which now included two black members (the result of a 1969 trip to the Governor’s office by AAS leaders, Bannister and two other members of the faculty) and would soon be adding a third. A Hispanic woman, June Gonsalves, a committed advocate of increased black hiring, would be named a year later as LTI’s affirmative action officer.

“The school is a better (though still far from perfect) place these days, thanks largely to you ... for the good that was accomplished, and against such seemingly insurmountable odds,” Bannister would write in a 1974 letter to Joseph Mitchell, one of the two black Board members. “You certainly showed us that a winning fight could be waged.”

It’s been more than 40 years since those first AAS members walked into Bill Bannister’s office. John Andrews played the piano for years in New Jersey; Preston Butler, for 25 years a plant supervisor for New England Telephone, is now retired and living in Massachusetts – he was with his grandkids at McDonald’s the day we talked on the phone. Bannister also is retired, though he’s remained in the Lowell area and keeps an office on campus, where he still pursues research.

LTI, of course, is no longer – merged into ULowell, which then joined with UMass. And on the Lowell campus, where the ethnic population is large and ubiquitous and the Equal Opportunity and Outreach director – Blagg – herself is black, it’s been a long time since the last student protest over civil rights.

Blagg, who serves as an archivist for many of the printed records of those years – letters, petitions, meeting notes, grant applications, news clippings – says it all puts her in mind of something John Lewis, the Georgia Congressman and civil-rights icon, said in 2007 when he was came to the University as graduation speaker.

“He spoke about some of the things he and his colleagues did, some of their marches and protests and civil disobedience, along the way to ending segregation. And he had a name for it – ‘necessary trouble.’ Sometimes, he said, you have to make ‘necessary trouble.’

“What Bill Bannister and [the AAS] did back then – I’d call that necessary trouble.” ■



John Andrews



Preston H. Butler

**“IT WAS KIND OF LIKE LANDING ON THE MOON AND FINDING OUT YOUR AIR HOSE HAS A HOLE IN IT. IT WAS VERY TOUGH.”**

—PRESTON BUTLER '70



Featurestory

# The Professor goes to

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS





# Washington

## OBAMA TAPS UMASS LOWELL PROFESSOR TO LEAD U.S. INVESTIGATIVE BOARD

To get a piece of news that catapults you out of one life and into another, that lifts you from the mainstream and deposits you, in an instant, at the pinnacle of your field: it's the sort of thing we all dream of, that happens once in 20 or 30 lifetimes, almost never to us or to anyone we know.

It happened last March to UMass Lowell work environment Professor Rafael Moure-Eraso, when word came that he had been nominated by the president of the United States to head the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB), the agency charged with determining the causes of the country's most devastating chemical accidents – which, within less than a month of Barack Obama's announcement, would include the nation's worst-ever environmental disaster, the explosion of BP's Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, which killed 11 workers.

"I remember feeling that if I were to die today, I would be satisfied," he says of his reaction to the news of his nomination. "It's a [job] that truly sums up my life's work."

Indeed, it would be hard to imagine anyone more suited to such a role. A native of Colombia, he began his working life as a chemical engineer, with stints at both Rohm and Haas and Dow Chemical. Later, even before being awarded his doctorate in environmental health and industrial hygiene from the University of Cincinnati, he went to work for the first of two interna-

tional unions, the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) and the United Automobile Workers (UAW); between the two of them, he would serve for 15 years as an industrial hygienist. (His 10 years with the OCAW, especially, afforded him an exposure to the petrochemical industry that is likely to serve him well in his understanding of the BP disaster.)

Since joining the UMass Lowell faculty in 1988 as an associate professor in the Department of Work Environment – of which he has been chair for the past five years – he has served as a visiting lecturer in occupational health at the Harvard School of Public Health and worked as a senior adviser to the assistant secretary for Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) on the prevention of chemical exposures. He has also been a member of the OSHA National Advisory Committee, the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council, the Board of Scientific Counselors to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and other environmental and work-safety agencies and boards.

In his 22 years at UMass Lowell, the Department of Work Environment has come to be regarded by many as the nation's leading graduate program in the pioneering of safe and healthy work standards. His appointment to the CSB, Moure-Eraso said last spring, "is a recognition of us as the first program in the nation to focus on this area. It's about where we've come from and the work we've been doing all these years to bring the issue to the American people."

As of press time for this magazine, Moure-Eraso had been at his post, on K Street NW in Washington, D.C., for a little more than four months – since his nomination was confirmed by the Senate in June. He is scheduled to remain, according to the terms of his appointment, for five years (he is currently on unpaid leave from the University), during which time he and the four other members of the CSB board will no doubt dissect, discuss and issue their findings on scores of chemical accidents. There were 18 on his desk as of the end of August. All of these (like the 2006 chemical explosion at a Danvers factory that destroyed a neighborhood and left hundreds homeless, on which the CSB reported in 2008) will



*Work environment Prof. Rafael Moure-Eraso was appointed chairman of the U.S. Chemical Safety Board.*



*The BP oil spill released about 4.9 million barrels of crude oil — making it the worst environmental disaster in U.S. history.*

**“WE HAVE A REAL CHANCE HERE TO GET THE PUBLIC TO FOCUS ON HOW AND WHY THIS HAPPENED, AND HOW IT COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED – THEN, AS A RESULT, MAYBE TO PREVENT THE NEXT EXPLOSION, TO ACTUALLY SAVE LIVES.”**

—PROF. RAFAEL MOURE-ERASO

meet several clear-cut criteria as to lives lost and damage done, though few if any are likely to magnetize public scrutiny like April’s explosion in the Gulf of Mexico – which, says the new CSB chief, could be a blessing for his cause:

“We’re at a dramatic moment right now. With everybody paying attention as they are, we have a real chance here to get the public to focus on how and why this happened, and how it could have been prevented – then, as a result, maybe to prevent the next explosion, to actually save lives. That’s a pretty exciting opportunity, I think.”

The BP investigation, among the most recent additions to the CRB’s docket, began in late June, when the board accepted a request from Congress to investigate. The study will be among CRB’s largest ever, will take at least two years to complete and cost roughly \$2.5 million.

And it will have to be conducted alongside at least 17 others, several of which were similarly deadly, if less known. Roughly half are refinery accidents, four of which killed a total of 21 workers. The oil-rig investigation, in fact, is not even the only one involving BP: nor is it the first. The board is also looking into a January 2008 accident at the company’s Texas City, Texas, facility – and three years ago, issued its findings on a 2005 accident at the same Texas site, that one killing 15 workers and injuring 180, placing it among the worst industrial accidents in U.S. history.

“We have a full workload of cases,” says Moure-Eraso. “And there are a lot of factors to weigh – we’ll be interviewing people and studying documents for a long time, and everybody sees things in his own way. But we have an extremely able board, a dedicated staff and a two-year window to work with. I’m looking forward to the process.”

**MARK GRIFFON ’92 ALSO JOINS CSB**

Moure-Eraso isn’t the only member of the board to have UMass Lowell connections. A second member of the five-member CSB – and the only other one to be nominated by Obama in March – is an alumnus, Mark Griffon, who earned his M.S. in radiological science at the University in 1992, founded an environmental-health consulting company in Salem, N.H., and, since 2002, has been a member of the Federal Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health, appointed by the president to advise the Department of Health and Human Services on occupational illness and compensation policy.

Griffon began his career as a chemist, working on large-scale clean-up contracts at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, the Aberdeen Proving Ground and Brookhaven National Labs. Following that, he returned to UMass Lowell, where he worked for the Toxics Use Reduction Institute in developing training methods for reducing the use of toxic chemicals, and helped develop hazardous-waste training for New England clean-up workers. His consulting work has included assistance to the United Steelworkers, the Department of Energy and the Idaho and Brookhaven National Labs.

Neither of the two men has had the time to do much more than unpack since starting work in June. Just four days after he arrived at his Washington office, Moure-Eraso had to pack up and leave again to take part in a nighttime community meeting in Connecticut, where he presented the board’s final report on its investigation of a February explosion there that claimed six lives. It’s been pretty much non-stop ever since.

“I’ve managed to find the time to buy a small condo,” says the new CSB chairman. “And I’m trying to get acquainted, and to learn my way around. The ways of this city are complicated, so it will probably take awhile.”

Still, he says, he wouldn’t have it any other way:

“When you are called to public service, there are sacrifices you make. So you make them. That’s just the way it is. And this one, this job – for me, it’s just so very worthwhile.” ■

**ALUMNUS LED GULF CLEANUP EFFORTS**

The BP oil spill ranks as one of the worst environmental disasters in modern times, and the job of leading its cleanup efforts fell on the shoulders of a UMass Lowell alumnus — Coast Guard Captain Roger Laferriere ’86. For 60 days starting May 22, Laferriere was deployed in the Gulf as incident commander for the State of Louisiana.

“I worked for Admiral Thad Allen, who was designated as the national incident commander,” he says. “I was basically his field general for all operations in and around the State of Louisiana, extending offshore to the source of the spill.”

Under Laferriere’s command was a force of more than 100 aircraft, more than 4,000 vessels and tens of thousands of cleanup workers on the shore.

“My first and foremost responsibility was to ensure these assets were in place to protect the state’s pristine environment, remove any free-floating oil on the surface

*Continued*



Coast Guard Captain Roger Laferriere, second from right, confers with other Coast Guard personnel in Port Fourchon, La., regarding the BP oil spill off the coast of Louisiana.

and, where impacts did occur on land, ensure the oil's rapid removal and disposal," he says. "Weapons in our cleanup arsenal included in-situ oil-burn task forces, chemical dispersant aircraft, on-water oil skimmers and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation teams."

Laferriere says the education he received at UMass Lowell (then called the University of Lowell) enabled him to make the right operational decisions that were in the best interest of safeguarding the environment and protecting human health and safety.

"After I graduated from ULowell in 1986 with a bachelor of arts degree in environmental science," he says, "I went back to the University through the Coast Guard and obtained my master's in science in industrial hygiene in 1997."

Laferriere credits his environmental science degree as the stepping stone he needed to get involved in the Coast Guard's marine-pollution response program.

"I have spent the last 23 years as an operational marine environment protection and response specialist," he says.

"My undergraduate courses at ULowell enabled me to understand how oil and hazardous materials behave in the environment and, most importantly, to evaluate cleanup techniques to ensure these do not cause more harm to the environment than the pollutant itself."

He says his industrial hygiene degree, meanwhile, enabled him to understand the toxicology and health effects of pollutants on humans.

"Both degrees complemented my operational experience and made me one of the top marine-pollution fighters in the Coast Guard," he says.

Laferriere is currently the Coast Guard's commanding officer of Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach, which is one of the country's largest and busiest ports.

"I have more than 400 Coast Guard men and women working under my command," he says. "Our mission includes port safety and security, search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, drug and migrant interdiction, vessel inspections, maritime aids to navigation, national defense and marine environmental protection." ■

## OIL SPILL IN FOCUS: DIFFERENT ANGLES, DIFFERENT VIEWS

Among the UMass Lowell community, The BP oil spill has meant different things to different people. For Work Environment Chair Rafael Moure-Eraso (see accompanying story), it was — and remains — a life-altering event. For others, such as David Coffey and Jimmy Smith, it was an opportunity, not only to be of help, but to view first-hand the human misery that can come of such an event.

Coffey and Smith — part of the New England Consortium (TNEC), based in the University's Center for Health Promotion and Research — spent a week in the Gulf region assisting in the evaluation of training for cleanup workers. It was an opportunity, not only to be of help but to view first-hand the plain human misery that can come of such an event.

"We had to travel great distances in the region," says Coffey, "and the strong feeling of despair among the people ... was palpable."

Still, the two men were there early in the game, while the spill was still far offshore, long before its toxic effluence had had the chance to reach the region's fish and wildlife, or to wreak havoc with its ecosystem. It is this dimension of the catastrophe that most troubles Assoc. Prof. Juliette Rooney-Varga of the Biological Sciences Department.

"The BP oil spill is now considered the greatest environmental disaster in U.S. history, with impacts that will not be fully known for years," says Rooney-Varga, who is UMass Lowell's graduate coordinator for the UMass School of

Marine Sciences. "As an environmental microbiologist, I've conducted research on bioremediation — the study of bacteria that consume pollutants — and on marine microbiology. In addition to the acute effects of the oil on marine ecosystems, I'm concerned about the expansion of the Gulf of Mexico's 'dead zone' — a region that has little or no oxygen."

The Gulf, she says, has already had a dead zone for years, the result of contaminants from agricultural run-off. Clean-up efforts, paradoxically, are "likely to encourage this process" of oxygen depletion — and widen the dead zone — even as the oil spill itself is degraded.

For work environment Prof. Michael Ellenbecker, director of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute, the most worrisome peril is to humans.

While most of the "media coverage and public outcry" surrounding the BP oil spill has focused, understandably, on its damage to the environment, says Ellenbecker, "as an occupational hygienist, most of my thoughts and concerns focus on the worker-health and safety impacts of the disaster. First, we can't forget that the blowout caused the death of 11 workers. This in and of itself makes the event a large-scale occupational health disaster. In the aftermath, we must be concerned about the health of thousands of workers engaged in cleaning up the spilled oil. While the damage to beaches and wildlife are immediately obvious, adverse health effects such as leukemia and other cancers may take years to develop.



"Crude oil contains many highly toxic chemicals that can affect almost every body system. Burning it at sea, as [was] done, can additionally expose workers to higher levels of [dangerous toxins] and carbon monoxide. The dispersants being used also contain several toxic or potentially toxic chemicals."

The conclusion he reaches, for all the differences in focus he has with his colleague Rooney-Varga, is strikingly the same.

"What we need to do in the short term is increase our efforts to make sure all cleanup workers are adequately protected," he says. "In the long term, the solution is to avoid future oil well disasters by improving safety on all oil drilling rigs, and ultimately by reducing energy use through conservation and switching to more environmentally and occupationally friendly sources." ■

# Classes in the Park

A 20-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ADDS RARE VALUE TO A UMASS LOWELL EDUCATION

BY SARAH MCADAMS



**“THE MUSEUMS ARE A LOT OF FUN, BUT THEY ALSO OFFER THINGS LIKE BOAT TOURS OF THE CANAL, AND THERE’S EVEN WHITE WATER RAFTING ON THE RIVER. THE NATIONAL PARK IN LOWELL IS AN INCREDIBLE RESOURCE.”**

—ASST. PROF. BRIDGET MARSHALL

A national park in the middle of a city is rare. A university having full access to a national park is even rarer. But thanks to a longstanding partnership between UMass Lowell and the Lowell National Historical Park, students here are lucky enough to have both.

The partnership – “the largest and most successful of its kind in the entire country,” says Anita Greenwood, interim dean of the Graduate School of Education (GSE), which forged the alliance – is the renowned Tsongas Industrial History Center (TIHC), which in 2011 will celebrate its 20th anniversary as a provider of educational programs for students in grades three through graduate school.

“We expect to have our millionth visitor next year!” says the GSE’s Sheila Kirschbaum, interim director of the TIHC.

Lowell National Historical Park not only protects the special places that are integral to Lowell’s story but also helps students and the general public understand the significance of them.

“These places — including mills, boardinghouses, canals, turbines and gatehouses — have national and even international significance,” says Greenwood.

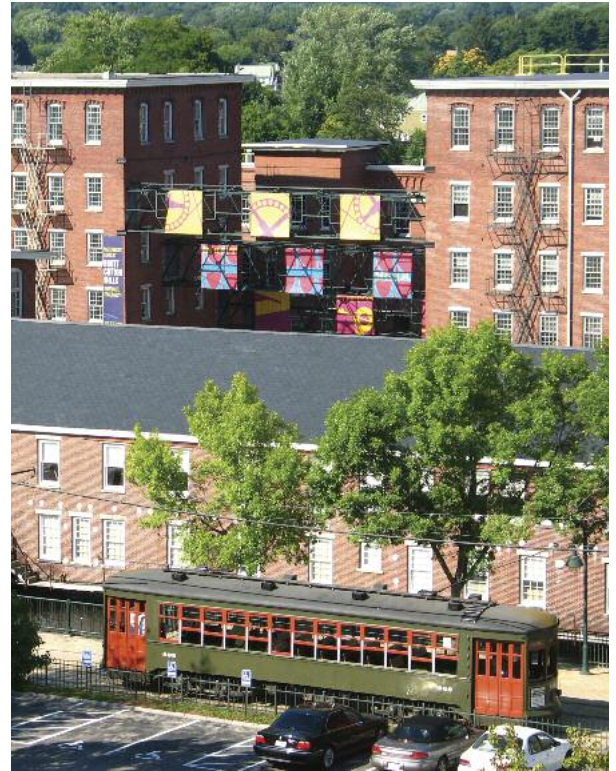
Indeed, Lowell is regarded by many as the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, a revolution whose impact is still being felt around the globe today (“a look at industrialization in China reveals countless parallels with Lowell’s story,” Greenwood points out). The park’s resources give meaning and add value to an education at UMass Lowell.

And that value appears in more than just history classes. Faculty members from across the University incorporate the park into their teachings and research – from engineering to community relations, from atmospheric science to entrepreneurship.

“The park truly brings learning to life as our students study real issues, places and people,” Greenwood says.

Freshman Gregory Quinn agrees – and says that after spending time in the park and city for a class, he feels much more connected to Lowell.

“Coming from a small town, the city is extremely huge to me and when I can learn about the city and its history I feel more part of the city,” says Quinn, who grew up in Maynard. “It has made me more of a citizen of Lowell. ... I probably wouldn’t have gone downtown if I didn’t have this class.”



Quinn is a student in the new “Lowell as Text” course, designed to help first-year students connect with the city at an early stage of their academic careers. The course curriculum engages a variety of partners in the community (the Tsongas Industrial History Center, the Center for Lowell History, the National Park, the Merrimack Repertory Theater, art galleries, local businesses, city government and others).

The course is interdisciplinary, made up of sections designed by faculty across the campus. “We did a module from Chad Montrie in History about the Concord River Greenway, and one from Michael Millner of English & American Studies where we visited the Boott Mills and wrote about how the museum displays history,” says English Asst. Prof. Bridget Marshall, who is one of three professors teaching the course.

Curriculum incorporating the national park and TIHC will continue to expand, thanks to the recent formation of a multidisciplinary 12-person faculty advisory group. The team is exploring new ways to make the city of Lowell, and its rich past and present, integral to the studies of undergraduates.

“It’s very exciting to have so many experts available to talk with students about not just history, but also how we present and package our history in places like museums,” Marshall says. “The park is very close to campus, and I hope that once students realize this – through our class as well as orientation field trips there – more students will take advantage of these great resources not only for academic projects, but also for entertainment. The museums are a lot of fun, but they also offer things like boat tours of the canal, and there’s even white water rafting on the river. The National Park in Lowell is an incredible resource.” ■

# Alumni Life

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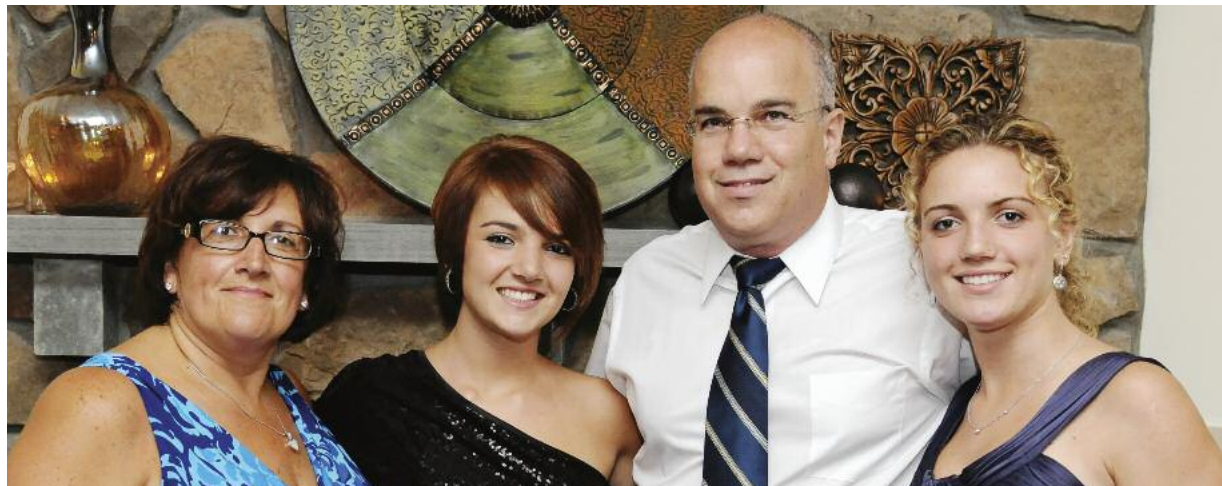
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### BAD GIRLS ROWING CLUB

*Ginny Janeiro LaFreniere '81 and her "Bad Girls" teammates enjoy the solitude of pre-dawn practices on the Merrimack River. The foursome recently took home the gold medal at the 2010 FISA World Rowing Masters Regatta. See Page 42 for the full story.*



## 'I Thought I Knew I Could': He Had a Vision – and a Wife Who Said 'Yes'



Mark Saab with, from left, wife Elisia and their two daughters, Alana and Analise.

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

**"I LEARNED SO MUCH THERE. I WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM TODAY, PROFESSIONALLY OR FINANCIALLY, WITHOUT WHAT I GOT FROM THAT PROGRAM. IT GAVE ME THE ABILITIES I HAVE."**

—MARK SAAB '81

"Lisa, just let me try this," Mark Saab remembers he said to his wife at the time. "What's the worst that can happen? We'll either be rich, or we'll be back where we started — just let me try this, okay?"

That was in 1988. Saab, a 1981 ULowell plastics engineering graduate, was working at the USCI catheter division of the C.R. Bard Co. in Billerica, where, after four years, he had risen, he says, to "the highest technical level I could." He'd also developed a vision while working nights on his master's thesis: of an ultra-thin-walled medical tubing, of a type neither Bard nor anyone else was yet making. He believed he could produce it ("I thought I knew I could"), and was confident that if he could, the market would be there – with Bard itself among the likeliest customers.

His wife, Elisia, agreed to go along. It had to have been a tough choice. She was Portuguese, had come over with her family from the Azores when she was four, grown up in the Back Central Street area in Lowell, and gone to work, at an electronics store, right out of high school. At the time, she was working two jobs: as an office manager and part-time hairdresser. So she knew, probably better than most, the value of a steady paycheck. But she agreed. The two pooled their savings. A friend who believed in Saab's vision, and had a company of his own, offered to loan him some space in his plant — "enough for a desk and two work tables, probably about 200 square feet." And in 1989 the couple launched their new company, Advanced Polymers.

The first year, he says, "all I did was spend money. It was a very scary time." By the second year, he was able to rent a small industrial condo in Salem, N.H., and move operations there. Elisia was coming in nights and weekends – while still working both other jobs – to help with the books and the mailings. "We were sending

out lots of free samples," he remembers, "writing lots of letters, looking for customers anywhere we could."

One prospective customer, USCI, was having troubles of its own, even laying off engineers – which seemed, at least initially, a setback to the game plan. But there was a flip-side: "My first thought was, 'There goes my customer.' But as their engineers left and spread out around the country, suddenly I had 50 friends at 50 companies," Saab says.

By the third year, Advanced Polymers was billing a profit. In year four, for the first time, Saab began paying himself a salary. He and Elisia, who had been living all this time in half of a two-family in Lawrence, bought themselves a house in Lowell. It's been uphill ever since.

The company today, based in Salem with more than a hundred employees, is among the most respected in its field, known as a pioneer in the production of the industry's thinnest, strongest and smallest heat-shrink tubing and specialized medical balloons. A recent merger with a leading contract manufacturer of medical devices, the MedTech Group based in New Jersey, will, says Saab, "provide substantial growth opportunities for the combined company."

The real story here, though, hasn't been in the successes achieved, or the riches accrued – which have been substantial – or even the company itself. Rather, it has been the extraordinary, pointed way in which Mark and Elisia Saab, separately and together, have managed to seed the lives and institutions that once served as their foundations. In short, to honor their heritage.

For Elisia, the core of that heritage is the Portuguese community in Lowell – which, since the first days of the company's success, has never been far from her thoughts: "Elisia has stayed close over the years with the friends and neighbors she grew up with," says her

husband, “and has watched the struggle it’s been for them, especially lately, to afford rent, food, education and all the rest.”

The couple’s response has been wide-ranging: for Lowell’s Portuguese-American senior center, a gift that pays the cost of lunches and activities three days a week; for the community’s youth, a scholarship fund at Elisia’s alma mater, Lowell High School, to benefit Portuguese-American students; at UMass Lowell, a 2005 scholarship fund aimed expressly at “students of Portuguese heritage who reside in the Merrimack Valley.” And for the Greater Lowell community as a whole, a gift to help fund the GED program at Middlesex Community College, another to bus UMass Lowell student-tutors to area schools, and a third, a \$90,000 donation to support community-service organizations during last year’s holiday season.

“A gift to the community,” Elisia said of this last gift at the time. “But the greater gift is actually ours, in the reward of helping our neighbors.”

As time has passed and the company’s fortunes have continued to grow, so, too, has the Saabs’ generosity – much of which, especially lately, has been directed at the University. For Mark, who credits his years at ULowell – its plastics engineering program in particular – for much of the success he’s enjoyed, this seems more than fitting.

He tells a story from his student days, about 30 years ago, when he ran into a classmate at the library. He was a freshman, majoring in chemical engineering – though not with much commitment: “So I asked him what he was majoring in, and he said plastics engineering; I asked him some questions about it; he offered to take me over to meet his father, who was a professor in the department.”

The professor, the late Ray Normandin, one of the founders and early mainstays of plastics engineering, took Saab on a tour of the department, walked him through some labs and explained the basics of things. The young Saab was hooked. “This is so cool, I would love this,” he remembers thinking at the time – and switched majors pretty much on the spot. Which, he says today, accounts for a good part of the successes that followed:

“I learned so much there. I wouldn’t be where I am today, professionally or financially, without what I got from that program. It gave me the abilities I have.”

Much of the Saabs’ generosity has reflected this gratitude. The 2007 Mark and Elisia Saab Family Scholarship for plastics engineering majors is one example, as is the earlier gift of a teaching facility dedicated to polymer property evaluation. Still another, at the time the most generous, was the couple’s \$500,000 gift two years ago – matched by a state fund – to seed a UMass Lowell professorship in green plastics.

And finally, this year, the most generous of all: a \$750,000 gift to aid in the construction of the University’s \$70 million, 84,000 square-foot Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center, which broke ground this summer and is expected to be completed in 2012.

“I remember, I used to think that the state paid most of the costs of a UMass education,” says Mark, who lives today in Lowell with Elisia and their two teenage daughters. “I’ve learned differently – that it’s actually an incredibly small percentage that’s state-funded. There’s just no way a program like [plastics engineering] could be developed and maintained without outside support.

“And it’s a unique program; there’s not another like it anywhere in the country. I travel a fair amount on business, and it doesn’t matter where you go, if you’re working in this industry you’re going to run into someone from UMass Lowell plastics. That’s a real tribute to the program. It’s really special, and it doesn’t just happen by itself.

“I’ve been fortunate. And what I learned there is a big part of the reason. It’s not hard to make the decision to give back.” ■

## Every Donation Matters: University Launches ‘Power of One’ Campaign



With public funding to universities across the country dwindling, school administrators are increasingly reaching out to alumni for financial support.

According to Vice Chancellor for Advancement Edward Chiu, UMass Lowell is no different. “Only 25 percent of the UMass Lowell budget is state assisted,” he says.

That means that every contribution – whether large or small – makes a difference. To emphasize this message, University Advancement recently developed, as part of the Annual Campaign for UMass Lowell, the Power of One campaign, which speaks directly to the heart of what Chiu and his staff hope to achieve.

“Every gift is important and can have an impact. There’s a misconception out there that only large donations make a difference. That’s simply not true.”

The campaign focuses on four key elements: participation, making a difference, transforming lives and creating possibility. If everyone participates, Chiu says, no matter the size of the donation, collectively we will be able to accomplish our goals and create new possibilities for growth.

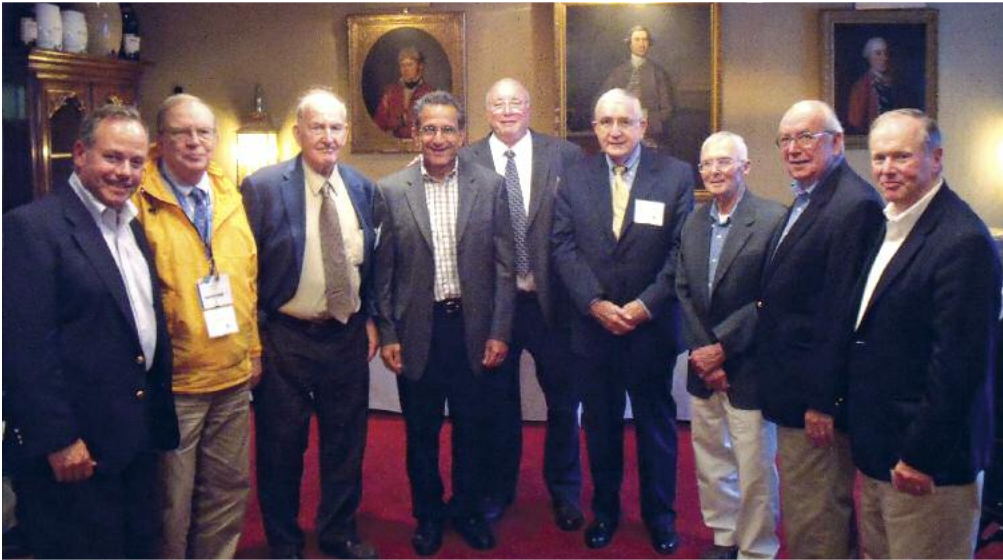
“If every one of our more than 66,000 alumni donated just \$25, UMass Lowell could put \$1.6 million toward key initiatives such as scholarships, academic programs, faculty research and facilities,” he says.

Here are a just a few other examples of how a small gift reaps large benefits:

- \$25-\$35 provides two hours of academic tutoring;
- \$50 provides a textbook for a student with financial need;
- \$100 pays for travel for a group of students participating in an off-campus conference or other learning experience;
- \$500 pays for a guest speaker whose professional experience is shared with students;
- \$1,000 establishes an academic scholarship for a deserving student.

“We all have the ability to play a huge role in the future of our University,” says Chiu, “and I believe together, we are poised to continue building a great future for UMass Lowell.”

# Alumni events



**Top row, left:** Students and their families enjoy Freshman Move-in Day on Aug. 28. **Right:** Advancement staff greet new students at Freshman Move-in Day, from left: Jacqueline Ledoux, Irene Martin, Heather Makrez '06, '08 and Diane Earl.

**Middle row, left:** Computer Science alumni and faculty gather at Anthony's Pier 4 in Boston on Aug. 24, from left: Wayne Aruda '71, '83, Martin Isaks, Bill Bannister, Ara Jeknavorian '71, '74, '99, Gene Barry, Allen Denio '56, '57, Tris Laurion '54, Art Watterson, Paul Bessette '73. **Right:** Students Stacey Chadwick, left, and Carly Tiches score some new T-shirts on Freshman Move-in Day.

**Bottom row, left:** Competing in the Plastics Golf Tournament at Connecticut National Golf Club on Sept. 24 were, from left: Eamonn Hobbs '80, Danielle Hobbs, Jim Dandeneau '80, Deb Dandeneau, Vice Chancellor for Advancement Edward Chiu, Larry Acquarulo '81, Rick Hoeske '66 and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92. **Right:** Competing in the Plastics Golf Tournament were, from left, Jon Wilk '03, Bob Montgomery '03, '05, Mark Wladkowski '02, '08 and Kevin Kalish '02, '05.





**Top row, left:** Competing in the Plastics Golf Tournament were students Liam Driscoll, Burke Driscoll, Prof. Steve Driscoll and student Joshua Anthony.

**Right:** The family of Sean Lobberecht on Move-In Day, from left: Ryan Lobberecht, Stevi Risacher, Rich DiMare, Ricky DiMare, Kacey DiMarie.

**Middle row, left:** Alumni enjoy a Lowell Spinners game at LeLacheur Park on June 24, including, in front row, **from left**, Don Webster '71, Skip Resper '68, Jim Lynch '69, Jack Wolstencroft '69 and Jim Mooney '69. Second row: Bob Boehm '70, Gerry Cote '61, Walter McGrail '70, Tom Saad '70, Brian Muscato, Dan O'Neill '71 and Joe Sacoco '70. Third row: John Moore '67, Roger Landry '67, Frank Georges '62, Gary Hunt '69, Doug Anderson '68, Jim McGuirk '69 and Bill Quirk '70. Fourth row: Dennis Canney '68, Bob Mullin '69 and Kevin MacLaughlan '64. Missing from the photo were Bucky Boehm '45 and Joe Dixon '59. **Right:** At an alumni visit in New York, Islanders goaltender Dwayne Roloson '94, left, talks with former UMass Lowell hockey coach William Riley, center, and Chancellor Marty Meehan.

**Bottom row, left:** Dwight Robson '93 and his son at the Annual Alumni Cook Out and Spinners Game on July 9. Middle: Alumni enjoy the cookout at the annual Spinners outing. **Right:** Taylor Kloss '06, Lyndsey (Hadley) Kinley '06, and Laura (Petros) Bresnahan '04 at the Athletics Golf Classic on June 21 at Meadow Creek Golf Club.



Michael Murray '94, Danny Craig '73 and Bob Kearin '73

## 3 HOCKEY ALUMNI NAMED LEGENDS

BY BOB ELLIS

Three more people have been added to “the long red line” that connects UMass Lowell’s hockey history with the present and its future, that ties the program’s birth at Lowell Tech to ULowell and, finally, to UMass Lowell.

**Bob Kearin '73, Craig Charron '90 and Michael Murray '94** were honored at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell during ceremonies prior to the River Hawks hockey home opener against Providence College Oct. 22.

Kearin, a prolific scoring Lowell Tech defenseman, helped guide the program during its infancy. A power-play specialist, he scored 62 goals and added 58 assists in just 62 games. He graduated as the school’s second-all-time scorer and currently ranks 26th on that list. Only three players have scored more points in as many or fewer games as Kearin – who played at a time when freshmen were not eligible for varsity sports.

Charron arrived at ULowell as the program had begun a new chapter, having made the jump, a couple of years earlier, to Division I. An explosive center iceman, Charron scored 148 points on 64 goals and 84 assists in 142 games. The team qualified for the NCAA Division I tournament for the first time during Charron’s sophomore year. He graduated as the school’s second-leading Division I scorer, and currently ranks fourth among Division I players and 13th all-time at the University.

Charron, after a long battle with stomach cancer, died Oct. 19, just three days before the induction ceremony. He was represented at the event by his uncle, former ULowell hockey player, **Danny Craig '73**. A week earlier, University and hockey officials visited Charron in his hospital room in his adopted hometown, Rochester, N.Y., and made a special presentation to the Charron family prior to the UMass Lowell hockey game against Rochester Institute of Technology.

Murray would have been best described as a power forward before the term became commonplace in hockey. He was big and tough and a strong skater. And he could score. He is 17th on the all-time scoring list, 7th among Division I players, with 134 points evenly divided between goals and assists. Murray was one of the captains of the 1993-94 team that carved out a record of 25-10-5, shocked Michigan State and saw its season end in overtime in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Kearin, Charron and Murray join 11 others already named Legends of Lowell hockey: longtime Coach Bill Riley and players Paul Ames, Gary Bishop, Mike Carr, Jeff Daw, Tom Jacobs, Dean Jenkins, Paul Lohnes, Craig MacTavish, Jon Morris and Dwayne Roloson.



From left: Christian Sbrocca, Patrice Mendoza, Diane DiRoma, Denise Legault, Claire Chamberlain and Jonathan Curran



From left: Nate Linstad, Donna Mills, Katie Toomey and Billy Rizos

## 10 JOIN THE HALL OF FAME

BY BOB ELLIS

Ten new names were added to the University’s athletic history book recently – representing eight different sports and four decades. The Hall of Fame class of 2010 is the largest since the inception of the Hall in 1977, when the inaugural class included nine names.

Among those honored were former physical education professor and women’s tennis and basketball coach **Claire Chamberlain** (1971-2008) and **Denise Legault** (1969-2002), an administrator and softball and volleyball coach. They are identified as “contributors,” but might better be described as “pioneers.”

Chamberlain and Legault initiated and developed the first comprehensive women’s athletic program at Lowell State College. They co-founded five sports at the University: softball, volleyball, basketball, tennis and field hockey. They also helped found the Massachusetts Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.

The athletes inducted include soccer All-American **Jonathan Curran '05**, Northeast-10 Conference basketball player-of-the-year **Diane DiRoma '97**, baseball pitcher **Nate Linstad '01**, field hockey goalkeeper **Patrice Mendoza '03**, record-setting softball player **Donna Mills '96**, football quarterback **Billy Rizos '92**, explosive hockey center iceman **Christian Sbrocca '00**, and volleyball all-star **Katie Toomey '99**.

THOMAS P. ROCKWELL, a student at Lowell Textile Institute in the late 1930s and early 1940s, writes: “I took some courses in the woolen department of the school and, although I never graduated, I did get a wonderful education. Following World War II, I worked for the Davis & Furber Machine Co. in North Andover as a carding machine erector in about 60 mills in the eastern half of the United States and eastern Canada. Following this, I worked in their bookkeeping department in accounts receivable. Afterward, I volunteered at the textile museum in North Andover prior to its moving to Lowell.”

## 1961



**Sally Trice** recently retired from the Bible Society of Maine after 15 years as administrative assistant and three years as director. She is dividing her time between enjoying her first grandchild, Jack Alan, son of daughter Stefanie and husband Mark, and helping to promote daughter Laura’s new cookbook, “The Wholesome Junk Food Cookbook.” Evenings

### SAVE THE DATE

Reunion weekend for the classes of 1961 and 1971 is just around the corner. Save the date for May 27-29, 2011. Volunteer, reconnect with classmates and celebrate your days at UMass Lowell. To get involved, contact Heather Makrez in Advancement at 978-934-4809 or Heather\_Makrez@uml.edu.

may find her taking in a performance by daughter Elizabeth’s Argentine Tango Band.

## 1966

**Charlie Hoff** has pledged \$210,000 for UMass Lowell graduates who want to attend the UMass Dartmouth School of Law. Charlie, a graduate of the College of Management, is a highly successful entrepreneur.

## 1969

**Phillip Terrana** retired recently after a 30-year career with the U.S. Postal Service and has written a novel about the experience. He also is now working on a second book on a different subject. He says that he’s contacted several classmates in the past few months and looks forward to doing more of the same.



Jerry Lydon '66 takes a break at the Continental Divide.

## JERRY LYDON'S COAST-TO-COAST ADVENTURE

After more than 25 years of smoking, with his weight ballooning to 225 pounds, Jerry Lydon '66 decided to make some changes. He started dieting, biking, swimming, running and, eventually, competing in triathlons.

This summer, he completed a cross-country bike marathon – starting in Everett, Wash., on June 19 and ending in Gloucester on Aug. 21.

“We rode a total of 4,400 miles, passing through 13 states and one Canadian province during the nine-week crossing. Most of the time we slept in tents at night, usually on the school grounds of the towns we passed through,” says Lydon, 65, who graduated from Lowell Tech in 1966 with a bachelor’s degree in nuclear engineering.

“The hardest part of the ride was crossing over the mountain ranges — the Cascades, the Bitter Roots, the Rockies and the Big Horn Mountains as well as the Adirondacks and the Green and White Mountains,” he says.

After graduating from Lowell Tech, Lydon spent 35 years working for General Electric before retiring in 2004. He and wife, Lorraine, live in Evesham, N.J. They have four children and nine grandchildren.

## 1979

Margaret Elaine McSpirtt, the daughter of **Andrew '78** and **Bonnie (Stewart) McSpirtt '79** is attending UMass Lowell, majoring in civil engineering and playing women’s soccer for the River Hawks.

## 1981

**Terry and Beth '90 Faxon**, married for 21 years, have four children, including three – Trevor, Erik and Jacob – at UMass Lowell. Beth is a librarian in a private high school and Terry is director of a defense electronics company in Hopkinton.

**George Lerra**, who had been a lieutenant with the Miami Beach Police Department for nearly 27 years, retired on Oct. 1. The City of Miami Beach honored him on Sept. 15 by proclaiming that day in his honor. George, who lives in Miami Beach, had been very active within the police department and in the community.

## ► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1981



The Bad Girls rowing team, from left: Karen Masors, Ginny Janeiro LaFreniere, Marcia Patteson and Veronika Platzer.

### SERIOUS SYNCHRONICITY THE BAD GIRLS TAKE INTERNATIONAL BEST

With the remnants of Hurricane Earl blowing through St. Catharines, Ontario, the four members of the Merrimack River Rowing Association's "Bad Girls" rowing team struggled against sheets of rain, howling winds and rough water conditions to take the gold medal against seven other elite teams at the 2010 FISA World Rowing Masters Regatta. The Bad Girls have formed bonds during two years of pre-dawn training on the Merrimack in Lowell. Each member of the team has a different perspective on the sport, and varied reasons for their dedication.

**Ginny Janeiro LaFreniere '81** began rowing as an undergraduate, after spying a recruitment poster for the University's rowing team. She spoke with Coach Joe Begley, and committed to the sport on the spot. "Rowing was infectious for me," says LaFreniere. "I enjoy mastering the physical mechanics, boat savvy and optimal handling of the boat during every condition."

LaFreniere has never been afraid of hard work, or of pushing her body to perform in new, demanding ways. At Lowell High, she played basketball and joined the boys cross country team – there wasn't a girl's team. She also competed at the national level in speed skating, qualifying for the U.S. team trials and U.S. National Championships in long and short track. At UMass Lowell, she was a member of the women's volleyball and basketball teams.

**Veronika Platzer**, meanwhile, is head coach of the women's rowing program at UMass Lowell. Platzer's athletic career is exceptional and varied – besides being a world-class rower, she was a three-time NCAA Division III champion in the discus, was inducted into Grinnell College's Hall of Fame in 1991 and was voted the NCAA's Female Track and Field Athlete of the Decade (1980-90).

"The day I was born, I was devoted to becoming an Olympic athlete," says Platzer. "I love uphill climbs, I like the pain of working to my highest level – I have a hunger to push myself as hard as I can."

She mastered the discus, and loved running (she completed the grueling Pike's Peak marathon) but after successfully battling an illness, a trainer from the Olympic Center suggested she try a new sport, rowing.

"You can't cheat this sport," Platzer says. "Talent alone is not enough – you need to work the mind, body and boat together precisely – and incorporate superior mechanics into your every movement to glide through the water efficiently."

As she did in every other sport she tried, Platzer nailed rowing, representing the United States at the World Rowing Championships and the World Cup in 1993 and 1994.

Teammate **Marcia Patteson's** rowing career was launched when she watched her older brother's college races: "I thought,

what a great sport! You can do it sitting down. I think I'll try it someday."

Patteson was also drawn to rowing's flexibility as both an individual and team sport, and its low injury rate.

"Rowing is like a dance whether you row in a single or with others," she says. "It isn't so much that we need to anticipate one another's moves – we need to get into a consistent rhythm, and then sustain it."

The fourth Bad Girl is **Karen "Chur" Masors**, who began rowing at insistence of former faculty member Bob Lynch who felt her job as a professional technician in the University's biology labs was making her too sedentary. A relative newcomer to the Bad Girls, Majors' first row was nine years ago.

"Before the heat and the rush of the day, we get together. The experience is Zen-like, with wildlife like ducks, deer, moose and once, an eagle joining in," says Majors, referring to the team's 5 a.m. practices.

All four Bad Girls agree that the win at St. Catharines is a top accomplishment.

"The photo finish was amazing," says LaFreniere. "I was so proud of the way we worked together against terrific competitors and pulled out the win – I'll always remember standing there getting our medals."

**BILL MOLONEY '78**, who was a star pitcher for Lowell High School and UMass Lowell, is now a pitching coach with the Tampa Bay Rays of the American League. Bill signed with the Red Sox in 1979 as an undrafted free agent and was a left-handed reliever for six years in the minors. Then, because of his ability to throw strikes and the resilience of his arm, he became the batting practice pitcher for the Sox. He later became a minor league pitching coach with the Sox and the Cincinnati Reds before joining the Tampa Bay club.

#### 1984

**Lisa A. Brothers**, vice president and chief operating officer of Nitsch Engineering, is president of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts. Her presidency follows many years of involvement in the council, and reflects her dedication to advocating the business interests of the engineering industry and member firms. She has held a number of committee and leadership positions, including membership on the Transportation Agencies Liaison Committee (2000–2006); serving as director-at-large on the board of directors; and as member of the Membership Committee. For the past year, Lisa has been president-elect and also has served as chair of the Government Affairs Committee.



boisterious vaudevillian and burlesque performer - featured more than 20 songs and numerous costume changes. Mary's stage career took off when she auditioned 20 years ago for a role in "Nonsense." Far from resting on her laurels, Mary followed her New Rep run with a role in "Music Man" at Waltham's Reagle Players, followed by playing Rosie in a national tour of "Mamma Mia."

**Judith Pistacchio Bessette** attended the International Immigration Conference held at the Center for Research on Families and Relationships at the University of Edinburgh (Scotland) in June. Judith presented a DVD based on her research on the historic textile mill village of Lymanville in North Providence, R.I., and the Italian immigrant community that settled there in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to work in the Lymanville Wool Manufacturing Company and other textile mills in the area. She traveled to Rome in October to attend the canonization of Brother

Andre Bessette, a family relative. While in Italy, Judith took the opportunity to visit the village of Ciorlano, the ancestral home of her paternal grandparents and other villagers who emigrated from Italy to the village of Lymanville.

**Joseph Blandino** has received the Benjamin H. Powell Jr. Institute Professorship in engineering from the Virginia Military Institute. Joe joined VMI after serving on the James Madison University faculty for the previous 13 years. He is also president of Lexington Measurement Technologies, PLLC, a consulting firm supporting the aerospace industry.

#### 1986

**Steve Stanganelli**, former Student Government Association president and marching band member, and wife Kristin celebrated the first birthday of their son Spencer (pictured with his favorite lion) on September 14. Steve remains active at the University as a member of the College of Arts & Sciences Deans' Advisory Board.



#### 1989

**Kevin Andrews**, the former CEO of Moll Industries, is the new president of Matrixx Group Inc. Before heading up Moll, Kevin was with General Electric Co., including stints as general manager of the West Region of GE Plastics and as global products manager of ABS.

**Terry Griffin** has published his first book, "The Art of Lego Mindstorms NXT-G Programming."

Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M., named **Kimberly Sawyer** executive vice president and deputy Laboratories director for Mission Support. Previously, Sawyer served as vice president of Technical Operations for Lockheed Martin's Mission Systems & Sensors business unit. Sawyer has also held key technical roles with Coca-Cola Enterprises, Xerox Corp., TRW and DuPont.



#### 1990

**Beth and Terry '81 Faxon**, who celebrated their 21st anniversary on Nov. 4, have four children, including three boys - Trevor, Erik and Jacob - who are attending UMass Lowell. Beth is a librarian in a private high school and Terry is director of a defense electronics company in Hopkinton.

**Nora O'Malley**, a contract recruiter for local firms, lives in central Massachusetts with her husband, Jim '85. The couple has two grown children and enjoys spending time with them and with a 4-year-old grandson.

**Scott Waugh** - a rehabilitation coordinator, physical therapist and athletic trainer for the Red Sox and Bruins - created the Sports Therapy Fellowship Award in his name to give students the same experience he received at UMass Lowell. "I spent every single day in the training room at the Costello Gym," says Scott, who also owns a rehabilitation clinic called Sports and Physical Therapy Associates. "It was where the passion for what I do started." Two second-year graduate students - Raymond Goddu and Michael Caeran - were the first to receive the \$6,000 scholarships.



#### 1992

**Richard Conley** and his wife, Valerie, had a son, Quinn Luke, on Sept. 12. The couple also has a 2-year-old son, Liam.

**Peter Furlong** made his Czech Republic premiere in September, playing the lead role of Tony in the opera "The Servant" by composer Marco Tutтино. Peter also was a finalist in the Arnel Opera Competition. Two performances in November marked his Hungarian premiere, both televised Europe-wide, as was the finale gala concert later in the month. In January, he performed BF Pinkerton in a sold-out concert version of Madame Butterfly for the Japanese-German Center in Berlin.



#### 1985

**Mary Callanan** took on a demanding one-woman role in a recent run of "Sophie Tucker: The Last of the Red Hot Mamas" at The New Repertory Theatre in Watertown. The show - a tribute to Tucker, a

## 1994

**Tonya K. Fisher-Miller and Jermaine Miller '95** welcomed twin girls, Kyra Tonya and Jasmine Jermaine, on June 25.



## 1995

**Babitha Prasad** writes, "Worked in many large firms. Presently working for Nokia as SCM engineer." Babitha and Prasad Tadi are the proud parents of 16-year-old twin boys.

## 1996



**Kevin Whitney**, has served on the MONE board and as secretary and chair of the bylaws committee. He is vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer at Emerson Hospital in Concord.

## 1997

**Urska Cvek**, associate professor of computer science at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, received the Distinguished Researcher Award from the Louisiana Biomedical Research Network for her continuing work on the Universal Visualization Platform (UVP). She developed the software – which helps users sort and visualize data – while a graduate student at UMass Lowell.

## 1998

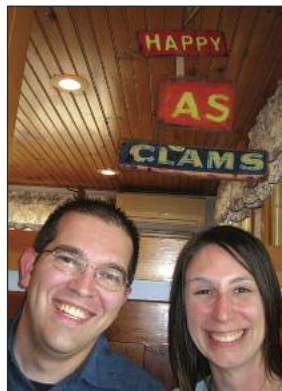
**Derek Moisan** began his sixth year teaching history at Clinton High School this fall. He and his wife, Becky, live in Worcester with their 2-year-old daughter, Emma. Derek is also the girl's varsity tennis coach at CHS and he says he learned a lot of his coaching philosophy from his two tennis coaches at UMass Lowell — Tom Chew and Andy Shupe. After graduating, he earned a master's degree in secondary education at Rivier College in Nashua, N.H.

## 1999

**George Koumantzelis** says the spoken-word CD he recently produced, "On The Lowell Beat: My Times with Jack Kerouac," has been released and is now for sale at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/BillyKoumantzelis>. George's uncle, Billy Koumantzelis, was a close friend of the late Lowell author and beat poet, and it is Billy himself who narrates all the stories on this recording.



**Donald Simpson** is engaged to Gretchen Baumann of Haverhill. Their wedding is planned for June 2011.



## ▶ CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1997



**Annmarie McGillicuddy** has been assigned as a foreign-service diplomat for two years in Colombia, where she will be working for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota. McGillicuddy received her bachelor's degree from UMass Lowell and master's degree from the American University in Washington, D.C. She began her foreign-service career after graduating from UMass Lowell by volunteering in the Peace Corps in Gambia in Western Africa for several years. During that time, she actively participated in the development of the country's schools. In 2003, McGillicuddy began working at the U.S. State Department, where she held various positions. She joined the USAID in 2008.

## 2000

**Diana Melnyk** has accepted a position as manager of international tax services at Ernst & Young LLP in Irvine, Calif.

## 2001

**Christopher Zullo** returned to the states early this year after living and working in London for the previous few years with his wife, Jennifer. After deciding to come back, they took a scenic two-month-long trip around the world that included stops in nine countries and territories. More recently, he and Jennifer celebrated their third anniversary and bought a home in Greensboro, N.C.

## 2002

**Andre Gorgenyi** has been with a major non-profit in Massachusetts for six and a half years and, in July of this year, changed positions to become a planned giving representative. He is taking a graduate course, hoping to enter law school next fall. He and his wife Melissa have a son, Lewis, and a new baby daughter, Jocelyn, who are the joys of their lives.



**Ronald Wagogo** reports that he attended a comedy show at the Campus Recreation Center recently and had a conversation with two freshmen. They were surprised to meet an alumnus who still came back and supported their events. Ron gave them his business card and invited them to reach out to him with any questions they might have. He says it is the responsibility of all graduates to provide guidance and support to current students.

## ▶ CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2005

## TURNING CATASTROPHE TO TRIUMPH: 'A LIFE MOST OF US COULD ONLY DREAM ABOUT'



Erik Corbett was just muddling along. A Methuen native, 20 years old, he had come and gone from a couple of schools in Vermont, was working as an electrician in Rutland, not sure where the next stop might be. It was early morning of Super Bowl Sunday 2000; he'd hadn't slept in close to 24 hours, was at the wheel of his Jeep Wrangler on a back road at the edge of town when, he guesses, he probably nodded off. The Jeep smashed into a road sign. His back was broken, his spinal cord damaged at the T7 level – barring a miracle, he would never walk again. His future seemed settled. And it was.

He is 31 today, a competitive skier, ski coach and program director. In the no-snow months, he competes in road races, from 5Ks to the Boston Marathon. His skiing career is being sponsored by RE/MAX. He also owns a seafood business. In the words of his cousin Andy: "He has turned an unbelievably difficult situation into a life most of us could only dream about."

The turnaround began slowly a year after the accident. He had done three months by then in a Woburn rehab center, moved home to Methuen and enrolled at UMass Lowell. Commuting every morning, he remembers, "made school seem more like a job, but I guess that's what it took" – he graduated four years later with a B.A. in business administration.

But he missed the mountains. And so, on weekends, he began going to Loon Moun-

tain in New Hampshire, where they had a program for disabled skiers. It was there that he met a man named Geoff Krill, an instructor of adaptive skiing, who introduced him to monoskiing: a sport in which the skier goes down the mountain in a bucket seat, using a single ski and two poles, which operate as outriggers, each with a small ski at the bottom.

He became good at it, began competing; his name got around. When he graduated in 2005 from UMass Lowell, a nonprofit called AbilityPLUS, an operator of adaptive sports programs throughout New England, asked him if he'd take over their program at Attitash Mountain in New Hampshire's Mount Washington Valley. He's been there ever since.

"We teach people with physical and/or developmental disabilities to ski and snowboard," he says. "I'm the only full-time staff, but I have about 30 volunteers. The majority of our students are kids with autism. We also see quite a few visually impaired skiers."

"He puts his heart and soul into the program," Attitash Communications Director Krissy Fraser told a reporter three years ago. "He leads by example. I think people see how dedicated he is to the sport."

When he couldn't ski, he found other things: a racing chair he began using in everything from local 5K races to the Boston Marathon; a hand cycle – powered by the arms – that he raced in events throughout the White Mountains. In the spring of 2009,

he took over a small fish market/lobster pound, Good Tail Lobster, in Glen, N.H., which keeps him busy on rainy, race-less summer days.

In the meantime, he's become a serious monoskier. But not without some very rough moments. His first practice run at his first Winter X Games for disabled athletes, in 2009 at the Monoskier Cross in Aspen – on a course made up of a series of jumps, banked turns and rolling terrain, where skiers race four at a time – left him with seven stitches, a black eye and a probable concussion. ESPN, the event's sponsor, couldn't resist the spectacle he made.

"Their cameras seemed to like that," Corbett said later. "It made for a good story-line."

But the story-line wasn't his focus. He was back on the mountain the next day – and finished fifth. This year, his second time out, he had an equipment break halfway down his semifinal run, and finished sixth. As for next year, he says he isn't sure.

"Sixth doesn't give you an automatic invitation – only the top three get those. But I'm hopeful," he says. "Each year during practice, I've sworn I'm not going back. But once it's over I can't wait for the next one."

"Nothing stops him," his mother, Susan Corbett, told a reporter earlier this year. "He's fearless. Before his accident, he was quiet and withdrawn. Now he's found a passion."

"Just don't tell him he can't do something."

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2004



## TOY STORY: MOTHER OF FIVE GETS DEGREE, OPENS SMALL BUSINESS

Sheila Doherty knows toys. The 2004 alumna and mother of five was not, however, as sure about how to succeed in business in today's changing marketplace.

Thus, when she decided to open a toy store in Groton, she first turned to UMass Lowell for help. Though she started her undergraduate degree at the University after high school, Doherty never finished. In 2002, she went back.

"The University credited me with two years of classes that I already took as an undergraduate so I needed only two more years to complete my education and receive my bachelor's degree," she says. "Having those two years behind me made a huge difference both financially and mentally. I was grateful for that help."

As a full-time student in the College of Management, Doherty attended classes twice a week, all the while juggling a busy home life. It was no easy task, but she made Dean's list every semester.

"When you're older, you look at life a bit differently than when you're a 20-year-old student. I was prepared, eager and I wanted to get as much out of my education as I possibly could," she says. "What I loved about my classes at UMass Lowell was that the student body was made up of about 40 percent adults and 60 percent younger students. We all brought such varied and incredible experiences to the table. And it certainly didn't hurt knowing I wasn't the only 'old person' in the room."

Doherty says she will never forget the day she received her diploma in 2004.

"It happened to be on the same day that one of my sons was graduating from high school," she recalls. "When I showed up in my own cap and gown, we laughed. It was a big moment for us. Having a degree from UMass Lowell changed my life. I graduated with a tremendous skill set, which I'm proud to say has continued to prove invaluable in running my own successful business."

Indeed. Since opening in May 2010, Groton Toy Shoppe has served thousands of happy customers.

"It brings me so much joy that I've been able to literally open a toy box filled with fun and excitement for so many people in the neighborhood," Doherty says.

### 2003

**Melissa (Gonyeo) Dion** says she has created ecolissa.com because she wasn't finding fashionable eco friendly and vegan women's clothing online.

### 2004

Attorney **John W. Harmon** has opened an office in Central Square in Cambridge.

### 2005

**Anthony Camel** received a master's of business administration in finance degree from Colorado Technical University in June.



**Jackie Driscoll** and **Jason Goodmurphy** of Wilmington, N.C., are engaged and are planning to be married in the fall. Jackie played field hockey at UMass Lowell.

**Kristen Higgins Seed**, who teaches eighth grade English at The Bromfield School in Harvard, has been accepted into the English teaching master's degree program at Fitchburg State University.

### 2007

**Danielle Bergeron** has been named co-chair of the board of directors of the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce.

Danielle owns Frills and Thrills Events and Social Media.



### 2008

**Jim McIsaac** recently became manager of a new client group at J.P. Morgan.

### 2010

**David Koffman** is a legislative aide at the State House to a fellow UMass Lowell alumnus, Rep. Sean Garballey '07.

### 2010

**Carter Hutton** was signed by the San Jose Sharks to play for its American Hockey League affiliate, the Worcester Sharks. A record-setting goaltender at UMass Lowell, Carter is the all-time career leader in shutouts (10), goals against average (2.33) and is tied with Nevin Hamilton for career save percentage (.913). In addition, he set the program's single season record for save percentage in 2009-10.

### IN MEMORIAM

1927	Catherine McIntyre Glynn	1968	Ernest Nelson
1937	Marion Barton Donnelly	1969	Paul Cox
1938	Ethel Wood Fitzpatrick	1975	Thomas Butler
1938	Doris Volpe	1975	Douglas Rand
1939	Mary Dillon	1979	John Glenfield
1942	Vivien Todd Fuller	1987	Christopher Oby
1942	Brenda Meloon	1989	Maryann Bean
1950	Philip Crosby	1990	Borden Zwicker Sr
1951	Virginia Baker	1992	Ryne Kneeland
1953	Loddy Leiter Weisberg	1993	Geol Ryu
1954	Arnold Kimmell	1993	Robert White
1954	Clifton Symonds	1995	Matthew Nickerson
1959	Roy Cowdrey	1997	Paul Gill
1959	Patricia Summersett Havumaki	1998	Thomas Ramos
1964	Roland Rivard	2001	Alfred Gadway
1965	Suzanne Wisniewski Coffin	2004	Kenneth Conlon
1968	Bruce Burrell		Yakov Zilberberg



## ▶ CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2007



## LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT? YES AND NO

### UMASS LOWELL INN & CONFERENCE CENTER HOSTS FIRST WEDDING RECEPTION

**“WE ARE BOTH COMMITTED TO BEING MENTORS – TO LEADING AND HELPING PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.”**

—BOBBY TUGBIYELE '04

The relationship got off to a rocky start. When Aleksandra (Aleks) Ward '07 decided to switch gears and transfer out of a pharmaceutical degree program in Boston, she and her dad came for a visit to Lowell. They checked out the city, and signed up for a tour of the University. Semi-underwhelmed, they decided she'd transfer as a short-term solution, with every expectation she'd transfer from here, too.

Bobby Tugbiyele '04 had transferred after a year in pre-med at Tufts University didn't feel like the right fit for him academically. He wasn't sure how long he'd stay, or what his future held. He did know that he was committed to completing school – moving his educational and professional life forward. He admits that at the time, the one thing he wasn't searching for was a girlfriend.

“I was standing by the elevator in Fox Hall – I was an RA so we were helping incoming students move in,” he says. “And then I saw Aleks – she was moving in with all her stuff and there was something special about her.”

They became close while working together for the Association of Students of African Origins (ASAO) where they both served in leadership positions – he rose to president, and she was selected as an executive board member while also serving as contributing writer to the student newspaper, “The Connector.”

The couple fell in love and became engaged in 2008. After making the rounds of several reception venues, they selected the Doubletree Hotel. Then, Tugbiyele got a call about his mom.

“My mom has battled off and on with cancer for nearly 10 years, and her condition was of concern right after we became engaged. We decided to put the wedding off for a bit,” he says.

The same day they made the decision to postpone the wedding, Tugbiyele was struck by a headline in the Lowell Sun staring out from a vending box announcing the University's purchase of the Doubletree. He was glad, and took the news as a bit of a sign that things often happen for a reason.

After his mom stabilized, the couple picked up their plans, and decided to host their reception at the renamed Inn & Conference Center. As the first couple celebrating a wedding under University ownership, they were excited, and a bit nervous.

“There was all this construction going on when we were planning it,” says Ward. “At times, it was hard to see through the dust and debris to envision a beautiful space – but it happened.”

On July 3, the couple exchanged vows at Community Christian Fellowship Church then headed to the reception where they were joined by more than 200 friends and family in the grand ballroom of the ICC. The University contingent included maid of honor Melissa Blissett '07, best man Anand Sanghvi '05, and photographer Shanti Jain '05.

“The ICC was a great choice for us,” says Ward. “Our families aren't local, so we needed a place to accommodate them. Everything was so beautiful. The view of the canal, all of our family and friends in a city we've both come to love, and the beginning of our lives together.”

The UMass Lowell friends played cards into the wee hours the night before the wedding – and at the reception, danced so hard, parts of the dance floor separated. Some University friends even crashed the wedding, delighting both bride and groom.

“I swear, we had so many people dancing that at one point, you could feel the floor reverberate!” she says. Ward graduated with a degree in English; Tugbiyele earned his in Political Science. After graduation, they were both hired in community service professions in Lowell – she is Development and Communications Coordinator for Acre Family Child Care; he is Senior Career Advisor and Job Developer with Community Teamwork Inc.

“We are both committed to being mentors – to leading and helping people in our community,” says Tugbiyele.

They've put serious roots down, too, buying a condo in downtown Lowell.

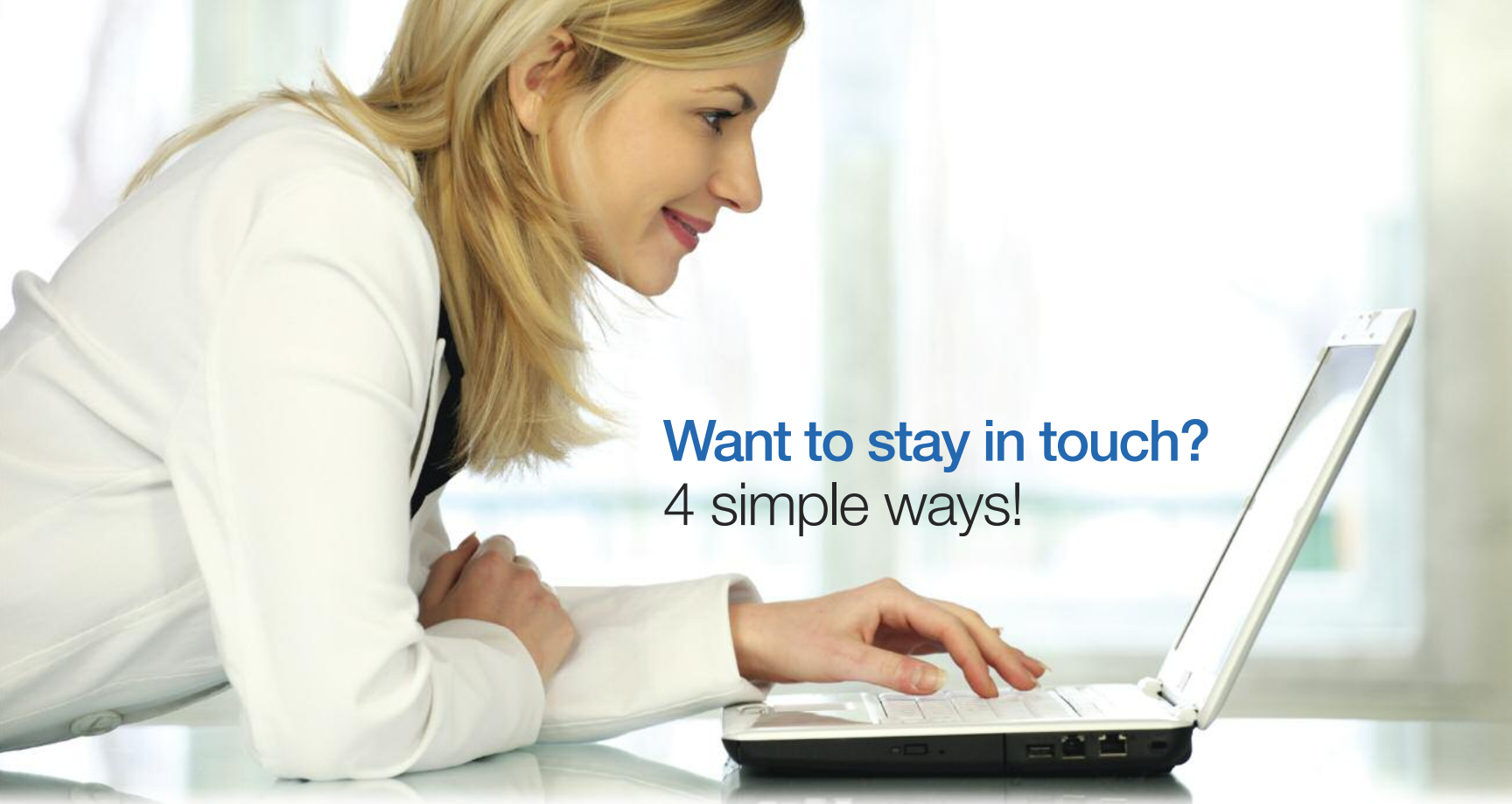
Says Ward, “If anyone asked me when I arrived in Lowell if I'd still be here a decade later, I'd have given them a look of disbelief. But the city and the University have gone through positive change, and we're proud and happy to be part of a broader community. We're not going anywhere.”

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2008

**CHANNELING ART**

John M. Williams '08 is one of thousands of Americans living with Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism. Living with Asperger's is like having a television turned on in your head, with the channel changer broken," says Williams. "Thoughts and images swirl around endlessly, making it difficult to stay calm and focused." Williams' strategy for dealing with his condition is unusual: he creates portrait collages of historical events and figures using hundreds of small pieces of paper cut from magazines. "The world for me is a chaotic place: art helps me live with my disability by allowing me to channel my energy into creating new works," he says. Williams' work was the subject of a recent cover story in *Folk Art Messenger*, and is featured in a new book about artists with autism called "Drawing Autism." His work has been shown in galleries and exhibits throughout New England.





## Want to stay in touch? 4 simple ways!

1.

### Alumni Network

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

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

2.

### Facebook

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

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

3.

### Twitter

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

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

4.

### LinkedIn

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

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



LinkedIn





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The Annual Campaign for UMass Lowell



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