

UMASS LOWELL MAGAZINE

# OPRAH WAS HERE

*(and we're still feeling the magic!)*







## URBAN OASIS

Of all the places on campus you'd expect to find a garden brimming with kale, Swiss chard and collard greens, the second floor of University Crossing probably isn't one. But thanks to a collaboration between the university and Lowell-based urban farming nonprofit Mill City Grows, there's a new rooftop vegetable garden outside the windows of the busy second-floor landing at the student and administrative center. UML's hope is that the space helps educate passersby about the university's Urban Agriculture Program. A wall sign provides details about the "Green Roof" garden and other urban agriculture sites around campus. Producing fresh, leafy vegetables for the university community is an added bonus.



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# A Message FROM THE CHANCELLOR

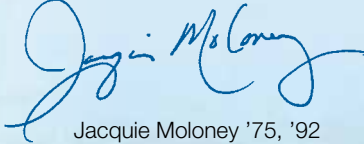
It's been several months, but we're still basking in the glow of Oprah Winfrey's visit to campus. You can read all about it starting on page 34, in our behind-the-scenes look at what it took to host one of the most influential and respected women in the world. I am so grateful to the entire UMass Lowell community for your support of this once-in-a-lifetime event for the university. A special thanks goes to the team that managed this historic occasion.

We were truly stunned when Oprah announced her plan to match the revenue we raised for student scholarships through sponsorships and ticket sales. She was clearly touched by our university, our community and our mission. As she said that evening, "Education is the only way to change lives." Well, she certainly won the hearts and minds of those in attendance, and her impact will be felt here for years.

The rest of this issue of the UML Magazine is packed with stories about the good work being done by our campus community, from students and faculty to alumni and partners. For example, I hope you feel the same pride as I did when you read about the critical role our UMass Lowell alumni had in the recovery of the gas disaster in the Merrimack Valley; see more on page 20.

As we start our 125th academic year (watch for a special anniversary issue of this magazine next spring!), I'm confident the UMass Lowell community will continue to find new ways to triumph and surprise people. Turn the page to see how we already are!

Sincerely,



Jacquie Moloney '75, '92



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UML Magazine has been honored with multiple awards, including nods from APEX Awards for Publication Excellence, Bell Ringer Awards, CASE Excellence Awards, Collegiate Advertising Awards, Hermes Creative Awards, Higher Ed Marketing Awards, PR Daily Awards and PR Daily Nonprofit PR Awards.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Please send comments to Editor Sarah McAdams Corbett at Sarah\_Corbett@uml.edu. Submit class notes at [www.uml.edu/advancement/classnotes](http://www.uml.edu/advancement/classnotes).



## PERRY HALL 2.0

When Barry Perry '68, '15 (H) was a plastics engineering student, the buildings on North Campus still housed machinery used to train students for careers in the textile industry. Perry says he can still hear the thrum of the machines and conjure up the humidity that hung in the air, and how it felt against his skin.

He was back on campus in April to celebrate the grand reopening of Perry Hall, the North Campus building where future generations of engineers will prepare for careers in such emerging disciplines as biomanufacturing and clean energy.

The building was closed for over 18 months to undergo a \$50 million renovation. Perry, a longtime supporter of research, academics and scholarships at UML, helped set the work in motion with a \$1.25 million gift in 2012.

"It's a great honor for our family to give this type of opportunity to students," said Perry, who began his career at General Electric before becoming chairman and CEO of New Jersey-based Engelhard Corp.

Known as the Engineering Building when it opened in 1952, Perry Hall has long been a hub of research and innovation. The building had become dated, however, and a 2012 fire forced the closure of the fourth floor. The renovation included a total reconstruction of the interior. The new space features labs for teaching and research in biomedical, chemical and environmental engineering, biomanufacturing and clean energy, as well as room to support expanding industry partnerships.



# TRENDING @UML

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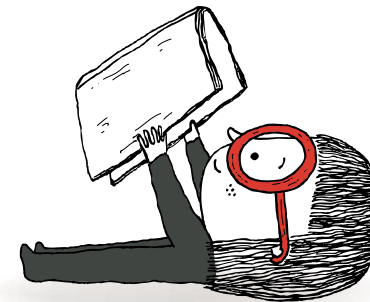
high key:  
very obvious



### SAY WHAT?

Alumnus James Callahan '99, a sociology teacher at Lowell High School, really knows what they're saying. Callahan created a Gen Z Dictionary to decode student slang, catching the attention of confused older people worldwide after one of his students tweeted screenshots of the dictionary. The tweet received over 300,000 likes and 93,000 retweets within 24 hours.

**WEB EXTRA:** Check out Callahan's whole Gen Z Dictionary at [uml.edu/magazine](http://uml.edu/magazine).



### SCREEN TIME, FROM A GUY WHO KNOWS

That'd be our computer science alumnus Rich Miner '86, '89, '97, the Google Ventures founder and Android co-founder whom we profiled recently in UML sister magazine Elements of Science. Ironically, when it comes to his two young children, Miner has a cautious view of technology. "My kids have very limited screen time. ... They are given, at most, an hour a week to do any sort of video games," he says. "Kids should be out playing, drawing with real paper and crayons, using scissors and glue to build things like models."

**WEB EXTRA:** [uml.edu/magazine](http://uml.edu/magazine).



### OUT IN FRONT

During CNN's town hall with presidential candidate Bernie Sanders on April 22, Nick Troisi, a clinical lab sciences junior in the Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences, was given the first question. He asked Sanders how he intends to phase out private health insurance companies for his "Medicare for All" plan. "Excellent question!" Sanders said, before providing an impassioned and lengthy and detailed and lengthy response.



### AMAZON IS EVERYWHERE...

...including on UML's campus, where nearly 80 percent of student packages come in those famous brown boxes. The university installed Amazon Lockers on South and East campuses as part of a larger effort to streamline how students get mail on campus.

### ARE GOATS THE NEW G.O.A.T.S.?

Goats are all the rage lately—from goat yoga and goat therapy to goat parties—and UML is nothing if not on trend. A few days before finals week kicked off in May, the university's student wellness team staged a baby animal petting zoo as part of Stress Relief Day. Hundreds of students stopped by to scratch ears and snuggle fur. "Aw, he's sooooo cute!" was heard approximately 8,943 times.



 **CHECK OUT MORE TRENDING UMass Lowell news at [uml.edu/news](http://uml.edu/news).**



# OfficeHours

*A peek into some of the most interesting faculty and staff offices on campus*

**WHO:** Larry Siegel is vice chancellor for student affairs and university events. Thirty-three years ago, he was hired as the university's first director of residence life. Now he oversees all of the fun stuff involving student life, from Convocation to Commencement—and some of the not-so-fun stuff, like student discipline.

**WHERE:** A corner office on the second floor of University Crossing that overlooks the Merrimack River toward North Campus.

**THE FUN STUFF:** A shallow wall cabinet over a whiteboard opens to reveal three neat columns of dollar bills, \$5 bills and a couple of higher denominations—in all, 41 bills totaling \$134—mounted on the back of one door. All the bills are signed by people at the university who lost bets to Siegel. “I don’t care about the money. It’s just fun,” he says.

So who’s the biggest loser? Jim Canning, who wagered and lost \$20. “I bet him they were going to change the Honors Program to the Honors College and that he would be named the inaugural dean. He said, ‘No way!’” That was in 2015, and Canning has been dean of the Honors College since later that same year.

The bills have also been a target of practical jokes. “One alum who had two bills up there took all the bills off, hid them in an envelope in my office and then started sending me ransom notes, followed by clues. I finally found the envelope taped to the underside of a drawer.”

**THE HISTORICAL STUFF:** A decade ago, when Siegel and his crew were figuring out where to put a new Starbucks on North Campus, he was scoping out the basement of the Lydon Library stacks when he discovered a treasure trove of water-stained, curled-up documents. “They were literally behind a boiler on the floor,” he says.

He salvaged and framed three of them, including two related to his work with Residence Life. One is a June 5, 1946 photo of Gov. Maurice J. Tobin, surrounded by university officials, signing a bill allowing Lowell Textile Institute to build its first two dormitories for GIs returning after World War II: Smith and Eames. The other is a hand-lettered copy of a bill signed in 1958 by Gov. Foster Furcolo, plus the House speaker,



the Senate president and the secretary of state, establishing the Massachusetts State College Dormitory Corp. to build dorms on all of the state’s public campuses.

Most historic of all is another piece of legislation dating from March 21, 1928, changing the name of Lowell Textile School to Lowell Textile Institute, signed by Gov. Alvin Tufts Fuller. Both ceremonial copies of the bills have the original quills used to sign them attached. The quills have colorful ribbons tied around them.

Siegel also has the shiny ceremonial shovel used to break ground for University Suites mounted on his office wall. “That was the first residence hall I built from the ground up,” he says.

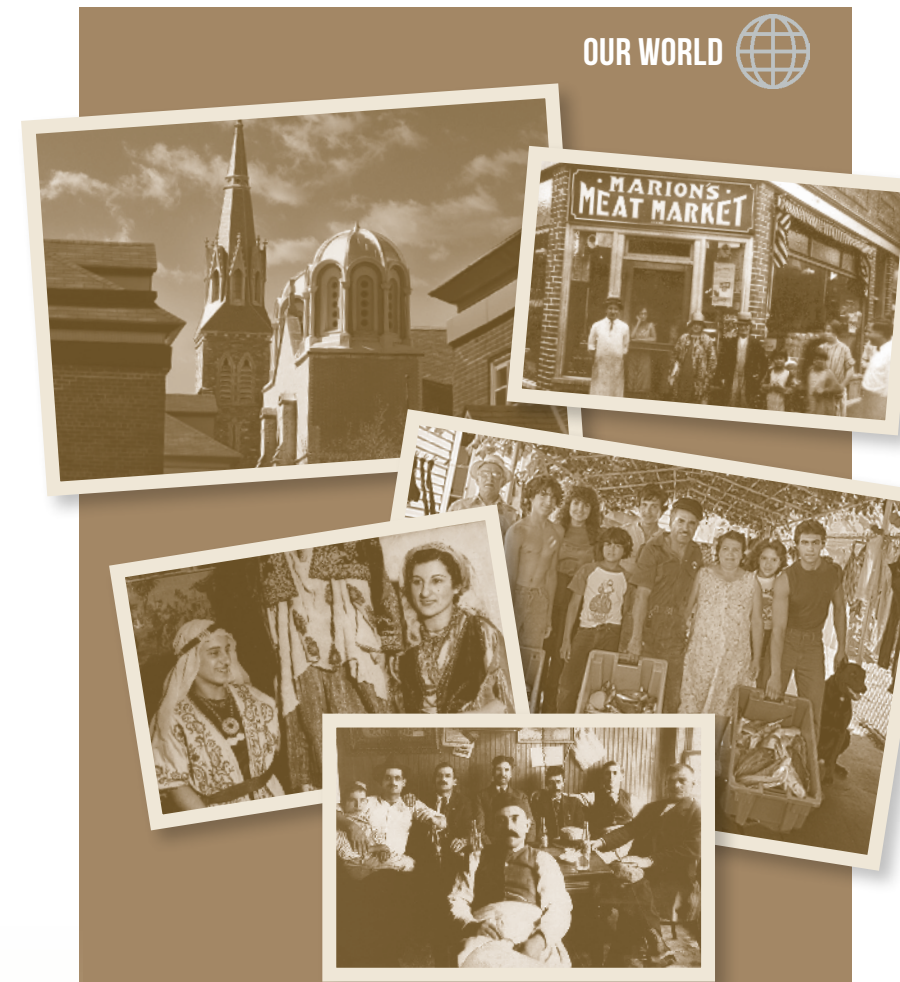


## Friends in Business

Kronos CEO Aron Ain (pictured at right, with Chancellor Jacquie Moloney) may be one of UMass Lowell’s biggest fans. Ain, who leads the \$1.4 billion workforce management software company, had high praise for the university at an event this spring celebrating UML’s partnership with businesses. Kronos and Raytheon were honored as the university’s top two industry partners. “I tell other CEOs in the Boston area that Kronos won’t compete with them for MIT and Harvard graduates. We don’t need to—we have UMass Lowell,” Ain told the crowd. Kronos has endowed scholarships and maintains internships and co-op programs for UML students. In turn, the university provides a pipeline of talent for the company, which has hired as many as 300 UML graduates. “Without UMass Lowell, we wouldn’t be as successful as we are,” Ain said.

## CHALK TALK

Anna Dugan ’13, a graduate of the Art & Design program, was invited back to campus to be the first artist to render chalk designs on two of the historic slate blackboards (circa 1897) that were uncovered during the renovation of Coburn Hall. The restored blackboards are now hanging in the basement of Dugan Hall, available for use by art students and faculty. An illustrator and photographer, Dugan has built a budding business working in chalk, creating designs for restaurants, salons and other clients. During her visit, she also spoke to students about life as a working artist. See her work on Instagram: “annadidathing.”



## New Website Documents History of Immigration in Lowell

It will soon be much easier to research the paths of immigrants who arrived in Lowell, thanks to a project spearheaded by History Prof. Robert Farrant and Asst. Prof. Ingrid Hess of Art & Design. With the help of a team of UML students, they have gathered and curated hundreds of photographs, videos and essays, building a unique website that is designed to make it easier for teachers, students, academics and researchers to access a historically significant part of Lowell’s DNA—the arrivals of waves of immigrants calling the city their new home.

The professors’ efforts recently got a boost with a \$12,500 grant from Mass Humanities, an independent programming and funding organization. The website, which will be called the Library of New England Immigration, will be officially unveiled in the coming months and will be part of the UMass Lowell Library’s online resources. Initially, it will focus on Lowell immigration, especially over the past 50 years, but it will broaden to include all of New England over time, says Farrant.





## 5 QUESTIONS

with Rajia Abdelaziz '16, co-founder of *invisaWear*

> BY DAVID PERRY

When she graduated with a double major in electrical engineering and computer science in 2016, Rajia Abdelaziz (along with business partner Raymond Hamilton '17) had already secured thousands of dollars for the company the pair started while students. She turned down impressive job offers (sorry, Google!) to continue to grow her startup *invisaWear*. The company makes smart necklaces, bracelets and keychains whose panic-button technology can save lives—like that of a woman involved in a car crash on the Lowell Connector in February. Seriously injured, Jenelle Valdina says she was “praying to God not to die.” No one who stopped to help could reach 911, due to connection problems. Valdina pushed the *invisaWear* charm that she had been gifted weeks before and crews arrived within minutes.

### WHAT'S IT LIKE TO HAVE HELPED SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE?

Words can't describe how great it feels to know a product you poured your heart and soul into creating helped a person during a very difficult time. I'll never forget the moment Jenelle called us from the hospital after she got out of surgery. The first thing she said was, “Thank you for saving my life.”

### HOW WAS INVISAWEAR BORN?

Many women feel that things like pepper spray aren't a reliable source of protection. After looking at products online, everything was a big, ugly panic button—and, frankly, too ugly for even my grandmother to want to wear. I had been programming wearable devices while working at Amazon the summer prior to our company launch and decided to create *invisaWear* for my senior year project. Before I knew it, everyone wanted it!

### WAS THERE A PARTICULAR MOMENT WHEN YOU KNEW YOU NEEDED TO DO THIS?

One night after an event, I was walking back to my car when a car full of guys rolled down the window and started yelling inappropriate comments. The car stopped and one of the guys started to get out. Although my phone was with me, I didn't have enough time to call the police or friends who were still inside, at the event, less than a block away. Luckily, I was able to run and get into my car, unharmed. However, in that moment, I promised myself I was going to do everything in my power to make sure no other woman has to feel so alone and afraid.

### YOU SEEM TO BE PROOF OF UML'S COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURS. IS THAT TRUE?

If not for the university, we would not have been nearly as successful as we've been so far. The *DifferenceMaker* program gave us the initial funding we needed to create a prototype, the mentors we were paired with helped us develop our business plan and get to market—and they even introduced us to some of the angel investors that allowed us to bring the product to market. I'm extremely grateful for their support.

### WHAT'S THE MOST UNEXPECTED THING THAT'S HAPPENED ALONG THE WAY?

I never in a million years expected this many people to be reaching out writing thank you notes and detailing how much it means to them to be able to wear our product every day. We get heartfelt messages from women who've been in domestic violence situations or abusive relationships telling us how much of a difference our product is making. Every single day, I'm grateful that I took the risk to start *invisaWear*.

Check out *invisaWear* at [invisaWear.com](http://invisaWear.com)



**DIVISION I**  
MEMBER SINCE 2013

## RIVER HAWKS ELEVATE THEIR DIVISION I GAME

The River Hawks proved that they belong, both athletically and academically, in their second full year of being eligible for NCAA Division I competition.

Paul Hogan '19 became the first UML track athlete to earn All-America status by finishing 11th in the 10,000 meters at the NCAA Championships in Austin, Texas. The softball team won its first-ever America East regular season crown with a 15-3 conference mark. And the men's soccer team reached No. 15 in the national rankings and returned to the semifinals of the AE tournament.

Those performances helped propel the UML athletic program to a third-place finish in the America East Commissioner's Cup standings, which ranks the nine conference members on an annual points system. It was the River Hawks' best showing in six years of AE membership.

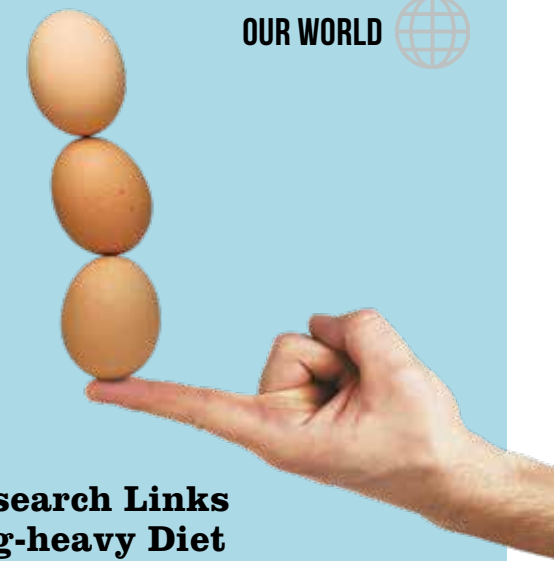
Women's lacrosse player Noelle Lambert '19, meanwhile, was among five college athletes nationwide to receive the Wilma Rudolph Student-Athlete Courage Award. The River Hawks also won the inaugural Kennedy Cup Challenge with UMass Amherst by recording the most head-to-head victories across all sports.



Softball shortstop Courtney Cashman, who led the nation in batting average (.508) and on-base percentage (.630), was named the program's first Softball America All-America Honorable Mention.

River Hawks also fared well in the classroom. UML had 29 hockey players named to the Hockey East All-Academic Team, the most in the 11-school conference. The team earned the university's Bob Griffin Academic Award with the highest GPA (3.67) among men's teams.

Likewise, 172 UML student-athletes made the America East winter/spring honor roll with a 3.00 GPA or higher, and men's lacrosse goalie Grant Lardieri '19 became the first player in school history to be named a U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association Division I Scholar All-American. The chemistry major had the highest cumulative GPA (3.992) of all graduating River Hawk student-athletes.—EB



## Research Links Egg-heavy Diet with Health Trouble

Loading up on triple-egg omelets on a regular basis may not be the best choice for your health, according to new research co-authored by Prof. Katherine Tucker of the Department of Biomedical and Nutritional Sciences in the Zucker College of Health Sciences.

“Eggs may be good and bad for you, depending on how many you consume,” Tucker says. “Eggs include a lot of healthy nutrients, like zeaxanthin that protects your eyes and vitamin D that protects your bones. But if you eat too many, then you may be at higher risk of heart disease.”

Tucker was a co-author, with researchers at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, on a study published in the March issue of the medical journal *JAMA* that found that the more eggs an individual consumes, the greater the risk for heart disease, stroke and overall mortality.

“Eating several eggs a week is reasonable, but I recommend that people avoid eating three-egg omelets every day,” says Tucker. “Nutrition is all about moderation and balance.”

## Navy Holds Small Business Event at UML Governor's Office Lends Support

This spring, the UMass Lowell Research Institute co-hosted an event with the U.S. Navy to help startups and other ventures enter and succeed in the federal Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs. It was the first time the event was held outside the Washington, D.C., area.

A key supporter of the growth of technology and innovation sectors in the commonwealth, Massachusetts Lt. Governor Karyn Polito attended the event, held at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell.

“There are number of high-tech companies in Massachusetts and throughout New England that draw upon the many universities in the area,” says Matthew McSwain, UML Research Institute's executive director. “There are defense technology clusters in the region, supporting all of the warfighting domains, as well as a growing number of small businesses and startups. The proximity to major defense installations, and the presence of the top defense contractors, encourage collaboration and innovation.”



Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, far right, and Chancellor Jacquie Moloney tour the U.S. Navy small business event on the UMass Lowell campus.





## The Future's So Bright, They Gotta Wear Shades

When you're one of the fastest-growing public doctoral universities in the country, Commencement can't be confined to just one day.

For the first time in university history, UMass Lowell held three Commencement ceremonies this year—one for Ph.D. and master's students, and two for undergraduate students the following day.

The expanded ceremonies helped accommodate UML's largest graduating class ever—more than 4,500 students—and the thousands of guests who celebrated their achievements at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell.

If the Class of 2018 is an indication, the achievements will keep coming for their successors. Within six months of last year's graduation, 96 percent of the class was either working or enrolled in graduate school.

## COMMENCEMENT 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

3

Commencement Ceremonies



4,500+



Diplomas handed out

\$116,500

Amount raised for student emergency funds at the annual Commencement Eve Celebration

1

OPRAH

Mega-famous member of the Class of 2019: Oprah Winfrey, who received an honorary degree



10,035

The number of likes, shares, and comments on UML's Commencement Facebook, Instagram and Twitter posts

17,180

Total views of the three ceremonies' livestreams across 10 countries.

695

Students with the most popular major, business administration



Countries our new grads represent

18,000

Guests at ceremonies

INFINITY

Number of high-fives given by Rowdy the River Hawk



Number of students who graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA



### PROFESSOR AIMS TO SOLVE MERCURY MYSTERY

The National Science Foundation has awarded a three-year, \$873,000 grant to a research project led by Prof. Daniel Obrist, chairman of the Department of Earth, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences, to study mercury pollution in forests.

Mercury gets deposited in forests through rainfall and vegetation uptake—that is, plants absorb the gaseous form of elemental mercury from the atmosphere and subsequently transfer it to the soil when the plants die or shed leaves. The goal of Obrist and his collaborator, Asst. Prof. Roisin Commame of Columbia University, is to better understand what Obrist describes as a "vegetation pump" process and to take

direct measurements of the mercury uptake at two sites—Harvard University's forest in Petersham, Mass., and the Texas A&M Soltis Center forest in central Costa Rica.

According to Obrist, forest measurements are currently limited to polluted sites or to data gathered only for short periods of time. "Our goal is to directly measure the uptake of atmospheric mercury at the two sites for one full year each, providing the first such records in forests," he says. Understanding the distribution of mercury is important because the heavy metal is a highly neurotoxic environmental pollutant that threatens fish, birds, mammals and humans worldwide.



### U.S. Mint Launches Lowell Quarter—with UML's Help

If she was lucky, a Lowell mill girl earned two quarters for a day of hard labor. Now, their part in the American story is memorialized on a special edition of the U.S. quarter.

The coin, part of the "America the Beautiful" series, bears a design on its flip side of the Lowell National Historical Park. A ceremony in February to unveil the coin, which features an early 1900s mill girl loading a loom's bobbin battery, drew hundreds of schoolchildren, educators, public officials and representatives of the university, the National Park Service and the Mint.

The Lowell quarter was the culmination of a decade's worth of work by Ellen Anstey '08, manager of administration and engagement at the Tsongas Industrial History Center (TIHC), a partnership between UMass Lowell's College of Education and Lowell National Historical Park.

"These quarter designs show the importance of place," says Anstey. "They're also an educational tool."

The Mint used lesson plans that TIHC staff developed to create a resource booklet and website for teachers.

Lowell National Historical Park was selected for the coin by popular vote via an online ballot, besting dozens of other federal sites around the state, including Boston's Freedom Trail, Concord's Minute Man National Historical Park and the Cape Cod National Seashore.





**She's Got the Beat**

Recent graduate Maddie May Scott took her powerhouse drumming skills to the high seas with Melissa Etheridge's star-studded spring cruise. Scott and her band, Flight of Fire, were invited to perform on the eight-day trip. A double major in music and languages (Spanish and French), Scott has kept the beat for the Boston-based hard rock band for the past two years. The Norwegian Cruise Line event featured performances by Etheridge, Shawn Colvin, Jill Sobule, Dar Williams, Joan Osborne, Lillie Mae and other well-known performers. For Scott, the gig was "a dream come true." Winner of Best Live Act award at the New England Music Awards last year, Flight of Fire has opened for such artists as Bon Jovi, J. Geils Band and Fitz and the Tantrums.



**WAY TO STEP UP, ALUMNI!**

During the university's third annual Days of Giving, donors didn't just exceed expectations—they roared past them. On April 9-10, over 3,300 members of the UML community—including students, faculty, staff, alumni, family members and friends—made contributions online and at regional events, raising a record \$420,500 for their favorite programs, colleges, clubs and sports teams. About 1,100 alumni were responsible for over a third of that—marking a 50 percent bump in the number of alumni who participated, as compared to last year. Support was particularly strong for student scholarships. Athletics also scored a big win with its challenge to attract 425 donations—one for each of the university's 425 Division I athletes. When the buzzer sounded, more than 1,000 donors had given to different sports teams and to the Costello Gym renovation campaign, earning an additional \$25,000 in challenge funds.



**SIX FORMER RIVER HAWKS GONE PRO**

Six former River Hawks, including four new graduates, have signed professional hockey contracts. Defenseman Avni Berisha and co-captain forward Connor Wilson both signed with the Mulhouse Scorpions of the French Synergace Ligue Magnus. They will play for former UML forward and two-time captain Yorick Treille '02, the Scorpions' head coach. Senior forwards Ryan Dmowski and Nick Master signed contracts with the Hartford Wolf Pack (AHL) and the Maine Mariners (ECHL), respectively. Junior co-captain Ryan Lohin and junior alternate captain Mattias Göransson chose to forgo their final seasons in Lowell to sign with the NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning and Leksands IF in the Swedish Hockey League, respectively.

From left: Nick Master, Mattias Göransson, Ryan Dmowski, Avni Berisha, Ryan Lohin and Connor Wilson





## UML AND STATE CELEBRATE \$1.2M IN ENERGY SAVINGS

Some of the energy-saving measures, like the 600-panel solar array atop the South Campus parking garage, are impossible to miss. Others, like occupancy sensors to control lighting in O’Leary and Lydon libraries, are much more discreet.

But big and small, they’re all part of the university’s recently completed \$23.1 million Accelerated Energy Program, an ambitious three-year initiative designed to make the campus more energy-efficient while reducing its carbon footprint.

Four years to the day after announcing the program, officials from UML and the state’s Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance marked its completion at an Earth Day celebration at University Crossing.

As the state’s largest Accelerated Energy Program site to date, the university implemented more than 100 energy-saving measures in 30 buildings across campus over the last three years. More than 6,000 pieces of mechanical equipment and lighting were updated or replaced, including the installation of a new solar hot water system at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, new LED lighting at the Tsongas Center and Costello Athletic Center, and low-flow plumbing fixtures in residence halls.

As a result of these improvements, the university expects to see \$1.2 million in annual energy savings. The upgrades will save 1.7 million gallons of water and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 9 million pounds each year. The AEP also eliminates \$10 million in deferred maintenance across campus.

DCAMM Commissioner Carol Gladstone praised the university for its commitment to sustainability, adding that it has inspired her agency to raise the bar on sustainability, climate change and global warming in the projects it manages.

Young people are going to have to deal with what we haven’t dealt with,” she said. “So thank you for inspiring and exhorting us to do this, because we have to.”



DCAMM Commissioner Carol Gladstone, center, gets a tour of UML’s new green roof garden on Earth Day.

## PITCHER PERFECT!

Senior Kaysee Talcik pitched the softball program’s first-ever perfect game in a 4-0 win at Stony Brook (N.Y.) on April 27. Talcik, a business administration major from Shelton, Conn., struck out five Seawolves in helping the River Hawks set a new Division I program record for single-season America East victories with 13. “I was very proud of Kaysee today,” said UML coach Danielle Henderson, whose team was vying for the top seed in the AE tournament. It was the second no-hitter of Talcik’s career.



## NURSING STUDENTS WORK WITH COMMUNITIES ON ANTI-VAPING EFFORTS



Nursing students teamed up with local schools and public health officials in an effort to snuff out the growing epidemic of teen vaping. As part of their course work, the students researched and developed anti-vaping campaigns.

Across the United States, vaping is surging among young people. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the proportion of high school seniors who reported recent vaping of nicotine jumped to 20.9 percent in 2018, up from 11 percent in 2017. In December 2018, the Office of the Surgeon General declared vaping a health epidemic.

Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, the addictive drug in regular cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products. Studies show that nicotine exposure during adolescence can harm the developing brain—which continues to develop until about age 25. It can impact learning, memory and attention.

The nursing students gave presentations on the harmful effects of vaping to high school students and parents and created posters and flyers for distribution.

“We are able to relate to the students, since we’re not that much older than they are. We understand the temptations and peer pressure, so our hope is that they will hear us and either don’t start vaping or stop,” says nursing student Joseph Bradstreet.



## MOW TOWN

Welcome to “Ewe” Mass Lowell.

For three days this summer, the half acre of wild grass and weeds along VFW Highway—behind the Costello Athletic Center and Pinanski parking lot on North Campus—was the biggest all-you-can-eat salad bar on campus. The customers? A herd of 120 sheep, courtesy of Goats-To-Go out of Georgetown, Mass.

While contractors previously hired by UML have had to contend with angry bees, poison ivy and gopher holes as they weed-whacked the steep slope in the summer heat, the sheep feasted round-the-clock (inside temporary fencing) to do the job in less time—and at half the cost.

The sheep, which were brought back the following week to “mow” along Pawtucket Street on South Campus, are just the latest innovative technique introduced by Grounds Operations Manager Erik Shaw to maintain the university’s 150 acres of land. From increasing the use of organic fertilizers and compost on lawns, to improving irrigation and purchasing the university’s first battery-electric lawn mower, his efforts have helped make UML one of the highest-rated campuses for sustainability in the country.



# ‘Everyone Has a Nurse in Their Lives’

*The Bring Diversity to Nursing Scholarship ensures that as our communities grow more diverse, our nursing workforce will keep pace.*

> BY BETH BROSNAN

At age 7, when other kids were glued to the Disney Channel, Taylor Chau was obsessed with medical documentaries. “I loved watching surgeries,” she recalls. Yet when she decided to enroll at the Solomont School of Nursing, Chau’s decision had as much to do with language and culture as it did with science.

After her grandfather was severely injured in a fall, Chau realized the hospital staff was having trouble communicating with him because he spoke only Cantonese. “My mother and I had to interpret for him,” Chau says. “I chose nursing because I want to help bridge this kind of cultural divide.”

Diomeri Diaz ’21 was on her way to becoming a welder when a similar family experience steered her toward nursing.

“I was in vocational school when my grandmother, who’s originally from the Dominican Republic, had a stroke,” she recalls. For three weeks, Diaz sat in the hospital, watching bilingual nurses carefully tend to her grandmother, conversing with her and other family members in Spanish. “It really woke me up,” she says. “I saw how breaking the language barrier improves health care.”

Jacqueline Dowling, who directed UML’s baccalaureate nursing program for 10 years until her retirement in 2016, couldn’t agree more.

“Nurses who share cultural backgrounds with their patients are more likely to form better connections with them,” she says. “And better connections lead to better health outcomes.”

In 2008, concerned that the nursing workforce was not keeping pace with an increasingly diverse U.S. population, Dowling and other Solomont administrators launched the Bring Diversity to Nursing program. With \$3 million in federal and state funding, they partnered with schools in Lowell and Lawrence to recruit more pre-nursing students from diverse backgrounds, and then provided them with the mentoring and financial support they needed to graduate.

By 2015, when the grant funding ended, 50 students from a variety of cultural backgrounds had graduated from UML, and they are now working in local hospitals and clinics.

Dowling considers those results “pretty phenomenal” — and not just for the students. When the program began, she says, “We knew we had to become more culturally competent. But we didn’t realize just how much we would learn from our students.” She recalls how she once spent an hour trying to teach one of her Cambodian American

students how to make a hospital bed correctly. “I finally asked her how she made a bed at home, and she explained that they always used pins.” Dowling shakes her head. “How long did it take me to ask that question? That was my first lesson in dealing with cultural differences.”

Another lesson learned: how reluctant students can be to ask for help, even in the face of major challenges. Take the student who was evicted from his apartment and slept in his car for two weeks but still kept up with all his studies. “Students here really want their education, and they work so hard to get it,” she says.

“Getting the scholarship really helped lift some of the stress of paying for college,” says Diaz, who has a part-time job at Market Basket and also works as a UMass Lowell resident assistant.

Says Chau, who plans to become an emergency room nurse: “Nurses can be very busy, and sometimes we focus only on the illness. But everyone has a life and a story. I want my patients to feel like someone took the time to listen to them, to make them feel less frightened and alone.”

The need for this kind of care is only accelerating. A recent study by the Boston Foundation found that between 1990 and 2017, every one of the 147 cities and towns in the region saw an increase in the percentage of people of color. More than 90 percent of that growth comes from new immigrants, who, researchers point out, have been central to the region’s strong economy.

“At the Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences, we provide students with the skills to be health advocates across the spectrum of care, including cultural competence,” says Dean Shortie McKinney. “We want them to appreciate the importance of culture, and be able to help their clients navigate the health care world in a manner that resonates with their culture.”

Dowling is fond of saying that “everyone has a nurse in their lives” — a caregiver who made a big difference at a crucial moment. “If you fully appreciate what nurses do,” she says, “then you understand how important nursing education is. By investing in nursing students who reflect our nation’s demographics, we can help ensure a nursing workforce that better reflects the diversity, and the greatness, of our nation.”

**To support the Bring Diversity to Nursing Scholarship, please visit [www.alumni.umass.edu/BringDiversitytoNursing](http://www.alumni.umass.edu/BringDiversitytoNursing).**



Nursing students Diomeri Diaz '21 (left) and Taylor Chau '20 are bridging cultural divides in health care.

## OUR LEGACY, OUR PLACE, OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year, endowed scholarships benefit close to 1,000 students at UMass Lowell. When you invest in scholarships, you not only help students like Diomeri Diaz '21 and Taylor Chau '20 earn their degrees, you empower them to make real change in their communities and their professional fields. Go to [www.umass.edu/ourlegacy-ourplace](http://www.umass.edu/ourlegacy-ourplace) to invest in scholarships today.

**\$32,178**

Average loan debt our undergraduates carry.

**\$1.53M**

Amount of support provided to students through endowed scholarships annually.

**970**

Number of students who received endowed scholarships this year (many received multiple).

**\$145M**

Amount raised for *Our Legacy, Our Place*. Our goal: \$150 million by 2020.





ALUMNI BENEFIT

# The Legacy Scholarship

for UML Families Living Outside of Massachusetts

Annual scholarships up to \$10,000 are now available for children and grandchildren of UML alumni who live outside of Massachusetts.

For more information on applying, visit [uml.edu/legacyscholarship](http://uml.edu/legacyscholarship)

Applications for incoming freshmen must be received by March 1 for the coming academic year. Applications for incoming transfers students must be received by June 1.

Do you know someone who is interested in applying for this scholarship, but hasn't applied to the university yet? Visit [uml.edu/admissions](http://uml.edu/admissions).



## HELP STUDENTS WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

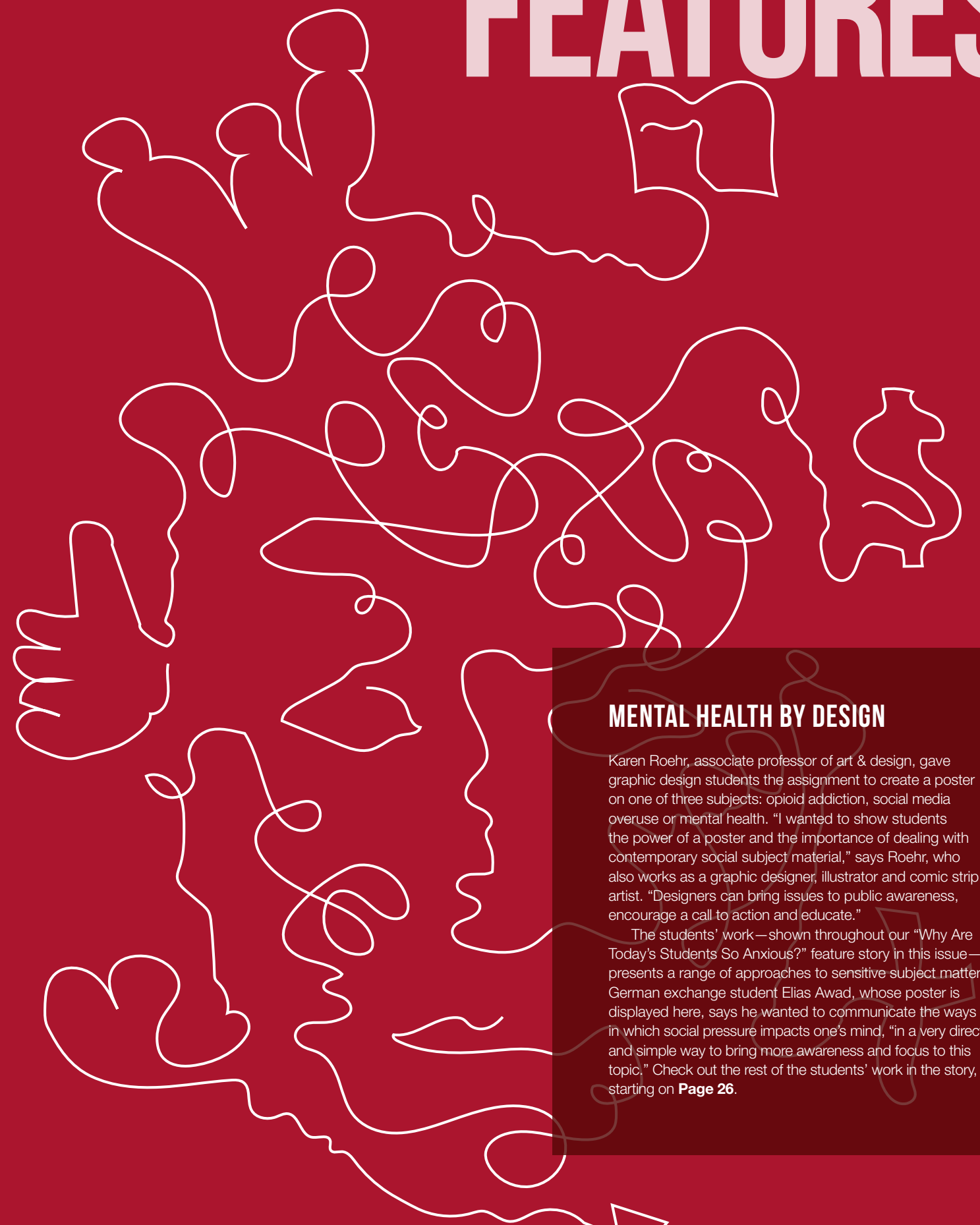
Student Emergency Needs Fund

An urgent financial crisis can prevent a student from being able to earn a degree. The Student Emergency Needs Fund is there to help—whether it's to help a student facing food insecurity or to provide financial assistance for a life-changing educational opportunity, like study abroad.

[www.uml.edu/emergency](http://www.uml.edu/emergency)



# FEATURES



## MENTAL HEALTH BY DESIGN

Karen Roehr, associate professor of art & design, gave graphic design students the assignment to create a poster on one of three subjects: opioid addiction, social media overuse or mental health. "I wanted to show students the power of a poster and the importance of dealing with contemporary social subject material," says Roehr, who also works as a graphic designer, illustrator and comic strip artist. "Designers can bring issues to public awareness, encourage a call to action and educate."

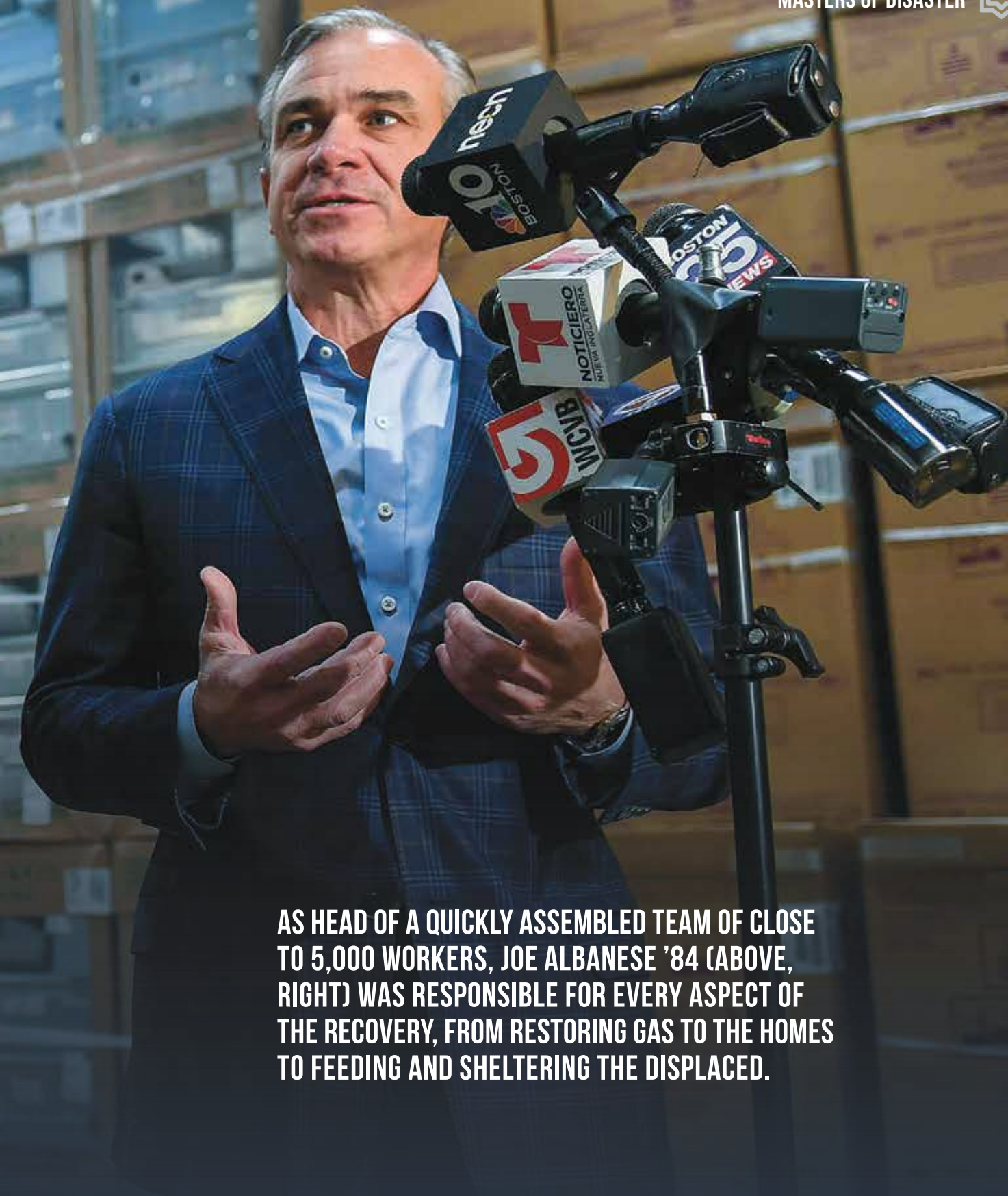
The students' work—shown throughout our "Why Are Today's Students So Anxious?" feature story in this issue—presents a range of approaches to sensitive subject matter. German exchange student Elias Awad, whose poster is displayed here, says he wanted to communicate the ways in which social pressure impacts one's mind, "in a very direct and simple way to bring more awareness and focus to this topic." Check out the rest of the students' work in the story, starting on **Page 26**.



# MASTERS OF DISASTER

Last fall, Columbia Gas explosions rocked the Merrimack Valley. UML alumni led the recovery.

> BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS



AS HEAD OF A QUICKLY ASSEMBLED TEAM OF CLOSE TO 5,000 WORKERS, JOE ALBANESE '84 (ABOVE, RIGHT) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERY ASPECT OF THE RECOVERY, FROM RESTORING GAS TO THE HOMES TO FEEDING AND SHELTERING THE DISPLACED.



**N**orth Andover firefighter Matt Davis '00 was off-duty just after 4 p.m. last Sept. 13 when the app on his phone flashed its first message: "All members, please respond."

Across three towns in the Merrimack Valley, fires were breaking out, homes were burning, explosions were rocking neighborhoods. Confusion, then panic, took hold among residents arriving home from rush hour commutes to find their streets blocked off by first responders.

Davis was among the dozens of firefighters from as far away as Boston and Manchester, N.H., who worked nonstop until the next morning. "We were going house to house, checking on people," he says.

They put out more than 80 fires in Andover, Lawrence and North Andover. The cause? A spontaneous buildup of pressure in the gas lines owned by Massachusetts-based Columbia Gas, causing boilers, and some entire houses, to explode. In all, one person was killed and another 20 were injured. More than 8,600 homes were evacuated.

The fires were mostly out by nightfall, but the crisis was nowhere near over. Indeed, it was just getting started. Power was cut to all three communities. Hundreds of buildings were damaged. Thousands of customers were without natural gas for months. The gas lines had to be replaced and roads and streets repaired.

From the first emergency calls to the restoration of natural gas service, UMass Lowell alumni were involved in the recovery efforts from the Columbia Gas explosions. Engineers, executives, first responders and human service workers were among those who stepped in and stepped up, helping the communities to rebuild and recover.

**IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EXPLOSIONS**, Governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency; neighboring towns loaned equipment; schools and senior centers were opened to take in evacuees.

On the UML campus, close to 100 affected students were offered help: housing in residence halls, food, clothing and school supplies, counseling services, even emergency funds for transportation. Several were moved into temporary housing.

Another three students, says Associate Dean of Student Affairs Anne Ciaraldi, "had been displaced altogether, first to hotels and then to trailers, before finally being able to move back home months later."

Just weeks before the disaster, the university's EMS team had formalized a partnership with the Dracut Fire Department to coordinate the response to incidents in the area. When the Dracut FD was deployed to Lawrence on the evening of the explosions, it was joined by five members of UMass Lowell's EMS: students Isabelle Seal, David Feinberg, Shelagh Fitzgerald and Brittany O'Neil and alumnus Patrick Kiley '18. The students helped with medical inventory management and triage coordination at the command center, while Kiley served as logistics supervisor.

But for all that was being done, as time went on, it became clear that a longer-range, top-down, centralized effort was needed.

**A WEEK AFTER THE EXPLOSIONS**, Columbia Gas brought in alumnus Joe Albanese '84, a retired captain in the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps and former commander of a team of Navy Seabees in the second Gulf War, to help. Albanese was chief recovery officer in charge of rebuilding efforts.

Albanese, a UML graduate in civil engineering and founder and CEO of Waltham-based Commodore Builders, was given full command and control responsibilities over the repair of 48 miles of gas lines, as well as all other recovery-related logistics and services. The project was expected to take months.

"It was an honor to be named, and I was humbled to be a part of it," says Albanese. "But it was also an unprecedented challenge."

There seemed little doubt in anyone's mind that he was up to it. "I think we have a [Gulf War General] Norman Schwarzkopf figure here," said Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera. A Columbia Gas spokesman, citing Albanese's deep experience, called him "a perfect fit for this mammoth task."

Still, his oversight duties were many. As leader of a quickly assembled team of close to 5,000 workers—plumbers, carpenters, laborers, pipefitters and electricians—he was responsible for every aspect of the project, from restoring gas to the homes (and keeping them heated in the meantime) to feeding and sheltering the displaced. And it all needed to happen by an agreed-upon deadline of Dec. 16, less than three months after the work started.

"We were racing against winter," Albanese says. "There was an incredible sense of urgency. We had 50 percent more rain than usual for that time of year, and then a record-cold Thanksgiving weekend. The goal was to restore gas service and get people back in their homes before the real cold came. If all this had happened two months earlier, it would have been a whole different operation."

Though numbers alone rarely tell the full story, in the case of Albanese's three months on the job in the Merrimack Valley, they are instructive:

- 30,000 lives impacted
- 5,000 temporary hotel rooms
- 500 RV trailers
- A 1,000-person emergency shelter
- 2,200 families in emergency housing
- 15,000 hot plates delivered (in the first week alone)
- 24,000 space heaters
- 980 emergency generators delivered

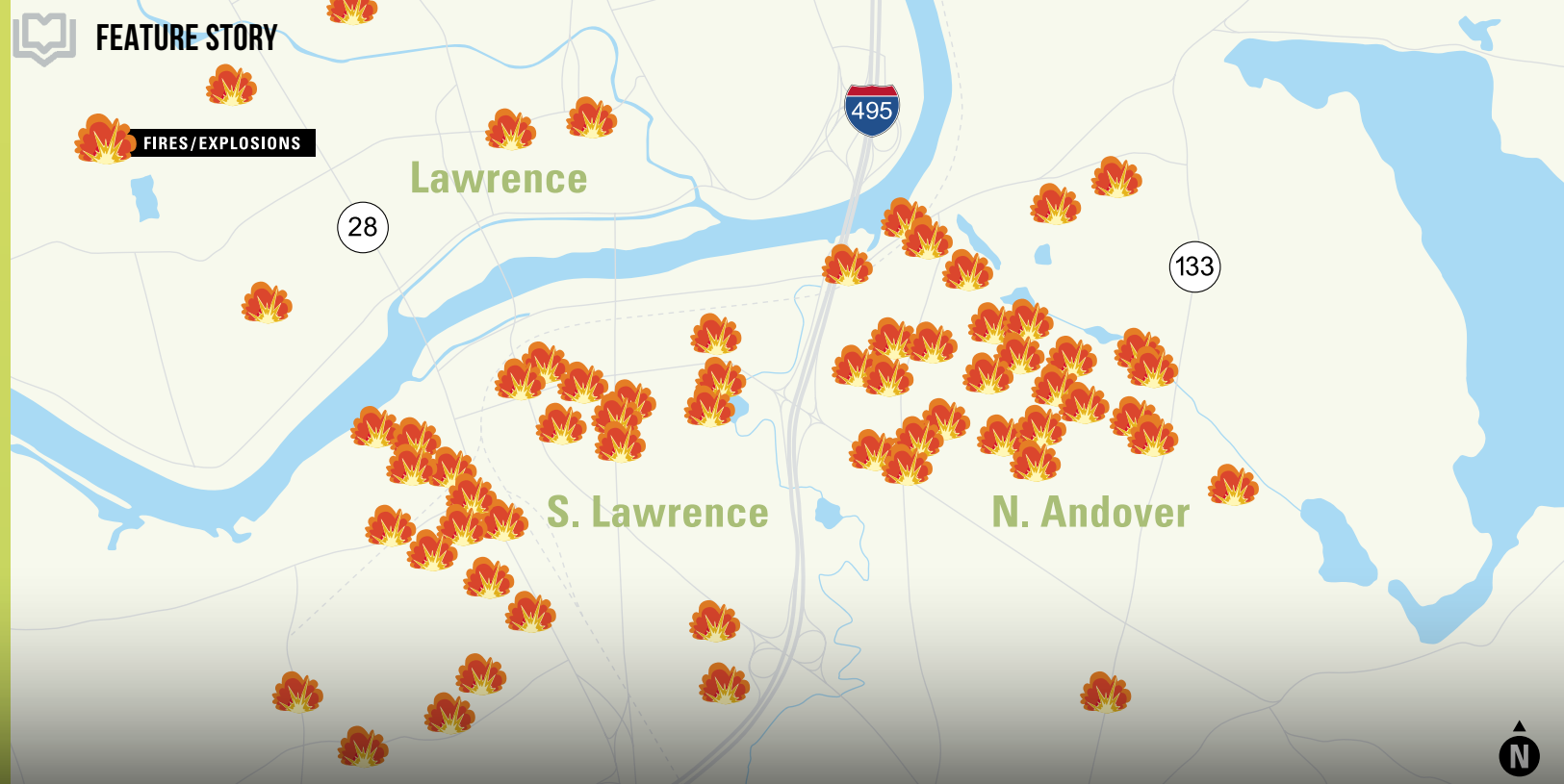
And that's not even mentioning the numbers that go with 5,000 workers repairing or replacing 48 miles of pipe.

"Plus you had things like code challenges and hazardous-material issues that came up all the time," Albanese says. "It was pretty crazy. Every day was different. You couldn't plan for anything; you just had to deal with whatever came along. Kind of like building your fire engine on the way to the fire."



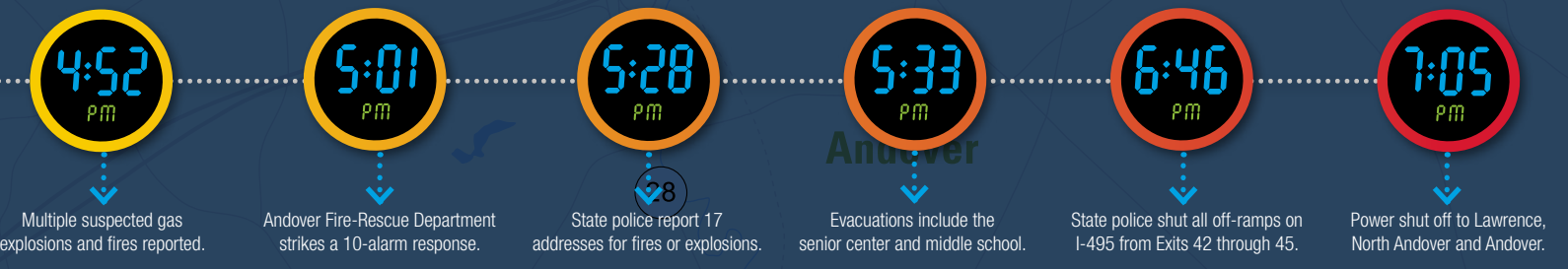
**FIREFIGHTERS LIKE NORTH ANDOVER'S MATT DAVIS '00 (ABOVE) PUT OUT MORE THAN 80 FIRES IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MERRIMACK VALLEY GAS EXPLOSIONS.**





TIMELINE OF A TRAGEDY: EXPLOSIONS IN THE MERRIMACK VALLEY

SEPT. 13, 2018



IN EACH OF THE THREE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES,

a handful of key players reported to Albanese. One of these, in Andover, was another UML civil-engineering graduate—Chris Cronin '87, the town's public works director. His mandate during those weeks was critical.

"We had two main priorities," he says. "To get the gas main replaced—it had been compromised, it was junk—and to get our people back in their homes."

There were 70 miles of roads affected, says Cronin, and over the course of the project, at least 200 construction crews were at work there.

"That's a lot of backhoes banging into each other, and then all the other vehicles," he says. "So much traffic, so much going on—it was crazy. I should have kept a diary."

Almost every day, he says, there were tense meetings. "With Joe [Albanese], with the governor, the DPW people, the plumbers, the building inspectors. We'd meet and talk about the problems—what was working, what wasn't, what needed to be changed. Everybody there was looking to help, didn't matter what it was."

On top of all the logistics, there were the people to worry about.

"We definitely had our share of issues," Albanese says. "A lot of people were shaken up, but it wasn't only that. We had undocumented residents afraid of being exposed; there were the so-called 'three-family' dwellings that were really six-family. We had to work around all that kind of stuff."

"A lot of people were just really scared," Cronin says. "Not hard to understand. When you don't have your house, you don't have anything."

Then there was the challenge of dealing with the fallout on the area's children and seniors, its most vulnerable residents. Henry de Lima '15, who came to UMass Lowell in 2012 straight from a tour in Afghanistan, is a social worker at Family Continuity in Lawrence, by far the largest, poorest and hardest-hit of the three communities affected (see related story, page 63).

All of de Lima's clients are children, some as young as 5, and most are Latino. A few of the older ones, he says, had known the teenager, Leonel Rondon, who died sitting in a car in a friend's driveway, when the house exploded and its chimney fell and crushed him. "Some of them were pretty devastated," de Lima says. "Kids that age have a hard time comprehending."

But it's the younger ones, he says, who have suffered the worst trauma. "Some of them were in homes that were burned or destroyed, or had neighbors who did. They're little kids—they want to know, 'Is my home going to catch fire again? Am I going to die? Is the house really fixed?'" Whenever possible, de Lima would visit with these children in their homes, often with their parents present, and do what he could to allay their terrors. But it was never easy, he says: "There's still a lot of fear out there. And a lot of really anxious children."

**A** LUMNA AND LAWRENCE NATIVE JOAN HATEM-ROY '82 WAS AT A DINNER IN NEWBURYPORT when she first saw the news on TV. "It was all just about the first responders," she remembers. "I wasn't sure what to make of it right away."

When Hatem-Roy, the CEO of Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, realized what has happening, she went into overdrive. She called her command center in Lawrence, the senior center in Andover and the state agencies that she knew could be of help. "We made home visits, we phoned emergency numbers, we called the nursing homes—the job was to account for everyone," she says.

Hatem-Roy has been at the Merrimack Valley nonprofit for nearly 30 years, since not long after she earned a master's degree in social work from UConn, which followed her bachelor's in psychology from the University of Lowell. With over 300 full- and part-time employees, the agency contracts with more than 70 care providers to offer nursing services, home care, counseling, caregiver support, information and advice on a range of senior-age concerns.

Most of the agency's contractual relationships, says Hatem-Roy, were tapped in the weeks following the explosions. "We coordinated with our state agencies, worked with the nonprofits, arranged beds in nursing homes, got people fed from Meals on Wheels, found drivers to go around checking homes—just about anything you could think of," she says.

The best part, she says, was how all the boundaries and work lanes seemed to melt away.

"Everybody was stepping out of their little boxes," she says. "You had a firefighter on medical leave cooking for people who didn't have gas, heating formula for mothers, offering showers in his home to people without hot water. There were so many stories like that—finance people writing checks, HR people finding translators, everyone doing whatever it took. For a long time after the explosions, I wasn't a CEO anymore."

"It was really something to be part of. And we're a closer, tighter community today."

**O** N DEC. 5, COLUMBIA GAS ANNOUNCED THAT GAS SERVICE WAS COMPLETELY RESTORED to 8,000 customers. Joe Albanese began the task of ramping down his team. Not long after, the Massachusetts DPU announced that his job was officially done.

Today, residents are back in their homes and back to their lives. The heat's back on. The gas main has been replaced. But the work is far from over.

On Dec. 7, the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities announced that the final phase of the job—ensuring that roads are repaved, sidewalks repaired and graded, home furnaces replaced and heat and hot water restored—would be completed by Columbia Gas, at its expense, by no later than Oct. 31 of this year. There would be a new overseer now: Massachusetts company Nitsch Engineering, the largest woman-owned civil engineering firm in the state.

The company's CEO and chairwoman: UML alumna Lisa Brothers '84, a registered professional engineer and member of the Advisory Board for both the College of Engineering and the Center for Women and Work.

The company, Brothers says, will be "monitoring Columbia Gas' management of the remaining restoration and recovery work," as well as measuring progress, providing recommendations, ensuring compliance and keeping stakeholders informed.

So it isn't over yet—but considering the folks on the front lines, including so many with connections to the university, there is cause for optimism.

"You had a lot of really knowledgeable people," says Cronin. "And some of us were connected already—like Joe and I, with UMass Lowell—or had maybe worked together before. So there was a lot of trust. It didn't matter who you were; there were zero egos involved."

"It was amazing to be part of it, actually. Without that sort of teamwork, I can only imagine how bad things could have been." **UML**



**"We coordinated with our state agencies, worked with the nonprofits, arranged beds in nursing homes, got people fed from Meals on Wheels, found drivers to go around checking homes—just about anything you could think of."**

—Joan Hatem-Roy '82, CEO, Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley Inc.



# WHY ARE TODAY'S STUDENTS

# SO ANXIOUS US?

> BY ED BRENNEN



**SP**EAKING TO 3,200 FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS at Convocation last September at the Tsongas Center, Student Government Association President Andre DiFilippo offered some advice that's as sage today as ever: Work hard. Get involved. Make the most of your college experience, because it will be over before you know it.

But there was another message woven into DiFilippo's four-minute address, one tailored specifically for students of his generation: Be mindful of your mental well-being when things get tough, and be sure to watch out for others, too.

"Mental health is one of the biggest silent killers of our generation, and we cannot let it continue," DiFilippo said, adding that it's natural for students to ignore their problems or feel too ashamed to get help. "From one student to another, let me be the one to tell you that there are countless people at UMass Lowell—students, faculty and staff alike—who care and are here to support you."

DiFilippo, a senior business administration major from Saugus, had done his homework on the topic. A year earlier, as chair of the student government's academic affairs committee, he helped survey nearly 1,400 UML students on their college experience. DiFilippo analyzed the data and was surprised to see how many students were concerned about mental health issues, especially anxiety and depression. A common complaint was the wait time for a counseling appointment at the Wellness Center, which—like so many college clinics across the country—was facing an appointment backlog as it tried to keep pace with surging demand.

DiFilippo presented the survey findings to Chancellor Jacque Moloney and her executive cabinet in January 2018, and their response was immediate. "We have to change this. It will get done," DiFilippo recalls them saying. "It was awesome how they embraced it."

**U**ML IS HARDLY THE ONLY SCHOOL facing this challenge. Mental health issues have become an epidemic on college campuses across the country. According to a recent study by the American Psychiatric Association, the percentage of college students seeking mental health care has nearly doubled over the last decade, from 19 percent in 2007 to 34 percent in 2017. At UML, the number of students seeking counseling at the Wellness Center has jumped almost 30 percent over the past four years, from 637 in 2014-15 to 824 last year.

"The need for care is just huge, and we don't expect it to go away," says UML's Director of Counseling Services Deborah Edelman-Blank, a licensed clinical psychologist with more than 15 years of experience on college campuses across the country.

To meet this growing need, the university boosted the number of counseling clinicians from four to seven at the Wellness Center. "It's a big jump in terms of staffing and what we can offer," Edelman-Blank says. "It's not yet where I want us to be, but we're up to a level where we can provide services that we couldn't before, which is exciting."

Those services include a new triage intake process to allow for same-day appointments. Now, students seeking help from Counseling Services for the first time can be seen right away for a half-hour screening. Depending on the severity of the concerns they present, students can either begin immediate treatment or be directed to individual or group therapy treatment.

"Sometimes," Edelman-Blank says, "all they need is that same-day appointment. Just talking to someone can help them feel better."

The university has also partnered with the Jed Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps colleges and universities assess and enhance their existing efforts around student mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention—starting with a web-based "Healthy Minds" survey that went out to 12,000 students in February.

"We know nationwide what the numbers look like, but what does it look like on our campus?" says Student Mental Health and Wellness Program Director Melissa Wall, campus liaison for Jed and an adjunct faculty member in the Psychology Department. "This will help provide the data to support what we know intuitively and anecdotally in our experiences."

While depression used to be the leading reason why college students sought help from university counseling centers, it was surpassed by anxiety about five years ago, according to research by Penn State's Center for Collegiate Mental Health.

"Anxiety is basically worrying about something that could happen, and depression is angst about something that has happened," says Edelman-Blank, who notes that there are three major types of anxiety: generalized anxiety disorder (worrying so much that it impairs your ability to function); social anxiety disorder (avoiding groups and constantly worrying about what other people think about you); and panic disorder (becoming so anxious that you have a major physical response).

"It feels like a lion is coming toward you. It physically feels that scary," Edelman-Blank says.

In a 2018 American College Health Association survey of 88,000 college students nationwide, two in five described being so depressed they "struggled to function," while three in five felt "overwhelming anxiety" during the previous year. Most alarmingly, 12 percent of students said they seriously considered suicide within the past year.

The numbers are tough to look at, but the suicide rate for people aged 10-19 increased by 56 percent between 2007 and 2016, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 2011, for the first time in three decades, suicide surpassed homicide as the second-leading cause of death for teenagers (after unintentional injury such as car crashes).

"In the past, the rates of mental illness have been relatively stable," says Prof. Steve Balsis, who joined the Psychology Department last fall after previously serving as director of clinical training at Texas A&M. "Suicide, in particular, has been remarkably stable over time. To see those numbers change in a relatively dramatic way is scary. There's really something happening here, and it's happening in a way that's being felt by a lot of people."

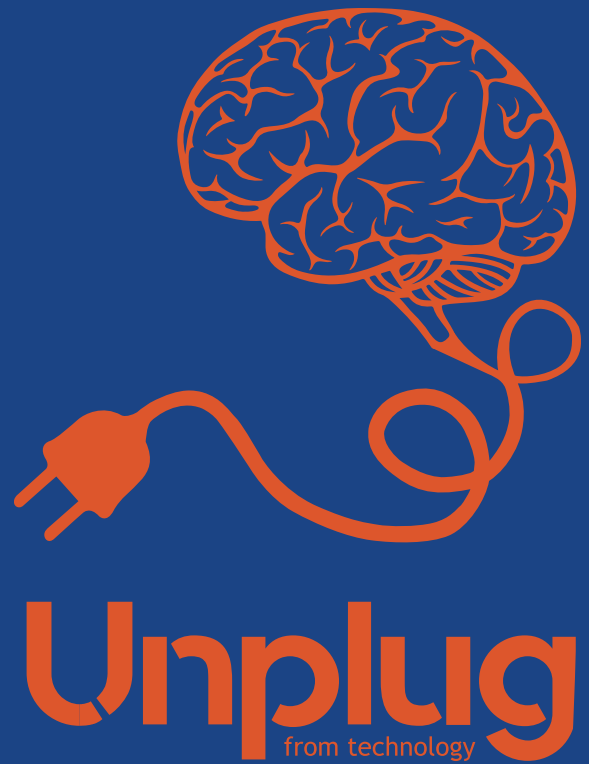
**W**HAT IS HAPPENING HERE? Why are today's students so anxious? Are the pressures of college life—being away from home for the first time, academics, work, student loans, social life, relationships, career paths—that much different than they were, say, 30 years ago? And shouldn't students expect some level of stress and anxiety in college? Doesn't everyone worry about final exams? Or about finding their place in the world as young adults?

"Stress and anxiety themselves are healthy emotions that everybody experiences. We don't expect people to have stress-free or anxiety-free lives," Edelman-Blank says. "Healthy people get depressed and grieve. They have anxiety and may occasionally have a panic attack. But when you're stressed or anxious to the point where you can't function, can't sleep, can't eat, where you can't go out with someone just to say hello, or you're crying all the time, or you're cutting yourself, that's not just stress or anxiety from college. That's disorder behavior."

Zoom out for a moment. Today's college students belong to Generation Z (or the iGen), born between the mid-1990s and mid-2000s. They came into the world right around 9/11. The global war on terror has always been a fact of life (some of them have signed up to fight it). Following the horrors of Columbine, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook and Parkland, they learned how to barricade their classroom doors during active shooter drills. They may have been too young to understand the Great Recession, climate change or the opioid crisis, but their parents and teachers sure sounded concerned. And politically, they're coming of age in a country that feels more polarized than ever.

"We grew up in world that completely changed right before our eyes," says Abby Colangelo, a senior Honors College student from West Boylston, Mass., majoring in exercise physiology and minoring in psychology. "And then you go to college and it's a whole other change to adjust to."

Colangelo didn't adjust well. As a freshman, she was "an anxious mess," she says. She started having panic attacks that made it difficult to go to class, let alone take a test. Her doctor eventually diagnosed her with an anxiety disorder. "It took me a long time to figure out what was happening, but I was able to turn it around," Colangelo says. Thanks to her diagnosis, she received testing accommodations from Disability Services. "They were really good about helping me find a place where I was comfortable taking tests," she says. "Disability Services was my saving grace."

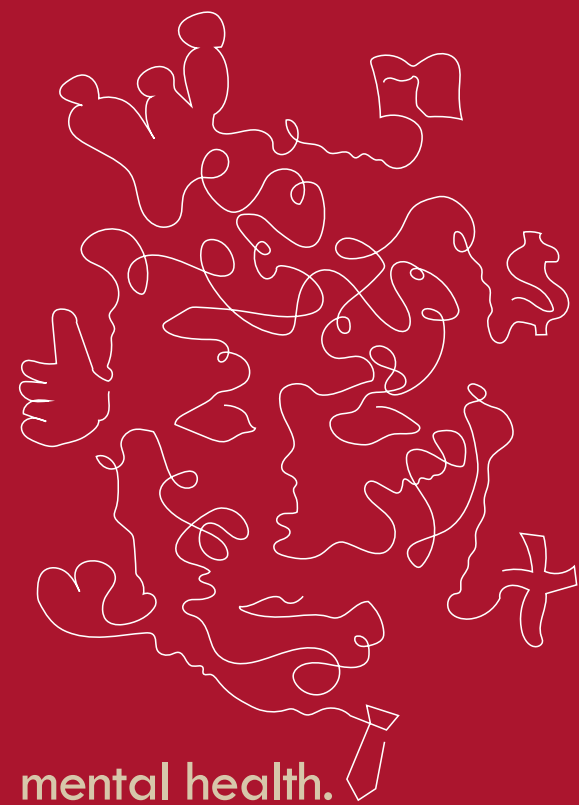


POSTER DESIGN BY:  
**ALEX TWYMAN '19**  
ANIMATION AND INTERACTIVE MEDIA MAJOR



POSTER DESIGN BY:  
**MICHELLE CHAN '21**  
GRAPHIC DESIGN MAJOR





mental health.

POSTER DESIGN BY:  
**ELIAS AWAD**  
GERMAN EXCHANGE STUDENT

Through Counseling Services, Colangelo also connected with a social anxiety therapy group. “You walk around campus, and you feel like everyone around you is normal, that they don’t have issues,” she says. “It was really helpful to be in a room with people dealing with the same things.”

With that in mind, Counseling Services introduced several new group therapy options this spring, including a mindfulness and meditation group and a support group for international students, who face the added stressors of language and culture barriers in college.

“Individual counseling is still our bread and butter, but our hope is to make group therapy a primary offering,” says Edelman-Blank, who points out that one counseling clinician seeing 10 students at a time helps maximize resources. “And group sessions help in the context of addressing students’ isolation and loneliness, that lack of connection.”

But wait—aren’t students today more connected than ever? Thanks to smartphones and social media, don’t they have hundreds of friends and followers with whom they can interact anytime, anywhere?

**“When you’re stressed or anxious to the point where you can’t function, can’t sleep, can’t eat, where you can’t go out with someone just to say hello, or you’re crying all the time, or you’re cutting yourself, that’s not just stress or anxiety from college. That’s disorder behavior.”**

—Deborah Edelman-Blank,  
UML’s director of counseling services

**PSYCHOTHERAPIST T.J. DINSMORE ’04** wishes that social media would have made a more gradual entrance into the world; that would have made it easier for parents, teachers and mental health professionals to understand and manage. Instead, it seemed to fall out of the sky around 15 years ago. Apple released the first iPhone in 2007, when most of today’s college students were in grade school, and a flurry of social media apps like Instagram and Snapchat soon followed. Experts agree it’s no coincidence that the rates of student anxiety and depression began to climb right around the same time.

Dinsmore, who earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from UML and a master’s from Boston University, noticed the sudden change while interning at Worcester Polytechnic Institute’s student counseling center in 2011. “That was my first exposure to just how powerful social media platforms can be,” he says. While students were mostly on Facebook and Twitter at the time, Dinsmore says he could already see the dark side of social media taking hold, such as FOMO (fear of missing out).

“I noticed students looking at what other people were doing and comparing themselves to these idealized projections—the cool trips on weekends, having the right clothes or cars, posing the right way at Starbucks—and feeling like they’re not measuring up,” he says. “The trickle-down effect of that is that people can develop anxiety and depression symptoms. They start to see themselves negatively, and their self-esteem changes.”

Armed with the latest phones and social media apps, high school seniors today are less likely to hang out with friends, date and get their driver’s licenses, while they’re more likely to feel lonely and be sleep-deprived, according to the annual “Monitoring the Future” survey, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

As a school psychologist at Wakefield Memorial High School, Rebecca Gordon ’14 deals with the fallout from social media every day. “A lot of peer issues happen on social media overnight. Then the next day at school, so-and-so is really mad at so-and-so and talking about how awful they are,” says Gordon, who double-majored in psychology

and fine arts at UML. “The problem with social media is that it oftentimes reinforces that negative behavior. It produces more anxiety or depressive feelings, or poor social skills.” Balsis agrees.

“This influence of social media is what I think underlies this huge change in anxiety and depression in the last five to six years,” he says, noting that studies show girls are hit especially hard by social media pressures. He worries how it will affect his own 8-year-old daughter someday. “She doesn’t have a phone yet, and we’re going to resist that as long as possible,” he says.

Alice Frye, an assistant teaching professor of psychology, points out that smartphones and social media have their benefits, and adds that students are becoming more aware of their downsides. But she also has a strict no-device rule in her classes. “For most college-aged students, their brains are still developing. Their frontal lobes aren’t finished,” Frye says. “So the idea that they are spending so much time on social media interacting with something that isn’t actually a human being—that’s worrisome.”

Unfortunately, the social media genie is out of the bottle (and probably has a million followers on Twitter). “The best we can do is try to help people have a good relationship with it, kind of like with alcohol,” says Dinsmore, who’s had his own practice in Londonderry, N.H., since 2015. He encourages patients to be mindful of how much time they’re spending on their devices.

“When you are feeling that compulsion or impulse to pick up your phone, try to be aware of what was happening in your thoughts and emotions in the last half hour of your life,” he says. “Why were you feeling the need to pick up the phone and check Facebook or Instagram? A lot of times, if you really work with somebody and keep them on task with tracking this stuff, it’s usually because, ‘Well, I was lonely. I was kind of bored. Or something happened earlier in the day that made me angry or anxious, and I was looking for a distraction.’ So it’s almost like this tool that thwarts the natural emotional awareness process. People use it to numb, almost like a substance.”

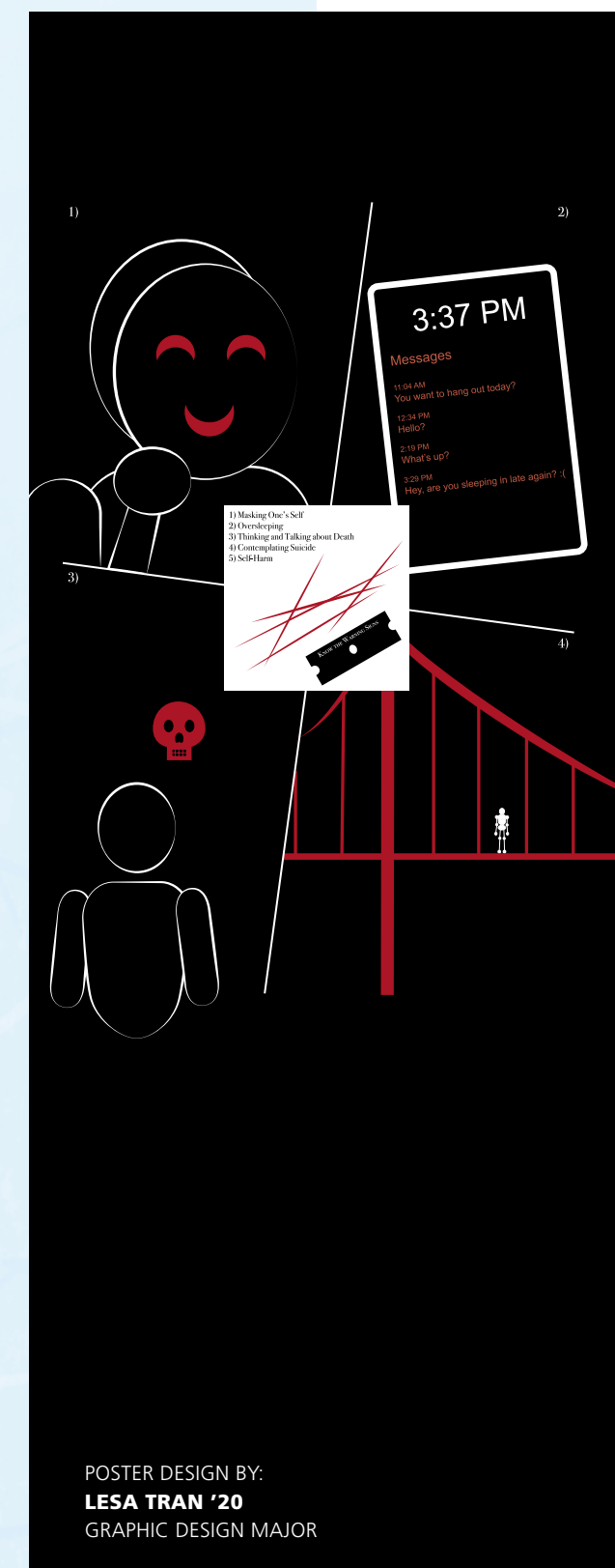
**FACULTY MEMBERS CAN SEE** the pressure on the faces of students, who can often struggle with resilience. “Some students are very, very hard on themselves,” says Frye, who points out that college has traditionally been a time when young people are given license to make mistakes and learn from failures. “But they can’t learn from those failures if every failure is treated like the end of the world. So it’s important to help students struggling with anxiety and depression, so they can take full advantage of the developmental trajectory that they’re in at this stage. And it’s our responsibility as faculty to be alert to that in our students.”

**“Students can’t learn from failures if every failure is treated like the end of the world.”**

—Psychotherapist T.J. Dinsmore ’04

To that end, about 50 faculty members from across the university gathered on North Campus on a gray Friday afternoon last November for a two-hour workshop on “Helping Students in Distress.” Part of the Kennedy College of Sciences’ “Teaching and Learning Lunch Series,” the workshop was designed to help faculty members—who are experts in fields like mechanical engineering, finance and art history, but have little training in mental health—learn more about the issues facing today’s students.

Kate Legee, the university’s associate director of student conduct and prevention of violence, shared tips on how to recognize student distress (inability to focus, lack of motivation, flat affect) and how to talk with them (express empathy, deal with resistance, support self-efficacy). Faculty members also learned more about STARs (Students at Risk), the university’s behavioral intervention program.



POSTER DESIGN BY:  
**LESA TRAN ’20**  
GRAPHIC DESIGN MAJOR



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

UML takes a campus-wide approach to mental health awareness. Here are some of the programs and student groups that are here to help.

### STARS: The UMass Lowell Behavioral Intervention Team

Faculty, staff and students who are worried about a student's mental or physical well-being can submit an online referral to the university's behavioral intervention team, called Students at Risk (STARS). A collaborative team made up of representatives from the Dean of Students' Office, Student Health Services, the Counseling Center, Disability Services, Campus Conduct, EMS and the UML Police Department meets weekly during the academic year to discuss the referrals. Typically, someone from Student Affairs then reaches out to the student to check in and offer help.

### Healthy H.A.W.K.S.

Healthy H.A.W.K.S. (Health Advocate With Knowledge and Skills) is a volunteer student group that offers peer-to-peer health resources on topics like stress, sleep, substance abuse and sexual and reproductive health. They bring therapy dogs to campus for "Paws to Play" events for students battling homesickness or stress, and they also host Stress Relief Fairs before finals each semester.

### Exercise is Medicine

A collaboration between Campus Recreation, the Wellness Center and the Exercise Physiology Department, the program teaches students how exercise can improve their overall well-being by providing them with 16 personal training sessions—free of charge. Participants, who are usually referred to the program by Counseling Services, are paired with certified student trainers for personally tailored one-hour workouts at either the Campus Recreation Center or the Riverview Fitness Center.

### UMatter2

UMatter2 is a campus initiative that works to empower the university community to be proactive about suicide prevention, mental health and overall wellness. With the motto "One Conversation Can Save a Life," the group is committed to the emotional well-being of the campus community. [uml.edu/umatter](http://uml.edu/umatter)

College athletes, who face the added pressures of competition and maintaining their academic eligibility, are not immune from the epidemic. In fact, the NCAA's chief medical officer, Brian Hainline, has declared mental health to be the No. 1 issue in college athletics. In May, UMass Lowell hosted the America East Conference's fourth annual Health and Safety Summit, which focused on mental health.

In the College of Education, meanwhile, future teachers and school administrators are learning how to work with students struggling with things like anxiety or trauma. While issues like these used to be addressed by specialists outside of the classroom, Assoc. Prof. Phitsamay Uy says many states, including Massachusetts, are implementing social and emotional learning (SEL) into their curriculum standards, which teaches students life skills such as managing emotions and working through conflicts.

"Having social workers and psychologists in schools is great, but that's the reactive end," says Uy, who notes that teaching candidates are being trained to take a more proactive approach, "checking in with students as part of their daily class routine."

Uy, whose research focus is on teaching diverse populations, says some students are surprised to discover how much more there is to teaching than coming up with lesson plans. "Sometimes they think, 'My job is to teach math or history. What do I need to know about social emotional learning?'" Uy says. "But if a child is coming to you traumatized or emotionally unstable for any reason, they're not ready to learn."

**F**ORTUNATELY, EXPERTS AGREE that anxiety and depression are both highly treatable. "They're not things people have to plan to live with their whole lives," Edelman-Blank says.

And the stigma around mental health issues, which DiFilippo addressed head-on during his Convocation address, also seems to be waning. "There is less of a stigma," Dinsmore says, "but there's definitely still a ways to go until it is seen in a more normalized way, like a medical condition such as diabetes."

While Colangelo initially worried what others on campus might think about her anxiety disorder, she came to realize that "everyone has their stuff" they're dealing with. "I'm not ashamed of it at all," she says. "Now it's my thing. I deal with it."

In fact, it even spurred her to pursue a \$1,000 honors fellowship to help Assoc. Prof. Ashleigh Hillier research the experiences of college students with depression, anxiety and other emotional and intellectual disabilities. After collecting and analyzing data from almost 200 students for more than a year, Colangelo presented her findings this spring for her Honors thesis.

"We're hoping to find out more about what predicts anxiety among our students, and figure out where the campus might be able to best provide supports," says Hillier, whose early findings show that students who feel less connected to campus, such as transfer students, report feeling higher levels of anxiety.

Colangelo, who will begin pursuing her master's degree in exercise physiology at UML in the fall, is thankful she chose a school that provided her with the resources and opportunity to not only overcome her obstacles, but to thrive.

"As you grow up from freshman year to senior year, you realize everyone's doing their own thing in college and has their own quirks," she says. "Especially at a school like UMass Lowell, which is so big and so diverse, I feel it has such an accepting environment." [UML](http://uml.edu)

**THIS YEAR, WE CELEBRATE THE FIGHTERS,  
THE WRITERS, THE STAY-UP-ALL-NIGHTERS,  
THE THINKERS, THE TEACHERS, THE ARTISTS,  
THE HEALERS, THE GIVERS, THE MAKERS,  
THE FEARLESS RISK TAKERS, THE BUILDERS,  
THE DREAMERS AND THE STEADFAST BELIEVERS  
WHO HAVE MADE THIS UNIVERSITY GREAT.**

**WE ARE 125 YEARS PROUD. WE ARE UMASS LOWELL.**







# OMG!

> BY SARAH CORBETT

**WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO HOST ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD—WITH JUST 10 WEEKS' NOTICE? A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT HOW UML PULLED IT OFF.**

**D**o not underestimate the power of a handwritten letter.

Of course, it helps if its author is the award-winning novelist Andre Dubus III. And, if you're UMass Lowell, it helps if Andre Dubus III happens to teach in your English Department.

When Dubus wrote Oprah Winfrey a thank-you note after his novel "House of Sand and Fog" was featured on "Oprah's Book Club" in 2000, she actually read it. More important to this story: She remembered it.

"Of course I wrote her a note," Dubus says today. "She quite literally changed my life." He is referring, in part, to the fact that his book's inclusion in Winfrey's club, and his subsequent appearance on her TV show, played an important role in the millions of copies "House" went on to sell. It was a No. 1 New York Times bestseller, shortlisted for the National Book Award and transformed into an Academy Award-nominated film.)

Winfrey says she receives a surprisingly small number of letters from "Book Club" alumni, and so when Dubus reached out 15 years later to ask her for a favor, she recalled him fondly. Dubus spent three years going back and forth with her team, trying to persuade Winfrey to come to UMass Lowell as the featured guest in the university's Chancellor's Speaker Series.

At the end of last summer—after learning that the event would lead to many student scholarships—she decided it was "worth firing up the jet for." Plus, Winfrey says, "it was a really good letter."

She confirmed the date on Sept. 7, giving the university a little over two months to pull off what most organizations spend the better part of a year preparing for: Hosting perhaps the world's most influential and well-known woman.

The campus has had practice hosting big-name visitors, to be sure: The two guests who preceded Winfrey in the Chancellor's Speaker Series were bestselling author Stephen King and three-time Oscar-winning actress Meryl Streep.

But Winfrey is in a league of her own. King and Streep drove themselves to campus, for Pete's sake—and not just because they happen to live close enough. Winfrey, on the other hand, can't take a step without the world noticing. Her every moment is accounted for, her every move clocked.

It's safe to say that pressure was felt at UML. But we River Hawks thrive under pressure.

*Continued*



**LOOKING BACK NOW** Winfrey's visit is a blur.

But what is clear is that the university had never before experienced anything like it.

Records were broken all over the place—from the number of tickets sold, to the amount of sponsorship support secured, to the level of media attention.

"We knew right away that this was not only a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide an incredible experience for our campus and our community, but also to raise a lot of amount of money for student scholarships," says Chancellor Jacquie Moloney. "But I think we were all surprised by the response."

Almost immediately, the university signed on three \$100,000 title sponsors—Liberty Mutual Insurance, Suffolk Construction and the Marty Meehan Educational Foundation—an unprecedented figure at UML. Another three dozen sponsors at varying levels would follow.

Student tickets sold out in two days. Calls were fielded from all over the country. C-SPAN wanted to live-stream. People magazine requested access.

A 91-page operations guidebook—and a team with representatives from literally every corner of the university—was required to manage everything from security to stage design to snacks (Winfrey's green room requests were surprisingly simple: sparkling water with a straw, cut fruit and veggies, raw almonds).

But never did the university lose sight of the brass ring: more money that would allow more deserving students to get a quality education. Proceeds from "A Conversation with Oprah Winfrey" went straight to the Oprah Winfrey Scholarship Fund. The first six recipients were selected after a rigorous process in which deserving students were nominated and vetted by the Financial Aid Office. They come from a variety of backgrounds, but share a common life circumstance: Each bears the financial responsibility of their education. All face significant personal challenges, and all work part-time jobs.

Winfrey's story is not unlike those of many UML students. As she told the crowd at the Tsongas Center that night in November, she understands what it's like to struggle and has come to believe that "education is the door to freedom, the rainbow that leads to the pot of gold."

Dubus says that this belief, and that connection to the UMass Lowell story, was a factor in her decision to come to the university.

"It became clear to me that what really got Oprah to come to Lowell was her knowing that she would be doing a lot of good for young people who, in general, don't have anything just given to them," he says. "It was hearing from us that she and her powerful influence would do only good things if she came here, good things for young people who might very well need a helping hand now and then, young people who, like her, started out with little more than their dreams."

Young people like Flore Stécie Norcéide, a junior who is studying electrical and computer engineering.

"This scholarship makes a big difference to me—as soon as I heard about it, I called my family in Haiti," she says. "Oprah's generosity and warmth make me hope that one day, I can be that important person for someone else."

Norcéide wasn't the only one to feel that way. The Oprah Effect lingered on campus and around the city for days.

"Saying she was inspiring doesn't do it justice," says Moloney. "Oprah shared so much wisdom and kindness, and truly touched the hearts and souls of both this university and this city. And that was before she absolutely shocked us by matching the money we had raised. Words can't express the impact \$3 million will have on students' lives. We are so grateful."

It appears to be mutual. The next morning, Dubus got a text from Winfrey.

"I have a flip phone and don't text—nor have I ever been on social media nor seen an emoji or a meme—but I can receive texts," he says. "And the morning after that magical night, I got one from Oprah, telling me what a great night it was and thanking me for being so 'persistent.'"

Unpracticed in the intricacies of replying to texts, Dubus pressed the call button instead and Winfrey picked right up, he says.

"She said, 'Andre, is this you?' And I said, 'Yes, Oprah, is this you?' And then we had a lovely conversation about UML and the night before, where she again said how glad she was to make the trip."

Not nearly as glad as we are. Read on for a behind-the-scenes look at how the magical night came together.

**"What really got Oprah to come to Lowell was hearing from us that she would do only good things if she came here, good things for young people who might very well need a helping hand now and then, young people who, like her, started out with little more than their dreams."**

—Andre Dubus III

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Jacquie and Ed Moloney  
Soho Development – Jim McClutchy  
UMass Foundation

**THE WORK BEGINS**

An internal planning committee has been assembled, an external production company hired. Ticket prices and sponsorship levels are confirmed. It's go time.

**Sept. 24**

The university teases the news on social media channels starting at 9 a.m.



**Sept. 25**

The news goes live on all channels. The hashtag #OPRAHatUML is promoted everywhere.

**Sept. 27**

Within a couple of days, nearly 100 media outlets pick up the news of Winfrey's visit.

**Sept. 28**

A presale goes live at 10 a.m. for faculty, staff, students and alumni. Heavy traffic to the ticket page overwhelms the website. "It was so exciting that Oprah was coming here," says business grad student Somto Nnyamah, who went on to earn her MBA in May. "When my friends at other universities compare their school to mine, I ask them, 'Did Oprah come to your campus?' They get quiet pretty fast."

**Oct. 1**

Ticket sales open to the public. Nearly 1,000 tickets are sold by end of day. Student tickets sell out by the following day.

**Oct. 2**

Ads are placed in newspapers and magazines, and five billboards go up on the major highways in the region.

**Oct. 8**

Chancellor Jacquie Moloney, already a Winfrey fan, begins binge-reading and listening to all things Oprah, starting with her book "What I Know for Sure" and her podcast "Oprah's SuperSoul Conversations."



**Oct. 15**

Chancellor Moloney posts a video on her Facebook page asking students to submit questions they'd like to ask of Winfrey.

**IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS**

Next up: Furniture selection. Scripts and stage direction. Sound. Food. Designing a program. Ordering flowers. Finalizing questions to ask Winfrey. Security. Making a Spotify playlist for sponsor and alumni receptions. Designing student T-shirts for a master class Winfrey will hold in the afternoon.

"By the end of it all, I had 870 emails about the logistics," says Director of Special Events Rick Sherburne, who counted.

**Oct. 16**

Team Oprah declines any stipend and travel expenses: "We're all set."

**Oct. 18**

Team Oprah requests two VIP tickets for a Lowell High School student who had written Winfrey a letter that resonated with her. Winfrey, they say, also wants to meet with the young woman.

**Oct. 22**

The team nails down a game plan for everything from set fabrication (walls and flooring must be constructed) to lighting, options for furniture and accessories, and audio and visual needs.



**Oct. 26**

Questions that will be asked of Oprah by students—during both the master class and the main event—are reviewed and finalized.

**THE WEEK BEFORE**

**Nov. 7**

The sponsorship deadline closes. Close to \$1.5 million in sponsorships and revenue has been raised.

**Nov. 8**

Winfrey's PR rep comments that the proposed backdrop is "a fun nod" to "The Oprah Winfrey Show" set.



**"Your purpose is how you show up every day. When you do these little, small things every day, these little kindnesses—looking people in the eye, paying attention, getting off your phone for a frickin' minute—that's what really counts."**

**Nov. 9**

The video team pre-tapes the three students selected to ask Winfrey questions during the main event: Biology major A'Kristionna King ("What gave you the courage to follow your dreams despite your troubled childhood? How were you able to break free from that to become what you are now?"), business major John Lesack ("At what point did you consider yourself a success?") and economics and biomedical engineering major Olivia Cheung ("What advice do you have for young people in America, especially young women?")



Continued on page 40

**OPRAH'S VISIT BY THE NUMBERS**

**69**

Days UMass Lowell had to prepare for Oprah's visit

**250**

Students who attended master class with Oprah

**298**

UML employees who worked on the event

**6**

Students in the initial group of Oprah Scholars

**38**

Sponsors for "A Conversation with Oprah Winfrey"

**6,000+**

Attendees at the Tsongas Center

**3 MILLION**

Dollars raised for scholarships

**COUNTLESS**

People inspired by Winfrey's visit









**“You can bless your own life by being happy for other people’s success. You have to train yourself in the vibration of positivity. Because any time you start saying, ‘Why is that not me?’—that negative stuff comes back to you.”**

**Nov. 12**  
Meteorologists start predicting the first snowfall of the season for New England—for the night of the event.

**Nov. 14**  
**THE DAY BEFORE**

**10:30 A.M.**  
The weather forecast for event day continues to look dicey. Alumna and WBZ Boston meteorologist Sarah Wroblewski '05 reports: “We’re looking at the first storm of the season for tomorrow . . . 2 to 4 inches of snow north and west of Boston. It could turn quite slippery, as we could see a period of freezing rain and some sleet mixed in.”

**11:00 A.M.**  
Metal detectors are installed at the Tsongas Center.

**2:30 P.M.**  
Winfrey’s personal security team arrives on campus to do a walkthrough. Upon being asked what it’s like to keep Winfrey safe, one of her team says that she is so friendly, they have to stay on their toes. “We’ll be in a motorcade and she’ll roll down the window and hang half her body out, waving and yelling to people. And we’ll all be like, “WHAT IS SHE DOING?”

**3:00 P.M.**  
The production team begins loading in the Tsongas Center set, sound and video equipment and lighting. They don’t leave until midnight.

**Nov. 15**  
**FINAL COUNTDOWN**

**9:30 A.M.**  
Chancellor Moloney receives an email from alumna Lindsay Blount '17. In her final year at UML, Blount’s husband, an Air Force major, was deployed to Iraq. “I had no idea how I was going to finish my last year, finish my honors thesis and take care of my 2- and 3-year-old daughters—in a city where we have no family,” Blount writes. She did it, she says, with support from UML—and Oprah’s SuperSoul Sundays.

“Oprah ends every magazine with ‘What I know for sure.’ In that spirit, this is what I know for sure: Getting a degree from UML was the best decision this military wife, mother of two and English literature nerd has ever made,” she writes. “What I know for sure is that by trusting the knowledge and advice and encouragement of UML, my life has been enriched in ways that are constantly unfolding.”

She concludes with: “I have tickets for Oprah at UML and I CANNOT WAIT.” That, says Moloney, was a good letter.



**10:00 A.M.**  
There’s moisture in the air, and it’s not just coming from our eyes after reading Blount’s letter. Meteorologists forecast more snow than originally expected, and the predicted time of snow arrival moves from late evening to 5-7 p.m.

**1:00 P.M.**  
Chancellor Moloney rehearses on stage with the production team.



**1:29 P.M.**  
Team Oprah shares that Winfrey will be wearing a “plum sweater and jewel toned skirt.”

**2:30 P.M.**  
All doors at the Tsongas Center are secured; from this point on, any entry or delivery goes through the security team.

**3:00 P.M.**  
Massachusetts State Police arrive at the Tsongas Center with a K-9 unit to do a sweep of the entire facility. The UMass Lowell police detail arrives. “In total, we had 36 officers working that day,” says UML Lieutenant Melissa Mullen '98, who was assigned to “body” Winfrey’s movements for the entirety of the visit. Winfrey also has her own security team shadowing her.

**Nov. 15**  
**THE MASTER CLASS**

**2:30 P.M.**  
Master class registration begins, and 250 students start arriving to check in. They receive Oprah T-shirts and color-coded wristbands (green if they’ve been selected to ask Winfrey a question, blue for everyone else). For security purposes, all attendees are told to check bags and coats in a separate location. They are asked to turn off their phones and refrain from recording and taking photos of Winfrey.



**3:30 P.M.**  
The energy in Moloney Hall is crackling. Student attendees start blowing up the hashtag #OPRAHatUML and using the special Snapchat geofilters that UML’s social media team created for the day.



**3:45 P.M.**  
Winfrey’s motorcade of three black Cadillac Escalades pulls up to the loading dock. (The previous day, Winfrey had flown from her home in California to Hanscom Field in Bedford, Mass.)

**3:47 P.M.**  
As Winfrey exits her car, she greets university administrators. As the group walks toward the entrance, Winfrey notices a father and a couple of kids standing on the street nearby, waving and calling her name. She walks over to them with a big smile and chats with them for a few minutes, accepting some mementos they hand her. “That was a really nice moment,” Mullen says. “She was so down to earth and genuine. Those people were thrilled.”

**3:50 P.M.**  
Winfrey is escorted to her green room outside of Moloney Hall, using a secured freight elevator closed to the general public. Once there, she is greeted by Moloney, UMass President Marty Meehan, Vice Chancellor of University Relations Patricia McCafferty, Dubus and members of Dubus’ family.

**4:10 P.M.**  
Winfrey walks out on stage and students jump to their feet, clapping and cheering. She looks into the crowd and notices that everyone is wearing the same blue T-shirt. “Oh my gosh, you’re wearing Oprah shirts!” she says. Pointing at one after another, she shouts, “You get a shirt! You get a shirt! Everybody gets a shirt!” in a nod to her famous giveaways on “The Oprah Winfrey Show.”



**4:18 P.M.**  
Dubus—knowing that Team Oprah has warned that Winfrey “goes long” with her answers—shakes things up and foregoes his own planned questions to allow students more time to ask theirs.

**4:22 P.M.**  
As part of her response to education major Janelle Christopher, who asks Winfrey what she’d like remembered about her, Winfrey mentions that the late Maya Angelou (“a mother figure to me”) set her straight when Winfrey said the school for girls that she built in South Africa would be her greatest legacy. “She said to me, ‘You’ll never know what your legacy will be, because your legacy is every life you touch.’ And she was right: It’s not the building with your name on it. It’s not all the acclaim. It’s not a monument to yourself. It’s the journey and every person you encountered on it.”

**4:24 P.M.**  
Psychology student Twisha Mohapatra asks Winfrey to share what she does daily for self-care and happiness. “Nothing works better than gratitude,” says Winfrey, adding that “thank you” is the first thought she has every morning. “In the most difficult moments, find the silver lining, or the piece of light in the darkness, just something to be grateful for. And when you run out of things to be grateful for, check your breath. You’re still breathing; you’re still here.”

**4:30 P.M.**  
Winfrey says gratitude helped her to overcome her childhood in Mississippi. “There was no dream or hope for a young, black girl then—other than being a maid, which my grandmother was and my mother was. There wasn’t even a thought that I could be a schoolteacher or a secretary,” she says. Her grandmother was a maid for a white family named the Leonards, who treated her decently. “And my grandmother used to say to me, ‘Oh, I hope you grow up and get some good, white folks like the Leonards.’” “I wish my grandmother had lived to see that I did grow up to get some good, white folks. Working for me.” The students go wild.

**4:33 P.M.**  
Winfrey suggests that she and education doctoral student Argyro Armstrong (who asks a question about valuing interconnectivity vs. individuality in the educational system) do a road tour based on their unique names: “We could really throw them off: Oprah and Argyro!” Armstrong appears to hyperventilate at the suggestion.

**4:35 P.M.**  
Winfrey says that when Dubus first asked her to come to UML, “I thought ‘Why would I do that? It’s not like I’m going to be in Lowell.’” She says she wanted to come “because the letter that he wrote me after the book club was so outstanding that it’s now in the Smithsonian”—referring to the



**“Run your own race. Never worry about what other people are doing, because no one else is like you.”**

Washington, D.C., institution’s exhibit at the National Museum of African American History & Culture, which opened “Watching Oprah: The Oprah Winfrey Show and American Culture” in June 2018. (“I did not know that!” exclaims a delighted Dubus, about the letter being included in the exhibit.) But what really persuaded Winfrey to come, she says, was that she could serve others by having a conversation with students and helping to raise scholarship money.

**4:43 P.M.**  
Winfrey mentions that she was a broadcast news anchor in her 20s, but was “completely uncomfortable in that role. But I didn’t want to give it up, because my father would say, ‘You’re making \$22,000! You’re not gonna make no money like that anywhere else.’” She notes that by the time she was 25, she was making \$25,000. “And that’s when I met my best friend, Gayle [King]. And she said, ‘Can you imagine if you’re 40 and making \$40,000?’ She ain’t saying that anymore.” (In June, Forbes released its list of America’s richest self-made women; Winfrey was No. 10, with a reported net worth of \$2.6 billion.)

**4:55 P.M.**  
Winfrey wraps up by urging students to “lead with intention.” Meehan presents her with a UML hockey jersey with her name on the back. “You’ll see me in this on Instagram walking my dogs!” she says.



**5:00 P.M.**  
As a team from UML escorts Winfrey to the freight elevator, which they take down to the loading dock to meet the motorcade and police escort, students remain on their feet, cheering. “She charmed us for an hour, stole our hearts and left us dazed in her wake,” says global studies major Cecilia Idika-Kalu. “An hour never felt shorter!”

**Nov. 15**  
**SPONSOR AND ALUMNI RECEPTIONS**

**4:30 P.M.**  
Event sponsors begin arriving to the Tsongas Center for a special reception and photo line with Winfrey.

**5:10 P.M.**  
Chancellor Moloney offers to escort Winfrey to her green room on the first floor of the Tsongas Center so she can rest, but Winfrey suggests they go straight to the reception.



**5:15 P.M.**  
As Moloney and Winfrey walk through secured back halls of the Tsongas Center, Winfrey throws her arm around Moloney’s shoulders, wasting no time on small talk. “I shared with her a story about last summer, when I finished a third year being chancellor and was taking stock about whether I should continue in the role,” Moloney says. “She reminded me to think deeply about what’s right for me and right for my community.”

**5:20 P.M.**  
About 200 sponsor reception guests queue up for the photo line. “I only had to announce from the podium once,” says Events Manager Kathleen Sullivan. “Never has a group lined up faster.”

**5:25 P.M.**  
Winfrey enters the East Club Room and jumps right into the photo line, taking shots with guests like Glorianne Demoulas-Farnham and Mary Kate Folan, shown below from left.





5:30 P.M.

Alumni arrive for a reception in the Talon Club, decorated with framed Winfrey quotes like "Surround yourself only with people who are going to lift you higher." Some of Winfrey's favorite foods are being served, including mini chicken pot pie, corn fritters, kale chips and caramel popcorn.

6:30 P.M.

Winfrey asks all reception staff if they'd like photos before she leaves.

**Nov. 15 THE MAIN EVENT**

5:00 P.M.

As a bomb-sniffing dog does a final sweep of the building, the Media Relations team begins checking in members of print and broadcast media, including journalists from People magazine, The Boston Globe and Boston TV stations. (The event would later garner more than 700 media hits.)

5:30 P.M.

Doors open at the Tsongas Center. Despite the fact that it's freezing and snow is starting to come down, the line outside already wraps around the building. All ticket holders are screened by metal detectors as they enter.

5:45 P.M.

The crowd—which has traveled from as far as Canada—comes through with the Oprah attire.



6:45 P.M.

Several people surge the stage to take photos on the set. "That was unexpected," says Sherburne. "The police had to escort them off."

6:50 P.M.

The snow is really coming down, and the line outside is still long. Nearly 6,000 tickets were sold.

7:00 P.M.

After an intro by Dubus (who cheekily describes her as "a voracious reader of some very fine books"), Winfrey walks on stage and shouts, "Hellooooo, Lowell!"



7:22 P.M.

After Moloney shows a clip of Winfrey raving about Dubus' book "House of Sand of Fog" on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in 2001, Winfrey asks him to stand in the audience and talk about how it feels to be an author "and somebody is screaming about your book on TV." Dubus says his reaction at

the time was, "One person is reading my book! ... I don't think you understand what a big deal this is for writers. Some of the classics you read in your college classes—only 3,000 copies sold when they were published. And because she puts her magic wand on a writer's book, at least 1 million sell ... I am very grateful."



7:29 P.M.

Winfrey mentions that she drives a Volkswagen. "If you're in a fancy car, people notice you, but if you're driving a Volkswagen, nobody ever thinks you're driving that."

7:37 P.M.

Winfrey shares that she did not miss one show in 25 years of production of "The Oprah Winfrey Show." Why? Because she wanted to be there for all the people who would be showing up to see her. "I might have woken up at 3 a.m., feeling sick, but I'd think about the women who got their nails done ... or who bought their sparkly shoes," in a nod to the chancellor's silver heels. ("Those shoes were definitely out of my comfort zone, but I wanted to step it up for Oprah," Moloney says today. "My daughter and granddaughter told me I could pull it off.")



7:48 P.M.

Winfrey tells a story about a time when Nelson Mandela invited her and her long-time partner, Stedman Graham, to stay at his house in South Africa. They'd be there for 10 days. "I was very nervous, and I'm not often intimidated. I kept going, 'Oh my God, Stedman, what are we going to talk about? What are we going to talk about for 10 days?' And he goes, 'It's Nelson Mandela. Why don't you try listening?'"

7:52 P.M.

Winfrey explains that the idea for the school she built in South Africa was born during that trip, when she and Mandela were sharing sections of the Sunday newspaper and the front-page story was about the extreme poverty in that country. He asked if she thought it would ever change, and she told him, "Education is the only thing that will make a difference."

And then she casually mentioned that she had been thinking about opening a school. "By the next day, he had invited the Minister of Education over to the house," Winfrey says. "I said, 'I was just thinking about it!' ... but you stay at Nelson Mandela's house for 10 days, and you can't give a candle."

7:56 P.M.

"To change lives, you have to change the way they think, and education is the only thing that does that," Winfrey says, and adds that no one has made a greater impact in her life than her fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Duncan. "She saw me. She got me."

She opened up this thing inside of myself," she says.

Moloney asks the teachers and former teachers in the audience to stand and be recognized. As hundreds rise, Winfrey jumps up and applauds. "I loooooove teachers!" she shouts.

7:58 P.M.

Moloney checks the clock resting on the stage in front of her and realizes the "night is flying by" and there likely won't be time to include the pre-recorded student questions. "I had my cards and I had the interview memorized. I knew where I wanted to take it, the sequence of questions I was going to ask her. But, well, no, none of that happened," Moloney says today, laughing.

8:02 P.M.

Moloney shows a clip from the 2018 Golden Globe Awards, when Winfrey became the first African American woman to be honored with the Cecil B. DeMille Award. Before it plays, Winfrey explains that she had been given only three-and-a-half minutes to deliver a six-and-a-half-minute speech, and so the entire time she was feeling pressure to get in her entire message.



"I wasn't trying to run for president—I was just trying to finish the speech," she says, alluding to reports after that her delivery was presidential. Moloney seizes the opportunity: "I'm glad you said that, because everyone here keeps telling me, 'Ask her if she's running for president,' to ask you about that." The audience explodes, but Winfrey shakes her head. "No, no—I'm not running."

8:23 P.M.

"I have this amazing life. It's as good as you think it is—and even better," Winfrey concludes. "But so is yours. So is yours ... Look at the grace that you have been given, and think about how to shift that paradigm to how you take what you've been given and use it in service to serve the world. That's what you're going to do, Lowell!"

8:24 P.M.

Meehan, UMass Board of Trustees Chairman Rob Manning '84, '11 (H) and Chair of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs Trustee Imari Paris Jeffries walk on stage to present Oprah with an honorary degree.

"An honorary degree is the highest honor you can bestow on an individual, and some people think it's only honorary. It's not. It is earned." Meehan says. "It is earned through a lifetime of making a difference in this world. And I can tell you, I can't think of anyone this university has ever given an honorary degree to who is more worthy than Oprah."



8:26 P.M.

Moloney announces that the school has raised more than \$1.5 million for scholarships from Winfrey's talk, bringing the inaugural Oprah Winfrey Scholars on stage. Winfrey takes what she's been given and uses it to serve the students of UMass Lowell.

"It is my honor to meet each of you," Winfrey says, addressing the six students. "I read each of your letters. I was so moved by each of your stories that, coming here and speaking and sharing this beautiful evening with you all, I wanted to do even more. I would like to match the \$1.5 million—so that students like yourselves can continue in the path of the greatest, purest, truest expression of themselves."

The arena erupts in a roar.

8:31 P.M.

"I'm speechless," says a shocked Moloney, her eyes bright with tears. (She now says she wishes she'd had the presence of mind to instead say, "That's way better than a car!" but it was enough work "just to stay standing," she says.)

8:35 P.M.

Backstage, Winfrey asks to meet with the scholarship recipients alone. "We thought we were just get a group photo," says Norcéide, "but after we took it, she said, 'OK, guys, I want to talk to you alone,' and she closed the door."

"She knew all these details about us from our letters," adds scholarship recipient and theatre major Nick Abourizk '19. "Like one student had written something personal about her mother, and Oprah said, 'How's your mother doing?' She's like this super human, bringing a little drop of light into your life."

"She's very funny and warm. It was like sitting next to your cool aunt at Thanksgiving," says Norcéide. "You just want to be near her energy."

"Oprah Winfrey will continue to touch many lives at UMass Lowell for generations to come with these scholarships," says Moloney. "But it isn't just the money, it's knowing that Oprah Winfrey believes in you. That's what she was telling those student recipients."



**"We are all working toward the highest, truest and most pure expression of ourselves as human beings."**

**THE AFTERMATH**

As Winfrey emerges from a back door at the Tsongas Center, it is snowing hard. Her jet has been grounded because of the weather, so her team has booked rooms nearby.

As her caravan of black Escalades passes through the rotary in front of the Tsongas Center—en route to Cobblestones restaurant, where she will order tortilla soup and the blackened shrimp appetizer, and happily pose for selfies with staff and customers—Winfrey leans out the window and waves joyously to the thousands of fans fighting against the wind and snow to get to their cars.

"I really believe she left Lowell a better place," Moloney says.

We'll be sure to mention that in our thank-you letter. [UML](#)





# Inspire, Invent, Give Back:

## A Career of Breakthrough Moments

> BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

By the time he visited the university three years ago as a guest judge of the DifferenceMaker contest, Brian Rist '77 had already given generously to UMass Lowell: An initial \$25,000 endowment five years before had grown by then to more than \$100,000.

But Rist says he was affected by something more on that visit: "These groups of students so intensely, incredibly passionate about trying to solve real-world problems: poverty, hunger, polluted drinking water—well, that was just really inspiring to me."

When Rist committed last fall to a gift of \$5 million—the largest single donation in the school's history, taking it past its initial \$125 million fundraising goal—he made clear that he intends a sizable share to go toward the DifferenceMaker program.

"Brian's generosity will have a tremendous impact on our students," says Chancellor Jacquie Moloney. "That's the power of 'Our Place'—this determination to help new generations succeed because we share the same story."

For Rist, the decision was easy. "That sort of innovation, of dedication, just needs to be supported," he says.

Innovation has been a defining value for him—at least since the day nearly 30 years ago when, as a young employee at a garage-door company in Florida following one of the deadliest hurricanes in that state's history, he had the first of several life-changing "Eureka!" moments.

"It came to me that the garage door of a house was nearly always its largest opening, but also its weakest, and that if you could find a way to strengthen it, you could save yourself a lot of damage," he says.

That led to Rist's design of a wind-bracing system that sold to Home Depot. Following that, he developed a career's worth of breakthrough storm-protection innovations: a polypropylene "wind-abatement screen" to reduce the effects of hurricane-force winds, a remote-control, roll-down screen system ("like having a bulletproof vest for the vulnerable openings in your home") and several other related products.

In 1996, with a partner and three employees, he founded Storm Smart in southwest Florida. Today, 23 years and several permutations later, with over 200 employees and more than \$50 million in yearly sales, the company has been recognized by Inc. Magazine for two years in a row as one of the fastest-growing privately held companies in the U.S. With over 80,000 customers across several states, Mexico and the Caribbean region, it is among the largest hurricane-protection companies in the world.

It was an unlikely start. The son of a seamstress and a dry-cleaner owner in Stoughton, Mass. ("They were garment-business people—that's how they met"), Rist spent his teenage weekends manning the machines and rolling the quarters at his father's self-service laundromat next door. When the time came to think about college, he was offered a scholarship at the National Institute of Dry Cleaners in Silver Spring, Md.

"But I think my dad probably knew that I wanted something bigger," he says. At the time, though, he had no firm idea of what that might be—until one day, in his senior year of high school, he accompanied a friend on a visit to Lowell State College. His friend's interest was in engineering; his own tended more toward business. "So I'd just kind of come along for the ride. But when I got to looking around, I thought 'Hey, this is kind of a neat place,'" he says. "It seemed like a real neighborhood type of school. Plus, it was affordable."

Rist enrolled the following year. His choice of a major was operations management. He would be the first in his family to graduate from college.

"What I learned those years, not just in the classroom, but the whole thing—the people, the experiences, the culture of the place—I truly believe that without it, I wouldn't be where I am today," he says.

In his mid-60s now, and with four decades of mounting successes behind him, you might expect that Rist would be easing off the gas. Instead, he's pushing harder. He's targeting \$100 million in yearly sales, which he believes is achievable in as little as three years. But not without some adjustments: As the company grows and customer demand increases, greater specialization will be required, and perhaps also a consolidation of space.

"You don't run a \$50-million company with 200 employees the same way you ran things when the company was half that size," he says. "You've got to adapt as you grow; you've got to learn to adjust."

Some CEOs would figure it out themselves. Rist's choice, instead, was to go back to school.

So here he is today, 40-plus years later, back at UMass Lowell—this time as an online student in the Manning School of Business' MBA program. The course he's currently taking seems made to order: Managing Organizational Change.

"I'm learning so much, you wouldn't believe—and probably as much from the other students as from the course itself. They're from all over the world, many from China," he says.



“THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE HURTING. THERE ARE STILL PROBLEMS OUT THERE. AND WE’VE GOT TO END THAT. WE’VE GOT TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO BREAK THAT CYCLE FOR GOOD.”

"We split into study groups; the challenges of expansion, the different types of change. It's so relevant to everything that's happening for me. And a lot of the others, wherever they're from, are going through some of the same things. It's been eye-opening."

More and more lately, there's been a whole new slant to Rist's life.

"I'm not the kind of guy to sit at home, and I'm not a good golfer," he told a reporter late last year. "But doing things to help the community is something I feel really good about."

He serves on the boards of seven local nonprofits, is past president of the Cape Coral Council for Progress and chaired a committee last year to raise the sales tax to help a struggling school system. Lately, together with his wife, Kim, he's been active with the nonprofit Collier-Lee Honor Flight, which pays for the transport and escorting of elderly military veterans to Washington, D.C., to view the memorials of the wars in which they served. "You wheel them

around Washington all day in a wheelchair, watch their faces looking at the things they fought for—one of the most amazing days of my life," he says.

But most dear to Rist is what he sees as his mission with UMass Lowell—which dates back, he says, to his memories of the university, and the city, of 40 years ago.

"Lowell was in rough shape in those days. I knew people who were second- and third-generation unemployed—the mills were closed, there were no jobs, a lot of people were stuck. The city has come a long way; it's most of the way back. But there are still people hurting. There are still problems out there. And we've got to end that. We've got to do what we can to break that cycle for good."

"That's why I believe in programs like DifferenceMaker. They solve problems; they help people help themselves. That's why I give, and why I share my story—to help people, however I can." [UML](#)



# Comcast and UML: Wired to Succeed

> BY DAVID PERRY

Last fall, CNBC's Ron Insana stepped into Moloney Hall for the Annual DifferenceMaker Celebration. Insana was the main attraction for the sold-out event, which raised funds for the popular program that fosters student entrepreneurship. Then, a surprise: Dean Kamen, the New Hampshire-based engineer and Segway inventor, strolled in.

## THE ROOM BUZZED

On the heels of both men was a smiling Ed Gallagher '84, recently retired senior vice president and general manager of sales for Comcast Corp.'s Northeast Division. Comcast sponsored the evening, and Gallagher is friends with Insana and Kamen, the latter of whom announced he was "here to recruit" UML students for his company.

Having both experts made for a memorable night, but it was also emblematic of the connection between the university and Comcast. None of it would have happened without Gallagher's connections, nor Comcast's support.

The students loved it.

"The next day, my e-mail inbox was flooded with thank-yous from students," says Holly Butler '11, '13, the university's entrepreneurial initiatives project director, who oversees DifferenceMaker. "There aren't many times the likes of Ron Insana and Dean Kamen are in the same room, and Ed and Comcast made that possible for our students."

## GOLD-STAR SPONSOR

Comcast is a Fortune 50 company, the largest broadband provider in the country. It is also the provider on campus offering more than 100 live channels through Comcast Xfinity as well as other TV services and on-demand and DVR capability. The service is included in students' room and board fees.

"At Comcast, we consider the university a partner, not a customer," says Gallagher, who retired in March.

A month after Insana spoke, Comcast was among the sponsors of Oprah Winfrey's appearance at the UMass Lowell Chancellor's Speaker Series, a windfall fundraiser for student scholarships.

"It was just surreal," says Gallagher. "It was a proud day. Getting her to the city, to be here for it, was something. I just love to see Lowell shine like that."

Comcast is also a visible sponsor of athletic events across campus, and every time students and other Lowellians pack the Tsongas Center for a hockey game, Senate debate, graduation or pop concert, they're entering a building managed by Spectra, a Comcast company. Spectra (formerly Spectacor) has been running the arena since July 2010.

"We are absolutely happy with our partnership with Spectra," says UML's Director of Athletics Peter Casey, who just finalized another long-term deal with the management company. "Partnering with them definitely gives us some advantages, especially in terms of booking events. They use their relationships and leverage. This is what they do, after all." Comcast also works to help the greater Lowell community, with an annual Comcast Cares day of community service.

## A SHARED WORK ETHIC

Dozens of UMass Lowell graduates work in Comcast's Greater Boston regional office, according to the company, from entry-level positions to management.

Gallagher, a business management graduate who minored in computer science and math, is emblematic of one consistent trait over time for UML grads, and one Kamen emphasized that he sees in UML students: they're hard-working.

Gallagher was a first-generation college student, holding the job he began in high school, working nights at Raytheon.

"I started college at Northern Essex, and at that point I still didn't know what I wanted to do," he says. "I needed to go to a school where I could work at night, and being from Methuen, this was one of the few choices I had. But something clicked when I transferred to UMass Lowell. I don't know if I realized it until much later. But I had some amazing teachers."

After graduation, Gallagher began a series of jobs in telecom and tech, landing with Comcast 12 years ago.

He feels strongly about his alma mater. A member of the Manning School of Business Deans Advisory Board, he was also involved in securing Comcast sponsorship of athletic events and the Center for Irish Partnerships.

"Giving back is always important, but giving back to the community at UMass Lowell is especially important to me," says Gallagher. "I'm so appreciative for what they did in helping me launch a career. As a student, I didn't always recognize the community. I was so busy with everything at the time, but being involved as an alum has made me realize how blessed I was to be there."

"If I had gone to Boston College or somewhere, I don't think it would have worked out as well. I am so thankful that UMass Lowell was there for me." **UML**



"I'm so appreciative for what UMass Lowell did in helping me launch a career. ... Being involved as an alum has made me realize how blessed I was to be there."

—Edward Gallagher '84, retired senior vice president at Comcast Corp., shown here on campus with CNBC's Ron Insana

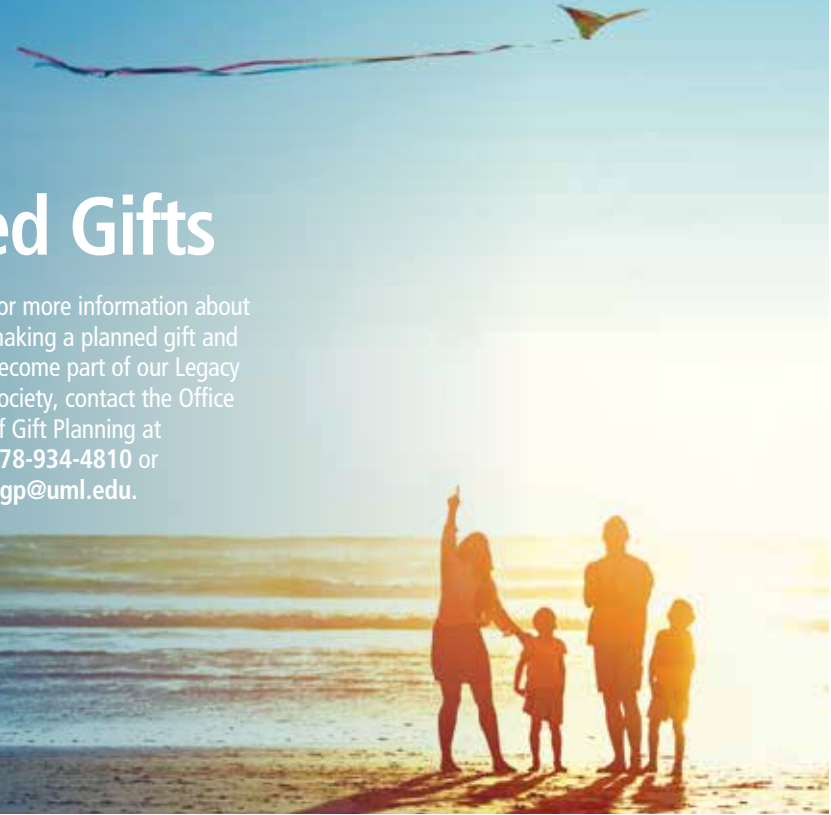




## The Benefits of Planned Gifts

Remembering UMass Lowell in your will or trust is one of the most meaningful gifts you can give to future generations of students. Planned gifts can also provide you with significant benefits as part of an overall financial plan. They can help you maintain control of your assets during your lifetime, take advantage of tax benefits, leave a legacy at UMass Lowell and possibly provide you with income during your lifetime.

For more information about making a planned gift and become part of our Legacy Society, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 978-934-4810 or [ogp@uml.edu](mailto:ogp@uml.edu).



# UML

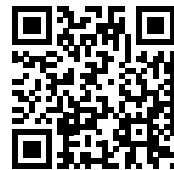
# CONNECT

## RIVER HAWKS HELPING RIVER HAWKS

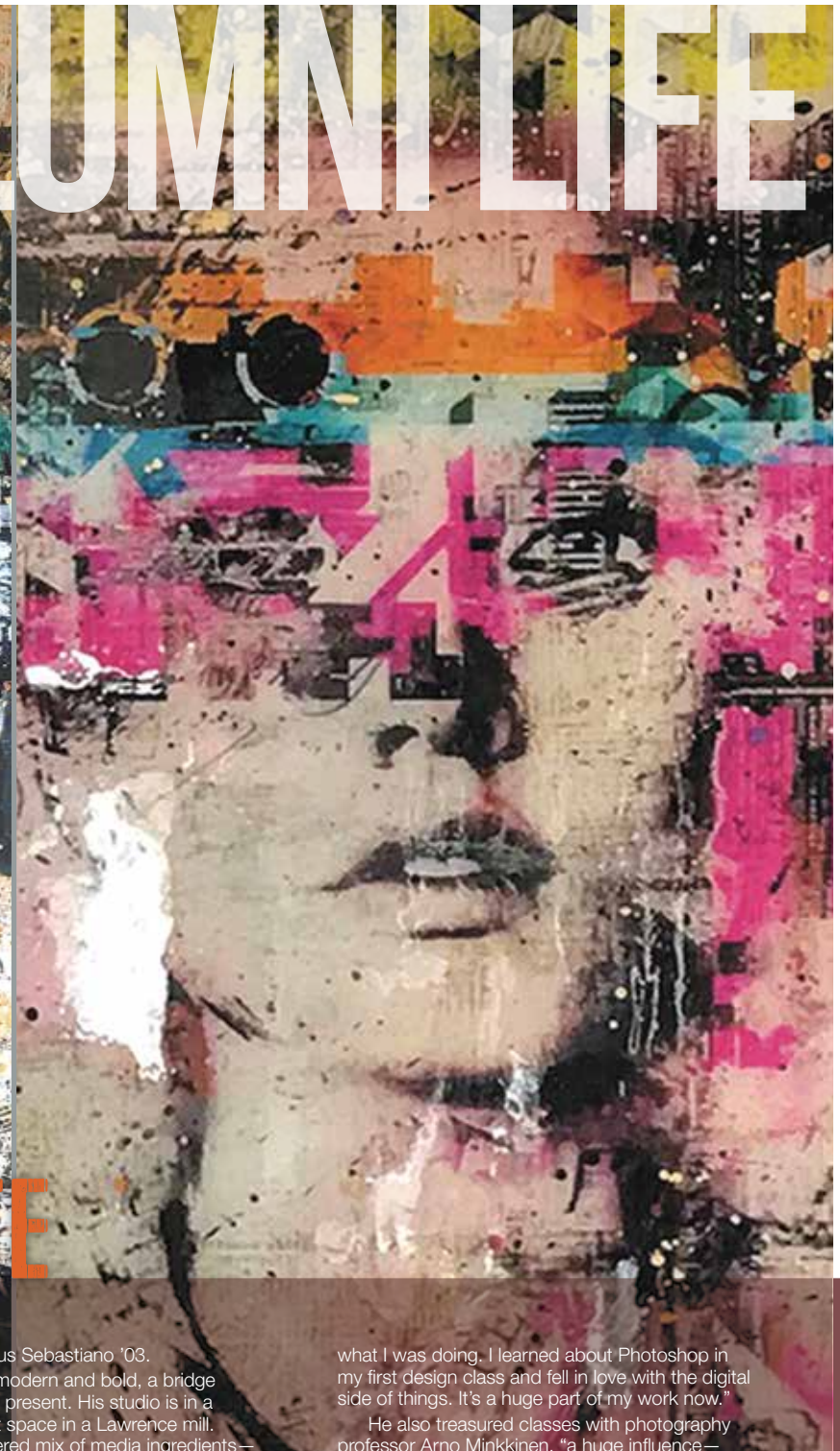
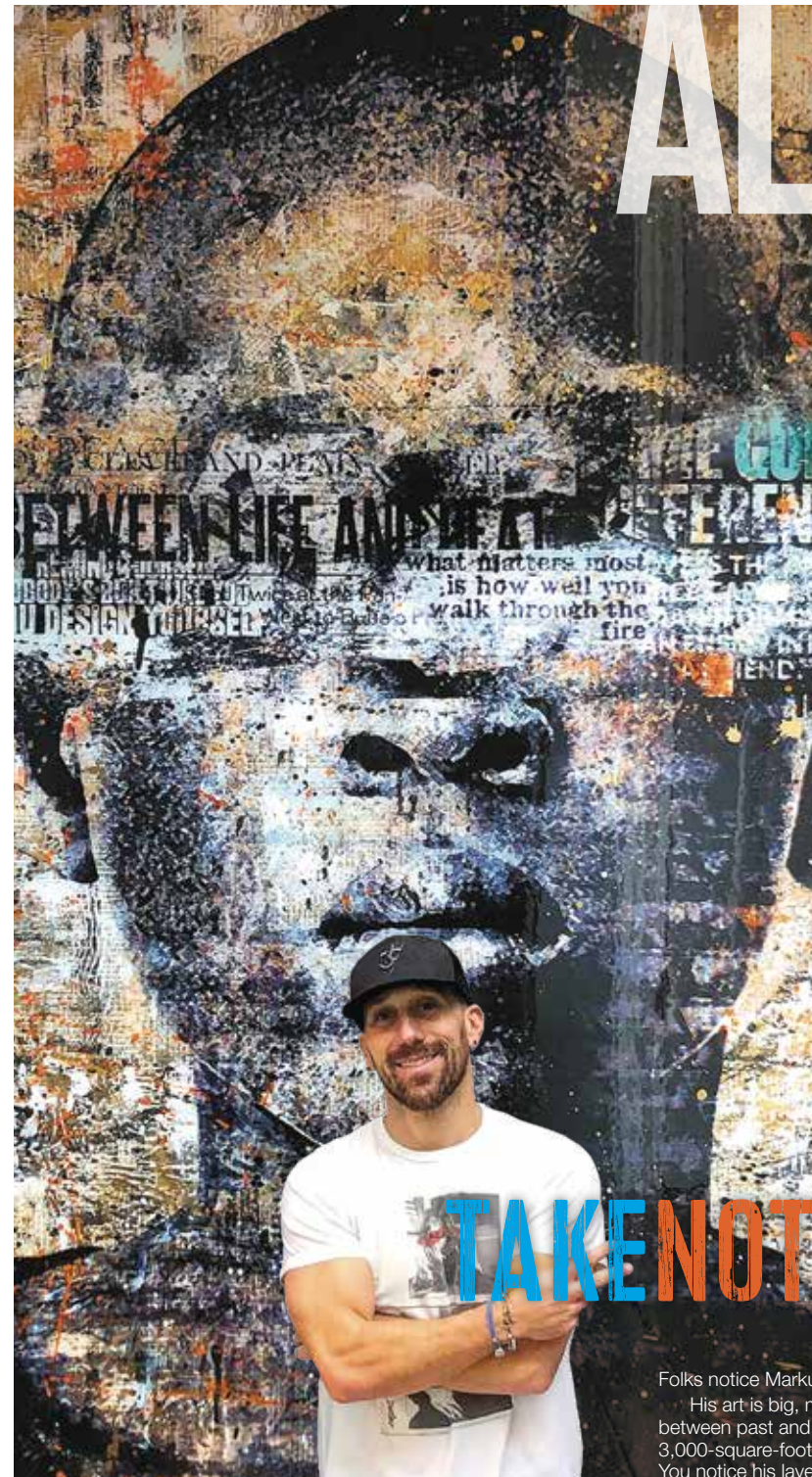
Whether you hail from UMass Lowell, ULowell, Lowell Tech or Lowell State, you're invited to join us on UML Connect—a new online career and mentoring platform for UML alumni, students, faculty and staff.

Become a mentor, be mentored, have career conversations and share job opportunities and professional interests.

Signup now to be a part of it: [umlconnect.org](http://umlconnect.org)



# ALUMNI LIFE



## TAKENOTE

Folks notice Markus Sebastiano '03.

His art is big, modern and bold, a bridge between past and present. His studio is in a 3,000-square-foot space in a Lawrence mill. You notice his layered mix of media ingredients—everything from old newspapers to acrylics, stain, metal, spray paint, water and wood. He does some of the work in his father's sheet metal and fabrication shop in Methuen.

He got his start at UML, graduating with an art degree in 2003. He was known then as Mark Comeau. Friends had always called him Markus and his grandfather's birth name was Sebastiano, so in branding himself professionally, he bridged past and present.

In art class, he was instantly smitten with Photoshop.

"The art program was smaller when I was there," he says. "It was easy in a way, because it was what I was really passionate about. I loved

what I was doing. I learned about Photoshop in my first design class and fell in love with the digital side of things. It's a huge part of my work now."

He also treasured classes with photography professor Arno Minkkinen, "a huge influence—a professor who was a working artist known all over the world."

Sebastiano's own career took off around 2014, after he'd worked in branding, graphic design and apparel.

He now sells his art to corporate and private clients, and is commissioned by buzz-worthy restaurants and hotels to make art to fit each space.

Sebastiano recently had a show in Los Angeles, and he's taped an episode of a new interior design show for Bravo, to air in the near future.

Folks are noticing all over the place now. —DP



**MORE THAN 70 YEARS** after textile chemistry grad student **Y.L. Yang '48** paused for a photo in front of Southwick Hall, his daughter stood in the very spot. **Marjorie Yang, chair of the \$1 billion Hong Kong-based textile company Esquel Group, visited campus recently and talked to students about sustainability and social responsibility. "He didn't go to MIT," she said. "He chose to come here because this was the happening place. And I think, today, maybe we are going back to that."** [1]

**'58 Francis Wieloch** published a memoir of his early life titled "Never Far From Dudley: A Grandfather's Legacy of Growing Up." [2]

**'64 Vasant Jinwala** was awarded the 2018 New England Choice Award for Community Service at the New England Choice Awards ceremony organized by INE Multimedia and INDIA New England News. Jinwala was honored for his tireless work at Shishu Bharati, a Massachusetts school dedicated to developing cultural pride and knowledge by introducing students to Indian arts, languages, customs, religion, geography, history and current events.

**'69 Phil Terrana** published two books this year. "The Man Who Wrote Letters" is a crime novel that begins in Lowell and takes place in a fictional town outside Boston, while "Trump Dismantles Washington" is a satirical account of Trump's presidency.

**Judith (Gauthier) Gosbee** reports, "After teaching English at Haverhill High School from 1969 to 2003, I retired. In 2008, Gary and I moved to Wolfeboro, N.H., where we lived until last year, when we decided to sell our lake house and move back to Massachusetts to be nearer family. We keep busy with our grandsons, yoga, golf and travel to Boulder, Colo., to see our son's family. Retirement rocks!"

**'72 Anne Tisdell** is retired after a career as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. Anne's hobbies include painting (two of which she's sold), photography, singing, cycling and ballroom dancing.

**'74 Christine (Hanks) Erwin** retired and moved to Southwest Florida. She reports, "I've traveled extensively by sailboat and motor yacht along the East Coast, Bahamas and Florida coast. Many trips and tours of Europe, Japan, Hong Kong, Spain, Germany, Belgium, France, USA, Canada, Caribbean, Mediterranean and, soon, the Amazon River!"

**Christine Petrucci '74, '79** was featured in Seacoast Online for her outstanding musical career. She is the founder of Seacoast Academy of Music in North Hampton, N.H., where she is the director and one of 18 music faculty members. She is also a member of the 17-piece Deep Blue C Studio Orchestra and enjoys the balance of her teaching and performance careers.

**Robert Cameron** retired from teaching and is active as a bagpiper.



**'75 Leo Lambert** (left, below) has been awarded the IPC Raymond E. Pritchard Hall of Fame Award in recognition of his contributions to IPC and the electronics industry. An active IPC volunteer and leader for IPC and the electronics manufacturing industry for more than 30 years, Lambert is the vice president and technical director at EPTAC Corporation.



**Michael Lane** recently retired from administration at the University of Louisiana Monroe and accepted an endowed chair to teach accounting.

**Walter van Schalkwijk** is a principal battery scientist at Microsoft. He is also teaching as an adjunct professor of chemical engineering at the University of Washington.

**'76 Norman E. Dascher** was named CEO of the Hyde Collection Art Museum, a historic museum complex with a distinguished collection of art in Glens Falls, N.Y.



Continued

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1979

**A License for Loyalty**



**Denise (Sevigny) McQuaide '79, '82** who earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from UMass Lowell, was appointed president and chief operating officer of Benchmark's new Wellness Management division. She will work on building an urban communities division, with a focus on health and wellness. Formerly vice president of post-acute care at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Mass., McQuaide is also leading the development of a continuing care strategic plan for Beth Israel Lahey Health, a new 13-hospital health care network in Massachusetts.

**'78 Kathy (Botelho) Givens** has been named sales and marketing director of The Lighthouse at Lincoln, a senior living memory care assisted living community in Lincoln, R.I.



**'79 David Martins**, director of the Boston University Wind Ensemble, announces the release of "Expanding Spaces: Music by Boston University Composers," an album featuring the ensemble conducted by Martins. This is the ensemble's third full-length album.



**Linda Toomey-Corr** has left the world of pharmaceutical sales and joined the marketing team at Alliance Radiology as an account executive. She markets PETCT and MRI services for Alliance Radiology in Boston, the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire. She resides in Belmont, Mass., with her husband, Bryan, and son, Zack, who is currently a sophomore at Bentley University.

**'80 Jason Elwood '80, '87** has been appointed to the newly formed advisory board at Plymouth Rock Technologies. Following his retirement from his position as vice president of operations at Raytheon's Integrated Defense business in 2018, Elwood will be bringing his expertise to the table as Plymouth Rock Technologies Inc. seeks to create and improve several threat detection and defense technologies.



**Rene LeClaire** is a vocalist featured in the Los Alamos Big Band, a 16-instrument swing band. LeClaire has been singing since he was a child and is a cantor at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. He has been featured in the Los Alamos Daily Post in New Mexico for his outstanding voice and participation in his greater community.

**Michael Miyamoto** has been appointed director of the Department of Environmental Management in Maui, Hawaii.



**Kevin St. Cyr** has been hired as senior vice president at Murphy McCormack Capital Advisors.

**'81** Three-time Tony Award-winning producer and founder of Broadway-HD **Bonnie Comley** (below, right) received a Women of Achievement Award at the WP Theater's 40th Anniversary Season Gala. Her award was presented by Charlotte St. Martin, president of The Broadway League. WP Theater is the nation's oldest and largest theater company dedicated to developing, producing and promoting the work of women in theater at every stage in their careers.

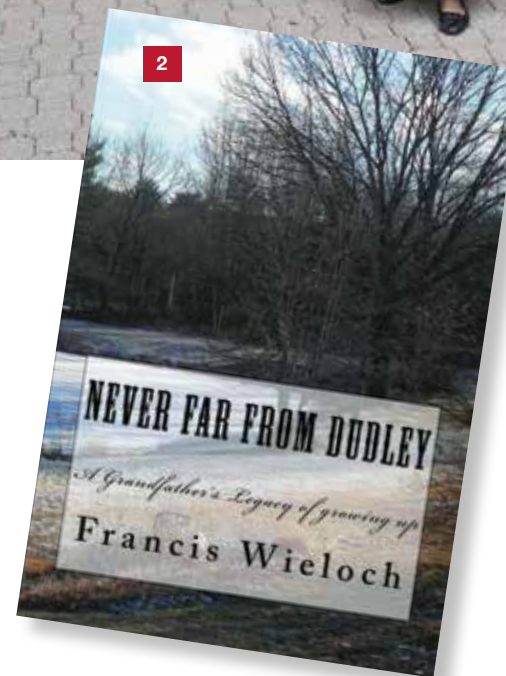


**'82 Kristin Killian** is retiring after over 35 years leading Parker Middle School's and Reading Memorial High School's choral programs. She accepted the position at Parker Middle in Reading, Mass., just one year after her graduation from UMass Lowell and has been inspiring students with music since that day.

**John Laderoute '82, '83** reports that his son, Matthew, attends Columbia University and his son, Adam, is a student at UMass Lowell in plastics engineering.

Continued

1. MARJORIE YANG
2. FRANCIS WIELOCH '58



**CLASS REUNION** In 2020, we will be celebrating alumni with class years ending in 5 and 0—from five-year reunions to 45! Look for information in your email and online as the year approaches: [www.alumni.uml.edu/reunion2020](http://www.alumni.uml.edu/reunion2020).



> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1986

> BY ED BRENNEN

## Going Strong: Alumna Brings Her Passion to Campus

It would be easy to confuse Lorna Boucher '86 for a UML faculty member. She may work in New York City as chief marketing officer at Instinet, a global financial securities company, but the Lowell native is a familiar presence on campus.

"I love coming back. Everyone here is so fun to work with and so energized," Boucher said during a recent visit, when she shared her insights on leveraging your personal brand with more than 80 students and community members at the UMass Lowell Innovation Hub.

One of the students in attendance was senior Abigail Tavernese '19, a recipient of the Lorna Boucher '86 Endowed Scholarship, which benefits women majoring in business administration at the Manning School. Tavernese, a first-generation college student from a low-income family, had never met Boucher before. She seized the opportunity to thank her in person while also picking up some advice on building a career in marketing and management.

"I love her personality, and I love feeding off her energy," Tavernese says. "I thought she was fantastic."

Boucher, who earned her degree in marketing and international management, gives both her time and her treasure to the university. She's a member of the Manning School Advisory Board and has shared her expertise to help the business school develop a branding strategy. She also volunteers as a judge for the DifferenceMaker competition and was the keynote speaker at the annual Women's Leadership Conference in June.

What's more, Boucher is constantly finding new ways to engage students through her work at Instinet. Last summer, she welcomed Roma Aurora '18 as the company's first UML intern—a program that has extended to Instinet's Boston office. Last fall, she hosted a group of Manning School students in Manhattan and got Instinet to sponsor an essay contest that awarded students free tickets to see Oprah Winfrey at the Chancellor's Speaker Series.

"The essays we got from students were awe-inspiring. Some of them made me cry," says Boucher, who hosted a reception at Cobblestones for around 100 people before the event.

Boucher, who has a space in the Pulichino Tong Business Center named in her honor, is passionate about mentoring students entering the business world—especially women. That passion was in full bloom during her recent talk at the Innovation Hub, where she wove hard-earned boardroom advice with real-talk humor and personal anecdotes.

One story was about working at UBS Investment Bank, where Boucher had been brought in to make some "tough" changes to her department. Midway through her first year, Boucher received feedback from her manager, who seemed concerned that people found her to be a little "strong."

"At first, I was knocked back a bit. But then I thought about it and said, 'Yeah, that's fair,'" says Boucher. "I make no apologies for being passionate because I am strong, damn it." [UML](#)

'83 The Compressed Gas Association Board of Directors has named **Richard Gottwald** president and CEO. He was previously the president and CEO of the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals. He also served as executive vice president for the International Sign Association.



**Revelle Taillon** has worked as a graphic designer, artist and art teacher since her graduation and found success and joy in each of her areas of expertise. As the times and available technologies have changed over the years, so has her art.

'84 **Tim Freeman** has been appointed senior vice president of business development at Leidos Defense Group. Prior to his work at Leidos, he worked as Raytheon's director of business development for mission support and modernization.

'85 **Dennis Arndt** has been appointed chief technology officer at Perfecta, an Enterprise Platform as a Service provider. Arndt was previously CTO at DiscoverOrg/RainKing Software and senior vice president of technology and CTO for CQ Roll Call. He has also held high-level positions at Monster Worldwide and Jumptap.



**Mary Callanan**, who has been working as a cabaret entertainer and musical theater actress for over 30 years, was featured in the Fifty Plus Advocate. She began her career in Boston but has been increasingly working on Broadway in New York in plays such as "Bandstand" and "Mamma Mia."



**Michael L. Kiklis** joined the firm of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC in their Washington, D.C., office, in the firm's Intellectual Property & Technology practice.

'86 **Steven Meehan** has been appointed chief financial officer at Kadmon Holdings Inc., a biopharmaceutical company. He brings over 25 years of financial leadership experience to the position.

'87 **Steven Cariglio** celebrated the 30th anniversary of his company, Akuity Technologies, in November 2018. Once a business selling PCs built by Cariglio himself, Akuity Technologies now provides IT services, network infrastructure and wireless communication to businesses from Springfield to Boston.



**Gary Grimard** launched a company in 2014 that delivers the sky blue light necessary for the body to perform at its daytime peak and is now bringing the LifeLight Touch into production. "We've been involved with UMass Lowell's M2D2 program for some time and appreciate the work they do!" he says.



**Andrew Scribner-Maclean '87, '89** has been appointed town administrator in Pepperell, Mass. He previously worked as assistant town administrator for Pepperell and assumed the town administrator position in November 2018.

'88 **Rick DelleChiaie** was recognized for the seventh time in his 20-year coaching career as the Eagle Tribune Fall Coach of the Year for coaching the North Andover High School boys cross-country team to second in the Merrimack Valley Conference.



Brother **Michael Duffy** has been promoted to associate dean of the School of Nursing at Elms College. He is recognized for his impact on the college and its students with his dedication to service learning programs to help the community while giving students experience in their field. He will be responsible for undergraduate programs, service learning programs and international studies.

Continued

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1989

## Tom Baillie: A Full Sprint into Retirement



In May, Tom Baillie '89 traveled to an ancient city in northwest Spain, hoping to outrun and outswim athletes from around the world in an event called the Aquathlon. The race is shorter than some others he runs—a 1,200-meter open-water swim followed by a 5-kilometer run—and a little farther from home, but other than that, it was nothing new for him. During last summer alone, he competed in three triathlons, finishing with the 2018 USA Triathlon National Championships last August in Cleveland. In all, he finished in the middle of the pack or better for his 55- to 59-year-old age group.

Training for these events isn't even his most demanding job. As executive vice president at the Medford-based construction management firm Bond Brothers, Baillie heads up the Civil and Utility Division. He's managed a number of massive energy projects—including Northeast Utilities' \$200 million, 22-mile underground portion of the Middletown-to-Norwalk (Conn.) line, completed in

2009, and most recently a \$100 million civil project for the new Salem Harbor Energy Center. By the time he retires later this year, he will have been with the company 25 years, and in the industry for close to 40.

Ask him how he plans to spend his newfound freedom in retirement, and his answer comes quickly: "Travel, train and run."

Not all of it is about the competition, though. "Racing brings me in touch with a whole community of people," he says. "We train together, run together, compete in some of the same events. That's a big part of it for me."

There wasn't always time. Baillie earned his undergrad degree at UMass Amherst while he served in the Army National Guard as a heavy equipment operator. Later, he worked at various jobs while pursuing a master's degree in civil engineering at UML, and finally came the early years at Bond—and in the meantime, a marriage and four kids. By his 40th birthday, racing was little more than a high school memory.



> BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

"But then, with the kids getting older and things settling down a little at work, I started to get back into it," he says. Among his first races was the 2001 Mill City Triathlon in Lowell.

Since then, he has competed in dozens of triathlons, road races, biking events and swim races all over the U.S. But of all the offerings out there, he says, the official Olympic triathlon—a

one-mile swim, 25-mile bike ride and six-mile run—remains the competition he prefers.

His connections with UMass Lowell, while always strong—his wife, Ann Domigan '85, and son, Colin Baillie '13, are both graduates—will grow stronger still. In addition to a new role as

an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Baillie recently learned that his longtime employer Bond marked his retirement in a special way. The company established the Bond-Thomas C. Baillie '89 Endowed Scholarship Fund, earmarked to support women and underrepresented students in the College of Engineering [UML](#)

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1995

**Robert Richard**, a 20-year research and development professional, has been appointed vice president of research and development at Anika Therapeutics Inc. He has held leadership positions with C.R. Bard, Boston Scientific, Johnson & Johnson and, most recently, Hyalex Orthopedics.



**Phil Collin** was promoted to Northeast Division sales officer at HNTB Corp., an infrastructure solutions firm. As a vice president, Collin will lead the firm's sales and marketing efforts throughout the Northeast.

**Robert Morrison** is retired from the U.S. Army, where he was a police corps officer.

**Marni Nispel** published her first book, "Creating Documentation in an Agile Scrum Environment."

'90 **Michael Brodbine** has been elected to serve on the executive committee of Brooks Cushman P.C., a leading technology and intellectual property law firm.



Continued



**Nora Baston '95, '00** is the fourth woman to serve as a Boston Police superintendent. She was promoted to the position after 22 years on the force. Leader of the BPD's new Bureau of Community Engagement, Baston says her top priority is to increase positive interaction with local youth, and improving trust in areas that have experienced persistent violence. "There is no better person to lead this effort than Superintendent Nora Baston, who has shown throughout her career her commitment to the people of Boston," said Mayor Marty Walsh in announcing the appointment. A double alumna, Baston was a basketball standout while at UML.



**'91 Patricia (Murphy) Keefe** is celebrating 25 years of employment with Loomis Sayles, where she is vice president of human resources.

**'92 Peter G. Furlong**, described as a "magisterial tenor" by The New York Times' chief classical music critic, has been performing all over the world in opera productions and as a concert soloist. This past fall, he was featured on Mahler's "Das Lied von der Erde" and performed it in concert throughout the Northeast.



**'93 Gerald Rego** has been appointed vice president of commercial lending at Bristol County Savings Bank. He is responsible for the development and management of commercial lending and deposit relationships in greater Fall River, Mass., and brings experience from multiple prior high-level positions at financial institutions.



**'94 Jennifer Demby** is the co-founder and director of Sports for Blind Athletes Inc., a New Jersey paralympic sports club for the blind and visually impaired.

**'95 Julie Caristi** has worked in social work in both the public and private sectors for the past 25 years.

**'96 Bryan Arsenaunt '96, '01** was featured by The Weather Company on weather.com. He works as a trainer for their meteorological platform in customer service, joining his passion for both meteorology and people.

**Kevin Battle** was named secondary school assistant principal of the year by the Massachusetts School Administrators' Association for his work at Kennedy Middle School in Woburn, Mass. He was recognized for his leadership in student social-emotional learning, academic support for teachers and creative integration of technology.



**'97 Chris DeChiara**, a lifelong musician and renowned percussionist, has performed nationally and internationally. He recently returned to his roots at Durgin Hall at UMass Lowell to perform with the Wind Ensemble. He performed a piece called "Golden Age of the Xylophone," a virtuosic xylophone solo that incorporated rags from the 1920s.

Continued

> CLOSE-UP CLASSES OF 1995 AND 1996

> BY BETH BROSINAN

## Made for Each Other

CRAIG '96 AND DARCIÉ '95 NUTTALL ARE THE PERFECT MATCH, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH

When they first met as students at UMass Lowell, Craig '96 and Darcie '95 Nuttall had a hunch they would be a good match.

Twenty years of marriage, two children and one life-changing event later, they discovered they're not just a good match, but a *perfect* one.

In 2006, Craig, a software engineer, was diagnosed with end-stage kidney disease—at the ripe old age of 35. "Like most young people, I'd put off my annual physical, so the news came out of nowhere," he recalls. Darcie, a mental health counselor and children's book author, was equally stunned. "Craig has always been so active and full of life, it was hard to believe he was sick," she says.

For the next decade, Craig managed his illness with a combination of medication, diet and exercise. But by 2017, his kidney function had plummeted to less than 20 percent, and it was clear he needed a transplant. What wasn't clear was when or how that would happen. Long waits are the rule when it comes to finding suitable kidney donors; in Craig's case, so were long odds, because of his rare B-positive blood type.

Yet when his physicians did find a donor, they didn't have far to look. For years, Darcie had assured Craig she would give him one of her kidneys. "I was so touched," says Craig, but he also knew how unlikely it was that they would share not only the same blood type but also compatible antigens and antibodies, which lessen the chance his body would reject his new kidney. When the results of Darcie's donor screening test came in, it showed she was a perfect match on all counts. Says Craig: "It was almost as though she willed it to happen."

**"He told me that everything is a steppingstone, even things we don't expect."**

And so last July at Boston's Tufts Medical Center, the Nuttalls shared something very few couples ever experience: back-to-back kidney surgeries. Not only were the operations successful, but the effects were immediate as Craig's new kidney began flushing toxins out of his system. By that night, the color was flooding back into his once-ashen face.

"Right away, I felt like I got my husband back," says Darcie. "It was kind of like going through childbirth, because we were both exhausted and in pain, but there was so much joy."

Joy continues to suffuse the Nuttall household today, along with gratitude for their skilled surgeons and the large network of friends—some stretching back to their UML days—who cared for them during their convalescence and watched over sons Stephen and Jacob. Both Nuttalls have returned to work full time—

Craig as a senior software engineer at Phillips and Darcie to her therapy practice and a flourishing at-home business making custom embroidered pillows. Best of all, Craig's long-term prognosis is excellent. "And," he adds, "I'll always have a piece of Darcie with me."

More than once, Darcie has found herself thinking of advice that Larry Siegel, UML's vice chancellor for student affairs, once gave her: "He told me that everything is a steppingstone, even things we don't expect. The trick, Larry said, is to take that experience and move forward."

Craig's illness, which once seemed like a boulder about to crush them both, has become, she says, "the biggest gift I could imagine. To see Craig healthy again is just amazing. When you're busy with kids and a job, it's easy to go on autopilot. You can miss the joy of everyday things. This whole experience has taught me to be awake and alive to what's happening now, and to treasure it." [UML](#)



> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2002

## Google Senior Director Is Children's Book Superhero

Kripa Krishnan '02 is suddenly famous, thanks to a children's book by a Google colleague. Krishnan is one of four senior women at Google featured as "sheroes"—female superheroes—in the book "Ara the Star Engineer." Komal Singh, an engineering program manager, wrote "Ara" after her 4-year-old daughter told her, "Engineers are boys."

At the book launch last fall, Singh, Krishnan and the other women were mobbed by 150 children and their parents. "They were just over the moon, they were so gaga to meet us," Krishnan says. "The children are so starved for role models that they treated us like celebrities."

In the book, Krishnan, whose fictional title is "Prolific Problem Solver," helps Ara and her robot friend figure out whether they can count all the stars in the sky. They can't, but that's part of the lesson. "She fails—and someone teaches her to pick herself up and try again. That's so important," Krishnan says.

Krishnan knows all about trying again. She grew up in Chennai, India, and went to college to become a doctor. At the same time, she sang and played keyboard in a rock band, ran her own theater group and even designed clothing. "My heart was not in college at all," she says. "After 3½ years, I had a real chat with my folks because I wanted to do performing arts. And they supported me."

Krishnan studied theater at a small college in Utah for a semester, but found it too small and rural. She transferred to UMass Lowell because the university allowed her to take seven-plus courses each semester and she needed to finish her degree quickly. She sampled theater, math and business—and ended up with a degree in management information systems. "The MIS degree gave me a little bit of tech, a little bit of science, a little bit of business," she laughs. "Focus was not my strength."

An introductory computer science class with Prof. Jim Canning—now dean of the Honors College—changed Krishnan's career path, she told him in a recent email: "My whole life goal was to avoid tech like the plague—and look what you've done!" Previously, she'd found tech boring, but Canning's class was different. He didn't teach his students how to write code; rather, he taught them what happens inside the computer in response to



coded commands. Krishnan also discovered that she likes "geeky people," she says: "Their humor is dry, and they're really bright. I just felt at home in computer science."

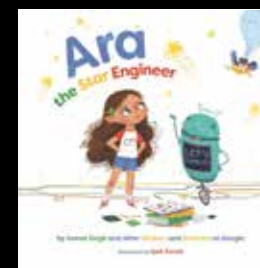
Krishnan went on to earn a master's degree in MIS at the University of Arizona, supporting herself with a job as a systems administrator in the university laboratory. She also helped a doctor set up a telemedicine link with Kosovo. After graduation, she applied for a job with Google, but she didn't expect to get it, so she started on a second master's degree in policy. When Google called her for a series of interviews, "I freaked out," she says. "I refused to go because I didn't want to be rejected by Google, so literally my advisor had another student shove me into a car."

Google hired her as a technical program manager, and she rose from there, becoming head of disaster recovery testing for a decade. As Google's "Queen of Chaos," Krishnan led a team of engineers who deliberately tried to crash Google's infrastructure so they could figure out how to fortify it against everything from earthquakes to alien attacks.

Krishnan was appointed senior director of operations for Google Cloud last year. She says she owes much to her mentors, from academics like Canning to higher-ups at Google—but that if universities and companies want to get more women and underrepresented minorities into STEM jobs, they need to offer more diverse role models. "People become what they see. So if kids cannot see someone they can relate to in positions of power and success, they're going to shut off that path," she says. "We need more women role models."

Now, she is one of them. "Ara the Star Engineer" represents a turning point for me," she wrote to Canning. "It turned me from someone who has always looked for role models to someone who is a role model, and I never thought of myself that way. In either case, all of this began with you, and I wanted to say, 'Thank you.'" [UML](#)

Continued



**'98 Robert Hood** has been in the IT field for 35 years. He ran the networking for the Human Genome project at MIT, moved into positions in nearly every sector of IT, and is now a senior information security solutions architect for BJ's Wholesale.

**'00 John Medeiros** retired from PUMA North America and is now living in Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.

**'02 Jason Matos '02, '03** was promoted to lieutenant in the Somerset Police Department.

**Herbert Fox** reports that he's merged his Ph.D. in physics with his love of music composition by creating a lab science course called "Sounds of Music."

**Kevin Kalish '02, '05, '19** joined EnClear as vice president of research and development. EnClear is a biotechnology company developing device-based therapies for the treatment of neurodegenerative disease.

**Paul Falewicz '02, '05** started his own accounting firm, Succentrix Business Advisors. Succentrix specializes in helping small businesses with their accounting needs.

**'03 Timothy McLaughlin** was appointed principal at West Bridgewater's Howard Elementary School.

**Jonathan Whitney** was named director of business development for Mack Molding's northern and southern business development teams. He has worked with Mack Molding since 2013.



**Carolyn Bohl** has been teaching seventh and eighth grade English at the Daley Middle School in Lowell for the past 10 years and loves it. "I would have never had this opportunity if I didn't get my English degree at UMass Lowell," she says. "Great education!"

Continued



**'04** **Mary Kaplan '04, '12** married Michael Montanye on Dec. 28, 2018, at the Tsongas Center, surrounded by friends and family wearing River Hawks hockey jerseys before enjoying the Saturday game.



**Meghan Martin '04, '12** has been named coach of the Swampscott High School volleyball team. She is the head of the science department at Salem High School. Martin played college volleyball at UMass Lowell and has coached at many levels in the sport.

**'05** **Brandon Kelly** took a position as DPW director in Shirley, Mass. He previously worked as an engineer and foreman for the city of Lowell.



**Kevin Gildea** has been named principal of Kennedy Middle School in Waltham, Mass. He has spent 24 years in the Waltham school district teaching and, more recently, as assistant principal.

**Jessica Huizenga '05, '12** has been appointed superintendent of Milford Public Schools after serving as interim superintendent.

**Lorraine Tacconi-Moore** has been named the 2019 N.H. Superintendent of the Year by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association. Her hard work and dedication were recognized at an event in March.

**Elizabeth Odian** has been named a partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP. Odian, who practices in Hinshaw's Milwaukee, Wis., office, defends clients in the areas of labor and employment, consumer and class action and other litigation matters.



Continued

> BY KAREN ANGELO

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2006

## The Right Move

When Tim DiFrancesco served as the head strength and conditioning coach for the Los Angeles Lakers, he worked with the likes of superstars Kobe Bryant and Steve Nash.

"Preparing and treating high-level athletes for six years was a rich and incredible experience," says DiFrancesco, who earned a doctorate of physical therapy in 2006.

But he knew in his heart that he wanted to have an impact on more people's lives during his career.

"I realized that I wanted to use my skills, passion and experience to help more people than a 15-person roster get healthy," he says.

So he left the Lakers to dedicate his career to his business, TD Athletes Edge, a fitness training facility located in Salem, Mass. DiFrancesco and his staff of coaches and nutritionists help many clients, from pro athletes to the average person looking to get in better shape, achieve their maximum performance through training, recovery and nutrition.

TD Athletes Edge recently became a partner with UML's Exercise Science program, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities working with clients.

They probably wish they could work with some of the more well-known variety.

While DiFrancesco left Los Angeles, some of Hollywood's biggest stars still seek him out for help. Actress and comedian Amy Schumer credits him with helping her to recover from back and hip injuries.

"I want to thank [trainer Tim DiFrancesco] @tdathletesedge for pushing me to recovery beyond what I thought possible," she wrote on Instagram last fall. [UML](#)

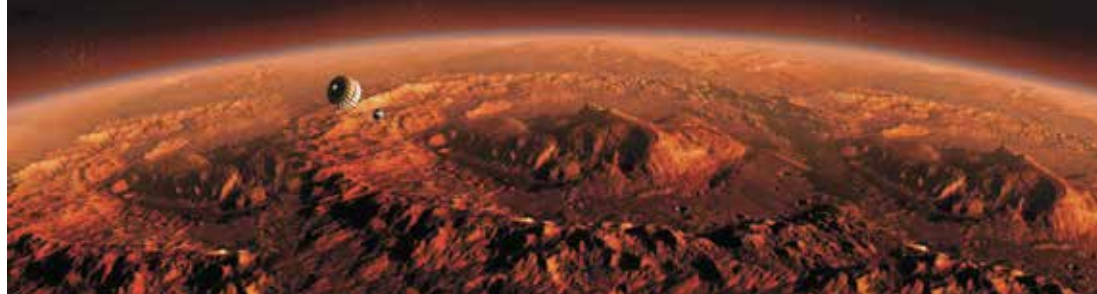


**"I realized that I wanted to use my skills, passion and experience to help more people than a 15-person roster get healthy."**

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2006



A senior application engineer for Timken, **John Renaud '06** designed the bearings for the descent brake that will lower the Mars Rover to the surface of the planet when it lands on Mars in February 2021. "A bearing is not just a bearing," says Renaud. "Very small variations, ten-thousandths of an inch one way or the other could be the difference between the part working or failing." Renaud has been with Timken for 11 years, starting as a product engineer after he graduated from UMass Lowell with a degree in mechanical engineering.



> CLOSE-UP CLASSES OF 2004 AND 2008



**Kate Meifung Tsui '04, '08, '10, '14** and **James Michael Dalphond '08, '11** were married March 14 at Boston City Hall, followed by a celebration ceremony at the New England Aquarium. Tsui is a user experience researcher at Toyota Research Institute in Cambridge, Mass. Dalphond is a lead software engineer at Mitre Corp., a non-profit based in Bedford, Mass. The pair—whose nuptials were featured in The New York Times weddings section—were on campus in February to attend the Kennedy College of Sciences Dean's List celebration. Tsui, whose four UML degrees are all in computer science, and who serves on the College's advisory board, was the featured speaker. "I literally apply everything that I learned at UMass Lowell almost every day," Tsui told the students as she recounted her career path, from her internships at Sun Microsystems and Google to her postdoctoral work at Yale University and her present job with the automotive giant.

**Jim Lemieux** celebrated his marriage to Kim Bauer this past March with many UML alumni in attendance. [3]

**'06** **Robert Breunig** has been elected to partnership at Adams and Reese LLP. He helps clients with executive compensation and compensatory benefit plans and represents companies in mergers and acquisitions at the firm.



**Nicholas Laganas**, a U.S. Army veteran who works for the Lowell Police Department, was recognized by the Hanscom Federal Credit Union as its first "Heroes Among Us" honoree of 2018. [4]

**Idenice Marelis Sargut** reports that she is married with two beautiful children. She is an outpatient therapist at Family Services of the Merrimack Valley.

**John Brown** was promoted to clinical associate professor of education at UMass Lowell's College of Education in 2017.

**'07** **Crystal Kasey** has taken a position as assistant vice president of commercial lending at Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union. She spent 19 years with Toyota Financial Services, and her most recent position was as a credit analyst.

**Patrick McNeill** has been employed for over 10 years with Enterprise Holdings. He is a fleet management coordinator.

**Zhana Levitsky** has relaunched Yes Art Space in downtown Beverly, Mass. The space includes a gallery, an event space and 14 studios for artists to rent. Levitsky seeks to foster the creative community and help connect artists to the people and resources around them. [5]

**'08** **Ken Hanson** joined Ohio-based Imflux Inc., the Procter & Gamble Co. subsidiary that specializes in custom plastic injection molds and tools, as a plastics process engineer in May 2014. He is now the innovation engineering leader and strategic innovation programs manager.

Continued on P. 61



- 3. JIM LEMIEUX '05
- 4. NICHOLAS LAGANAS '06
- 5. ZHANA LEVITSKY '07





> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2010

> BY KATHARINE WEBSTER

## An Evangelist for Civics Education

**S**ocial studies and English teacher Michael Neagle '10 helps eighth-graders tackle real problems in their communities, like teen vaping and distracted driving. State lawmakers call them to discuss legislation. City councilors take their meetings.

It's all part of Neagle's civics curriculum at the Pyne Arts Magnet School in Lowell, where he teaches students about the three branches of government through hands-on programs. They learn about the legislative process through Generation Citizen, moving step-by-step to identify a problem, figure out a solution and advocate for it. They learn about the courts through Discovering Justice, a mock trial program that culminates in them arguing a Bill of Rights case at the federal courthouse in Boston. They study the presidency and then hold mock presidential elections at school. They take on community service projects in an afterschool club.

Neagle's students graduate with the tools to exercise active citizenship. "Rather than learning about other people doing civics, they do it," Neagle says. "We've had state legislators call here during class to talk to students about a bill on teen vaping."

Last summer, Massachusetts updated its social studies standards to make the eighth-grade curriculum all about civics education—exactly what

Neagle is already doing. He was recently selected to serve on the state's Civics Assessment Development Committee and is already helping to implement the new standards in Lowell.

His pioneering work led to the 2017 Teacher Change Maker Award from Generation Citizen and the 2018 Don Salvucci Award from the Massachusetts Council for Social Studies. His students have won awards, too, including the Generation Citizen award for best civic action—outreach to legislators on funding for suicide awareness and prevention programs in schools—and best project in the state for their efforts to fund teen vaping prevention through an update to the state's tobacco tax bill. Another teen vaping bill they sought, restricting the sale of flavored nicotine pods, has been introduced in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Yet Neagle calls himself "the least likely teacher you'll ever find. Teaching wasn't even on my radar in college," he says.

At Malden High School, he pursued the trade track, with plans to become an electrician. His mom, who'd worked her way through Bunker Hill Community College, urged Neagle to go to college first and study business. So he entered UMass Lowell at age 17—but "I just wasn't ready." He joined the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve, heading for training camp at Parris Island after freshman year.



Thanks to the G.I. Bill, Neagle returned to college at Westfield State University, where he studied communications and became the first in his family to graduate with a bachelor's degree. The Marines also inspired his love of history, travel and culture, thanks to annual training trips with his cold-weather infantry unit to Estonia and Norway.

After graduation, he went to work for an educational travel company in Boston, where he arranged and led trips to Europe, Tunisia, Turkey, Australia and Panama for high school students. He kept studying, too, taking night classes in history at UMass Lowell and UMass Boston. Then he decided to earn a master of education in curriculum and instruction—and teach.

"Through the Marine Corps, I found out I was interested in history and travel, and through educational travel, I discovered that I love working with kids," he says. "Being around young people is inspiring—I wanted to work with them full time."

**"Rather than learning about other people doing civics, they do it."**

A meeting with Prof. Patricia Fontaine '96 was key to his decision to come to UMass Lowell. "She was fantastic, and very supportive," he says.

In the decade since, Fontaine has continued to mentor him, and they've worked together on several projects. Neagle hosts a service-learning program for several of her College of Education students each semester, who visit his eighth-grade classes to lead lessons in civics.

Fontaine recommended Neagle for the committee that advised the College of Education during its recent state recertification. She also invited him to the professional development workshop where he learned about Generation Citizen—and then got him a small grant to fund his pilot project, bringing it to his middle school students.

Neagle's love of education doesn't stop when he goes home at night. Since earning his M.Ed., he's completed a graduate certificate in history and educational leadership at Fitchburg State University and started another in Holocaust and genocide studies at Salem State University. "I'm a lifelong learner," he says. [UML](#)

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2012

## A WINNER OUT OF THE GATE

**T**he debut collection of Dominican American poet Diannely Antigua '12 was released in May, and promptly won the Pamet River Prize.

"Ugly Music" was published by YesYes Books out of Portland, Ore.

"It's exciting to see decades of writing culminating in this moment: my first book," she says. "It's the stuff of dreams and nightmares, thinking of all the work, the words and even the tears that have gone into making this book possible."

Some of that work and those tears happened at UMass Lowell, where Antigua, recipient of the Jack Kerouac Creative Writing Scholarship, earned her B.A.

"It was at UML that I first considered myself a writer, a poet even," she says. "My professors Maggie Dietz and Andre Dubus III believed in my gift before I did. And for that, I'm truly grateful."

Antigua went on to earn an M.F.A. at New York University, where she was awarded a Global Research Initiative Fellowship to Florence, Italy. She received additional fellowships from CantoMundo, Community of Writers and the Fine Arts Work Center Summer Program. Her work has been nominated for both the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net.

Born and raised in Massachusetts, and currently living in West Newbury, Antigua says her "heart is in Brooklyn."





> CLOSE-UP CLASSES OF 2012 AND 2015

## Teammates Once Again

FORMER RIVER HAWKS DEGROOT, KNEELAND REUNITED BY MIAMI MARLINS

On a pleasant January morning at the Miami Marlins' spring training complex in Jupiter, Fla., Manager of Player Development and Scouting Geoff DeGroot '15 is helping Cam Kneeland '12, the organization's new position player rehab coach, get acquainted with the facility and some of the people with whom he'll be working.

Seven years earlier, as teammates on the UML baseball team, the roles were reversed. Back then, it was Kneeland, a senior third baseman, who took the freshman shortstop DeGroot under his River Hawk wing.

"Geoff was one of the guys I gravitated to," Kneeland recalls of his former weightlifting partner. "We had a good connection."

"Cam was probably the best player on the team that year, and he was a good role model for me to have because he went about his business the right way," DeGroot says. "I was very lucky to have him help me along, especially as a freshman being away from home for the first time."

When they were playing side by side on the LeLacheur Park infield in 2012, could they have ever imagined they'd one day be working for the same major league ballclub?

"If you'd told me that Cam Kneeland would be working for a professional baseball organization, that wouldn't surprise me at all," DeGroot says. "But us working together, that would have been hard to believe. Baseball is a small world, though. It's crazy how things work out."

Kneeland, a native of Rowley, Mass., was a three-time First Team All-Northeast-10 player for the River Hawks, hitting .325 with 44 doubles and 144 RBIs for his career.

"Cam is arguably one of the top five players to ever don a River Hawks uniform," Coach Ken Haring says of the 2012 Lester H. Cushing Award winner, given to the top male and female athletes of the year. "He always worked hard and set a tremendous example on how to handle success and failure."



After earning a bachelor of liberal arts degree, Kneeland played five seasons of independent and minor league baseball. In 2017, while in the Baltimore Orioles organization, he was offered a coaching job with the Single-A Frederick Keys.

"It was really hard when I first started coaching; I'll always miss playing. But I enjoy coaching a lot," Kneeland says.

Last September, Kneeland caught up with Haring at the River Hawks' annual Boutin-Stone Golf Tournament in Dracut. "Have you talked to Geoff lately?" Haring asked. The last Kneeland had heard, DeGroot was working in player development with the New York Yankees. Haring told him that DeGroot was now with the Marlins, and that perhaps Kneeland should give his old teammate a call.

Before Kneeland knew it, the Marlins were flying him down to Florida for an interview.

At UML, DeGroot had converted to pitcher his senior season, when he received the 2015 David J. Boutin Award, presented to the top male and female student-athletes of the year. The 6-foot, 185-pound right-hander signed a minor league deal with the Yankees that summer, pitching his way up from rookie ball to the Double-A Trenton Thunder.

While his pro career was off to a nice start, DeGroot didn't kid himself about making it to the majors.



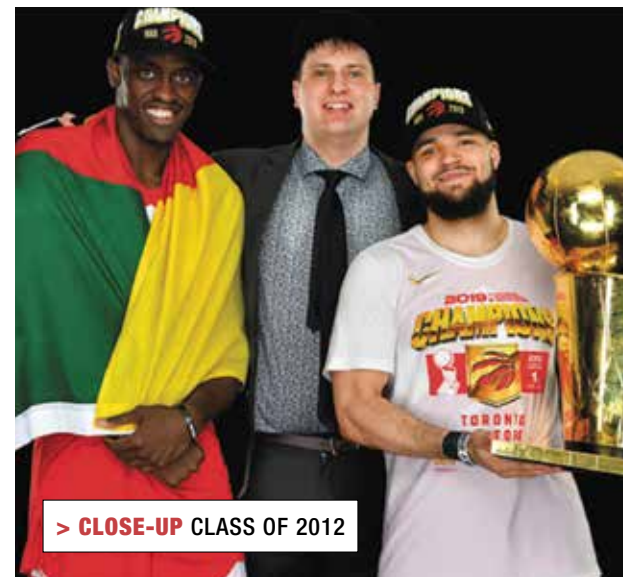
> BY ED BRENNEN

"Once I started playing professional baseball and saw what kind of talent there is, I quickly realized that I could have more of an impact on an organization in the front office, knowing my own personal skill set," says DeGroot, who earned a degree in business administration (with a concentration in marketing) from the Manning School of Business.

The Yankees saw DeGroot's front-office potential, too, and offered him a job in player development in 2016. "I spent all that time and effort getting a business degree—that was something that was always important to me," says DeGroot, who went to work for Gary Denbo, the organization's vice president of player development. "I'm fortunate that I can combine my love and passion for baseball with my business degree and put it to use."

When Yankees legend Derek Jeter became CEO of the Marlins in 2017, he hired Denbo to run player development and scouting. A few months later, Denbo recruited DeGroot to join the staff in Miami.

"I've learned a lot by seeing how things work in a different organization," says DeGroot, who works with the professional, amateur and international scouting departments in addition to helping manage the minor league system. "My responsibility is a lot broader than it was with the Yankees, which makes every day different."



> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2012

**NBA Champ!**

In June, **John Corbacio '12** (center, with Raptors forward Pascal Siakam, left, and point guard Fred VanVleet) became the first River Hawk to win an NBA title. Video coordinator and player development coach for the Toronto team, Corbacio played on the UML men's basketball team from 2008-2012. He helped the River Hawks win their third and final Northeast 10 Conference Championship in 2010 before the program eventually made the move to Division I.

DeGroot's rapid rise comes as no surprise to Haring. "I told the Yankees when they signed Geoff that he would be in the front office someday," says Haring, who attended DeGroot's wedding last year. "I've also said he will be a big

**"I'm fortunate that I can combine my love and passion for baseball with my business degree and put it to use."**

league general manager and run an organization. He's well on his way." While DeGroot helped Kneeland get his foot in the door for an interview with the Marlins, he says Kneeland got the job because he deserves it. "We're not in the business of just bringing people in because of favors or they're your friends. We're bringing people in because they can help us and make us better," DeGroot says. "And that's exactly what Cam will do. I have zero doubt about that." [UML](#)



> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2009

**Krista Patronick '09** was named director of operations for the women's hockey team at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., where she is responsible for nearly "everything but the coaching," she says. She previously held a similar role at Colgate, and before that was general manager of the Boston Blades (today the Worcester Blades) in the Canadian Women's Hockey League. When she's not on the job, you're apt to find her on the ice: a weekend warrior in one of what she calls her "old ladies' hockey" games. "We're not the best players in the world, but we have a lot of fun," she says. "The best part is just being out on the rink. Working or playing, it's my favorite place to be."

**'08 John Williams** is a professional artist living in Winchester, Mass. He creates complex collage portraits and landscapes using small pieces of cut magazine paper—in effect, "painting with paper." He has done solo exhibits in Florida, Washington, D.C., and many New England venues. He was featured on the cover of *Folk Art Messenger*, a revue published by the Folk Art Society of America, and on a book titled "Drawing Autism."



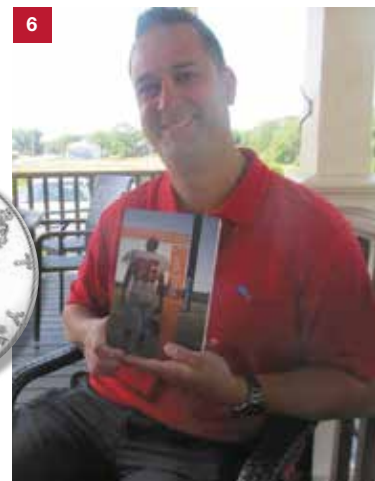
**'10 Sara Codair** published their first novel, "Power Surge," which they worked on in a creative writing class at UMass Lowell with Prof. Andre Dubus III. The book reflects a label-free approach to young adult and adult urban fantasy. The 17-year-old protagonist, Erin, identifies as non-binary. Like Codair, the protagonist does not let depression, ADHD and anxiety stop them from doing what they want. The book launch was held at Jabberwocky Books in Newburyport, Mass., where "Power Surge" is proudly displayed alongside Dubus' newest novel, "Gone So Long."



Continued



- 6. BRIAN AMADO '12
- 7. JUAN CARLOS RIVERA '12
- 8. ERNEST NWACHAN '13
- 9. AARON MANZI '16

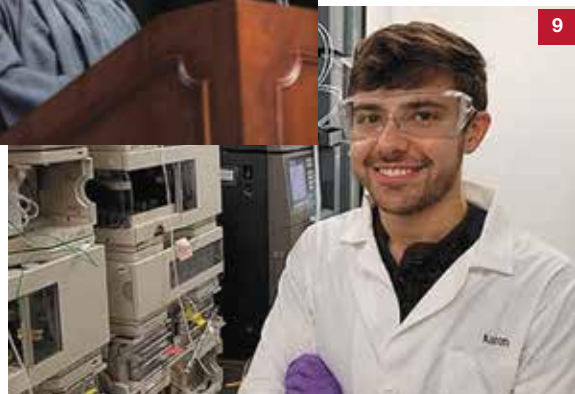


Photography: Scot Langdon/Longhillphoto.com



**"A winner is a dreamer who never gives up."**

—Nelson Mandela



**Jonathan Makrez** has been appointed interim deputy director of YOU Boston, an organization that empowers young people from court-involved or at-risk backgrounds to succeed in the workforce, in the community and in their lives. For the past six years, he has served in almost every position in the organization as he moved from direct service to staff management and organization planning. Most recently, he served as the assistant deputy director of career development.



**Kimberly (Vecchione) Zimmerman** and Robert Zimmerman, along with big sister Madison, welcomed Max in March of last year. Kimberly also recently started a new job as program quality engineering manager at BAE Systems in Nashua, N.H.



**'12 Ryan Fournier '12, '15** began working with Health-careSource soon after his graduation from UMass Lowell and now works as their lead software engineer.

**Brian Gaudreau**, a project manager and associate at Hancock Associates, is now a licensed professional engineer in Massachusetts, having passed the professional engineering exam following more than eight years of experience in both public and private construction.

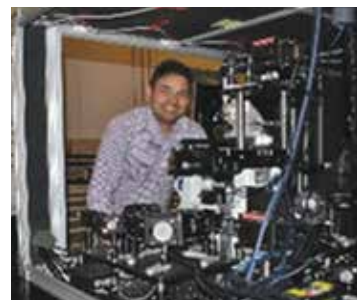


**Jason King** has been promoted to captain in the Mattapoisett Police Department, where he has served as an officer for over 20 years and has been a sergeant since 2003.

**Daniela Nedbalek** writes, "Keeping up with the major lifetime goal of traveling to more countries than years lived! Soon to be at 30 countries in 28 years." Check out her Instagram travel diary at @diaryofatravelingmermaid.

**Brian Amado** published his debut novel, "Coin Toss," a young adult novel, the first of what he hopes will be a four-part series about a young man navigating the complications of life. A middle school teacher, Amado knows his audience well. He lives in Westport, Mass., with his wife and 2-year-old son. [6]

**Abhishek Kumar '12, '13** received a national award from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative to join the staff of the Marine Biological Laboratory as a key collaborator in the MBL's Imaging Initiative, an interdisciplinary center dedicated to research, discovery and training in biological imaging and analysis.



**Amy Richards** has been promoted to manager in the Holyoke office of Whittlesey, providing accounting, tax and advisory services.

**Juan Carlos Rivera** was named professional of the year by the Professional Association of the Boys & Girls Club of America. Rivera has been a youth worker for 25 years. He received the professional of the year honor for the Northeast region a year prior. [7]

**'13 Brendan MacEachern** became a police officer in Reading, Mass. He previously worked as an officer in the Billerica Police Department.

**Ryan MacInnis** started his career as a journalist, writing for The Boston Globe. He is now the director of marketing for Notarize and serves as a New Venture Fellow and Entrepreneur in Residence at UMass Lowell, helping evaluate, advise and invest in world-class entrepreneurs.

**Miles Plant** graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and now works for the Stoneham Fire Department.

**Linda Pletch** received the Spaulding Spirit Award from the Spaulding Youth Center in Northfield, N.H. The current supervisor of the Behavioral Therapy Team, she has worked for the Spaulding Youth Center since 1989 and is described as "always focused on what's best for our students ... reflective and brilliant."

**Ernest Nwachan** graduated from Northeastern University Law School in 2015 and was the commencement speaker for his class. He is currently working on completing his doctor of law and policy degree from Northeastern. He is a founding member of the Africa America Alliance, whose signature project has been to raise a monument for Nelson Mandela. [8]

**'15 Kolawole Akindele** has been appointed assistant vice chancellor at UMass Medical School in Worcester. He will lead community relations with the school's community partners and key stakeholders.



**Kimberly Camillieri** and Neil Robertson were married on March 16 at the Bradford Tavern in Rowley, Mass. They currently reside in East Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**Philippe Candido '15, '17** married Courtney Brown at St. Joseph Chapel, College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., on August 11, 2018.



**Michael Green** was promoted to chief information officer at Young Living Essential Oils. In his new role, Green will focus on growing scalable information technology systems to handle the company's increasing volume of product sales.



**'16 Renoel Amogawin Jr. '16, '17** has been appointed as a Burlington, Mass., police officer. A Burlington High School alumnus and longtime resident, he has returned to his hometown roots to serve on the force in Burlington.

**Aaron Manzi** is a co-founder of Privo Technologies. Privo is developing a revolutionary treatment for oral cancer and just hit a huge milestone by opening its first clinical trial with their first patients to target early-stage oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma. [9]

Continued on P. 65



> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2015

> BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

## Battling the Odds to 'Plant a Seed'

The hardest part of his job is earning the trust of his clients, says Henry de Lima '15. All of them are children, some as young as five. Many are traumatized—too wounded or frightened to talk. Others have secrets to hide: an abusive mother, a drug-dealing brother, a father in a gang or in jail.

"The first job," says de Lima, "is to build a relationship, to get them to open up to me, to share what's happening in their lives. But they know the risks in that—that if they tell me someone's selling drugs, or hitting them, or committing a crime, I have to report it. And that's the end of the trust."

De Lima is a social worker at Family Continuity in Lawrence, Mass., one of the poorest cities in the state. A native New Yorker, he moved to Lawrence as a teen, he says, "and I've considered it home ever since."

He came to social work after an 18-year career in the Army Reserve that included tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. (He was inducted last year into UML's Military Alumni Veterans Hall of Fame.)

Roughly half the clients de Lima sees are high-school students at a charter school, there because they've struggled to adjust to a traditional school setting. He visits the others in their homes. An in-home visit, he says, "is one step below hospital in-patient care—so we're talking about kids with some serious mental-health and behavioral-health issues, many of whom have likely already been hospitalized."

"The kids don't have skills because the families don't have skills," he says. "Often they're held together by single mothers, who have their own tragic histories. And the



Henry de Lima '15 (third from left) returned to campus with other alumni veterans to drop the puck at River Hawks hockey Veteran Appreciation Night.

parents don't know any other way—it's how things were when they were kids. Poverty is at the root of a lot of it. When you're poor, you make desperate decisions."

It's hard for many of de Lima's clients to have hope, he says.

"It's a tough job—heartbreaking sometimes," he says. "And some of the time, it can feel like you're talking in circles. But then there are those moments when you feel a breakthrough happening, when you can actually feel the air in the room grow lighter—and they can feel it, too."

"Those are the moments I live for. Those are the moments when I know I've at least planted a seed." UML



> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2018

# The Trahan Seven

CONGRESSWOMAN FILLS KEY ROLES WITH UML ALUMNI

**M**eaghan Gallagher '18 was interning and studying for a semester in Washington, D.C., when she first heard of Lori Trahan, who was running for Congress in Massachusetts' 3rd District.

So when Gallagher, a political science major, returned to Lowell in late 2017, she went to hear Trahan speak at the iconic Owl Diner.

Everything Trahan talked about—reducing student debt, supporting public education, raising the minimum wage and improving health care—resonated with Gallagher, the daughter of a hard-working single mom. Although Gallagher was working her way through UMass Lowell with multiple jobs, she signed up as an unpaid campaign intern on the spot.

"I felt she was very genuine," Gallagher says. "I said, 'I want to help you!'"

Gallagher, a Student Government Association senator at the time, was joined on the campaign by two UML friends: then-SGA President Lisa Degou and Alexandra Karabatsos '18, a former vice president. The three moved into off-campus housing together, working for Trahan every spare minute while juggling classes and homework. They brought home campaign projects to finish and brainstormed strategy until the wee hours. Sarah Keene '17 often joined them.

"We'd be graphic designers for campaign materials in the morning, and in the afternoon, we'd be sending out mailers, dropping signs or figuring out a visibility strategy," Gallagher says. "It was the ultimate chess game: How do we get her message out to the most people?"

Their dedication paid off. They were part of the team that helped Trahan eke out a 145-vote victory in the 10-way Democratic primary last September and a convincing win against Republican Rick Green in November. Now all of them work for her full time.

In Washington, D.C., Degou is her scheduler, and Karabatsos is her legislative correspondent. In Trahan's district office in Lowell, Gallagher is the staff assistant, and Keene is liaison to the western part of the district, helping with constituent services, outreach and economic development.

Photo above: Five UMass Lowell alumni anchor U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan's district office in Lowell: District Director Emily Byrne, far right, and, from left, Sarah Keene, Vladimir Saldana, Meaghan Gallagher and Sara Khun-Leng. Trahan visited campus recently (photo below) to tour research facilities.



> BY KATHARINE WEBSTER

Three more alumni anchor the district office: District Director Emily Byrne '02, '04, Constituent Services Director Sara Khun-Leng '99 and Vladimir Saldana '13, liaison to the northern part of the district.

Trahan's UML connections are strong. She worked as former Congressman Marty Meehan's chief of staff, helping to hire Byrne and Khun-Leng right out of college. Trahan mentored the younger women, and they stayed in touch even as Trahan moved to the private sector and Khun-Leng joined the community relations and family services team at the Lowell Police Department.

Byrne stuck with Meehan when he left Congress to serve as UMass Lowell's chancellor and then president of the UMass system. Still, when U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, Meehan's successor, announced in the summer of 2017 that she would not seek another term, Byrne got the itch for politics again.

A month later, Trahan jumped into the race. Byrne helped out in her spare time, and after Trahan won, Byrne agreed to manage her district office—with Meehan's blessing.

"The campaign got the fire burning in me again. It's also an interesting time to come back into politics and to be part of a team with a woman leader," Byrne says. "I feel like I can have an impact, especially at this uncertain time for our country." [UML](#)

**Nicholas Quigley** released his second album, "Interventions 9-1," which falls under the genre of "classical crossover with layered compositions of different interludes." He is completing a master's degree in music at Boston University.

**Sally Pham** and Sam Hilliard opened the Vinaan Cafe in downtown Lowell. Since she was a student at UMass Lowell, Pham has been on a mission to bring a Vietnamese-inspired coffee and bubble tea shop to Lowell. The café opened last summer and is located near City Hall. [\[10\]](#)



**Dan Raher** has become a member of the Plastics Pioneers Association. Raher is vice president of sales and marketing at Deltech Polymers and has been in the plastics industry for more than 42 years.

**Nancy Curran '12, '16** is a nurse practitioner at Clean Slate Centers in Tewksbury, Mass. She writes, "Very proud of my daughter, Carolyn Hill, a student in the UMass Lowell Honors College of Education, Class of 2022."

**Keleyce Harper** accepted a new job at Sekisui Diagnostics in Lexington, Mass., as a technical services specialist. She is also serving as an ascending professional on the board of directors for the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science and a per diem medical laboratory scientist at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston.

**Victoria Laureano** and **Nicholas Giasullo '14** got engaged in front of Lowell's Children's Village in the Mill, in the exact place they met as students volunteering with Jumpstart through UMass Lowell. Laureano is a teacher in the Balsz school district in Arizona, and Giasullo is a site coordinator at Playworks, an Arizona nonprofit focused on bringing healthy play to low-income schools. [\[11\]](#)

**'17 Laura (Nicholson) Camy** married Jacques Camy in 2018. He is set to graduate from UMass Lowell next year. Laura writes, "We are proud to be a UML family!" She is a career specialist at the Lowell Community Corrections Center.

**Casey O'Neill** has joined the certified public accounting firm Leone, McDonnell & Roberts in Pennsylvania.



**Nicole Gagnon** is a behavioral therapist for Beacon ABA Services. She is currently enrolled in the behavior analysis graduate program at Cambridge College.

**Dara Svay** recently opened The 978 Café in Dracut, Mass., fulfilling his high school dream. He hopes to open more coffeehouses throughout the region. [\[12\]](#)

**'18 David Aguiar** started a new job as a campus tour coordinator for UMass Lowell Undergraduate Admissions.

**Ashley Fortier** is an acquisitions assistant at Tantor Media.

**Mary Foley** is enrolled in UMass Lowell's Fast Track Program to earn an M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction. She continues to work at UML as a Writing Center tutor, aiding students from all majors and backgrounds.

**Kaylin Hallet** passed the NCLEX-RN exam and recently enlisted in the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

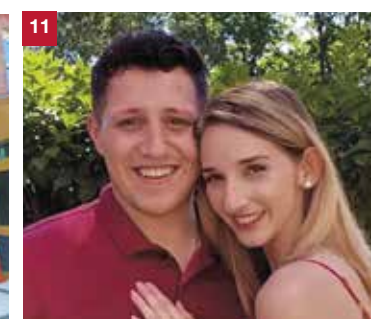
**Ryan Jewell** graduated from the police academy and has been hired as a police officer in Framingham, Mass.

**Tri Mai '15, '18** is working as a data scientist at MFS Investment Management.

**Alessandro Mora** is a senior scientist heading up cell line development at Jounce Therapeutics.

**Nidhi Belur** is working at Intel Corp. as a network software development engineer.

**Daniel Krikorian** and James Toohy, a current UMass Lowell student, have teamed up to launch a new digital media network to cover obstacle course racing on a global scale. Their company, OCRM Network (Obstacle Course Racing Media), captures the craze of obstacle course racing by companies like Spartan Race, Tough Mudder and Warrior Dash. They are now launching content on popular applications like Amazon Prime, FlixFling, Sling TV, Dish and Roku. [\[13\]](#) [UML](#)



10. SALLY PHAM '16 AND SAM HILLIARD  
11. NICHOLAS GIASULLO '14 AND VICTORIA LAUREANO '16

12. DARA SVAY '17  
13. DANIEL KRIKORIAN '17 AND JAMES TOOHEY





## UMASS LOWELL ON THE ROAD



**1.** From left: Brian Phillips '75, Dennis Hollis '75, Barry Chiorello '76 and Michael Pearsall '94 enjoy some pregame fun at a Red Sox vs. Phillies game in Philadelphia.

**2.** Barry Goers '10, Liz Daigle, Craig Daigle '08, Lynn McAuliffe '83 and Gregg McAuliffe '83 gather in Denver to meet fellow alumni in the area and enjoy food and conversation.

**3.** Michael O'Neil '82, '83, Tony Caputo '73, Zita Caputo, Margo Werzanski and Kevin Shanahan '70 spend time together at an alumni and friends event in Falmouth hosted by Tom '77, '80 and Diane '84 O'Connor.

**4.** Skip Kittredge '67 and Bobbie Kittredge pause while mingling with other UMass Lowell alumni at the second annual Southern Maine Alumni Reception at the home of Chris Finneral '98 and Meghan Mahoney..

**5.** Alumni and friends gather at Ivywild in Colorado Springs to discuss enhancing programming in the area. From left: Executive Director of Alumni and Donor Relations Heather Makrez Allen '06, '08, James DiPane, Stephanie DiPane '17, Michelle Holmstrom, Benjamin Holmstrom '10, Senior Associate Athletic Director Eric Allen, Linda Kozlowski '71, Paul Kozlowski and Marcia Neumiller '82.

**6.** UMass Lowell alumni and staff join UMass President Marty Meehan '78 and Chancellor Moloney '75, '92 at a reception in Los Angeles.

**7.** Alumni gather to cheer on the River Hawks baseball team during a doubleheader against the University of Arizona in Tucson, Ariz.

**8.** Alumni celebrate St. Patrick's Day, Florida-style. From left: Bill Lipchitz '63, '66, John Zappala '66, Stu Pearce '64, Doug Stagnaro '64 and Dick Dauksys '62.

**9.** Arlene Forte '56 and Tyler Vailla '16 may have graduated 60 years apart from each other, but they enjoy celebrating UMass Lowell and St. Patrick's Day in Florida together.



## CELEBRATION & MILESTONES

**10.** State Rep. David Nangle spoke at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell.

**11.** Celebration of Philanthropy honorees gather with Chancellor Jacquie Moloney '75, '92 after the event. From left: Brian Rist '77, Joe Albanese '84, Rick Hoeske '66, Christine Hoeske, Campaign Chair John Pulichino '67, '14 (H), Chancellor Moloney, Edward Moloney, Elizabeth O'Shea and William O'Shea '69, '03 (H).

**12.** At the Celebration of 50 Years of Nursing event, 50 nurses were honored. Pictured here celebrating are Assistant Dean Pauline Ladebauche '74, Dean Emerita Jan Stecchi and Kevin Whitney '96.

**13.** The College of Education celebrated the redesign of Coburn Hall with a groundbreaking ceremony. From left: Prof. Lisa Geraci, Marie Sweeney '64, Molly Sheehy '60, '82, '00, Lisa Dana '92, '01, Marc Kerble '87, '89, Janis Raquin '92, Linda FitzPatrick '68, Chancellor Jacquie Moloney '75, '92, Joan Marchessault '00, Dean Eleanor Abrams, Dean Luis Falcón, Richard Hoffmann '97, Marjorie Miller '67, '72, Assoc. Prof. Iman Chahine and Asst. Prof. Jack Schneider.

**14.** At the grand reopening of Perry Hall, Barry Perry '68, '15 (H) and members of his family, center, are joined by students Massachusetts Life Sciences Center President and CEO Travis McCready; Provost Joseph Hartman, UMass Trustee Mary Burns; Chancellor Moloney '75, '92; UMass President Marty Meehan '78; state Rep. Tom Golden '93, '01 and Lowell Mayor William Samaras.

**15.** At the Biological Sciences 50th anniversary celebration, guests check out historical photos. From left: Senior Lab Manager for Biological Sciences Rizvana Bhaiwala, Jeffrey Moore '91, '93, Karen Moore, Keith Mikule '92, '93 and Jennifer Sullivan '91, '93. Seated: Molly Tannatt '91 and Julie De Zutter '91, '92.

**16.** Marching band alumni celebrated the 40th anniversary of the UML band. From left: Aaron Goldberg '03, Heather Kirby '92, Director of University Bands Dan Lutz, Anthony Beatrice '07, '12, Louis Prosperi, Doreen Ferguson '90, Elaine Winchell '84, Kris DeMoura '98, '00, Laurene Demoy '91, James Ham '13, '14, Associate Director of University Bands Deb Huber '89, '92, '12, Karen St. George '94, Kevin Goddu '16, '18 and Mark Sampson '88.

**17.** From left: Fang Zhang '15, Zoila Gomez '00, Gordon Halm '12, '13, Margarita Zapata-Turcotte '04, '13, David Turcotte '79, '07, Lura Smith, Robert Smith and Mirkens Paul '20 gather to celebrate the eighth annual Martin Luther King dinner at UMass Lowell.





## RIVER HAWKS ON ICE



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**18.** Alumni and friends connect at the Model UN and International Relations Club Alumni Hockey Night, with proceeds from the event benefiting the program's activities. From left: Library Systems Administrator Paul Nutter '06, Associate Director of Academic Services Operations David Driscoll '94, Emeritus History Professor Dean Bergeron, Stephen Driscoll '20 and Betsy Driscoll.

**19.** Bob Findlen '81, Lou Sacco '88, Dave Janeczek '82, '85, Chancellor Jacquie Moloney '75, '92 and Larry Acquarulo '81 come together at a hockey game to raise donations from Pi Lam brothers for an endowment they created to help UML students achieve success.

**20.** Joseph and Margaret Herbert '60 enjoy a visit with Rowdy at the True Blue Hockey Night reception for donors who have given two or more times.

**21.** Dean Sandra Richtermeyer, Jim Regan '88 and Michelle Silveira '91 catch up and cheer on the men's hockey team at the Manning School of Business hockey night.

**22.** Claude Marchessault, Joan Marchessault '00 and retired Prof. Bob Gower cheer on the River Hawks hockey team at the College of Education Alumni Appreciation Night.

**23.** Peg Fitzgerald '86, granddaughter Iris, and husband, Marc Comstock, cheer on the River Hawk hockey team at the Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences Alumni and Friends Night.

**24.** Enjoying the UML vs. UMass Amherst game, at which Governor Charlie Baker, far right, dropped the puck (and which the River Hawks won, 2-0), are, from left, David Janeczek '82, '85; Larry Acquarulo '81; Chancellor Jacquie Moloney '75, '92 and Baker.

**25.** College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences alumni, from left, Sarah Lincoln '15, Thomas Emery '15 and Fahmina Zaman '14, '16 show their support for River Hawk hockey during the annual FAHSS appreciation night.

**26.** Fadwah Chiklis '91 and Greg Chiklis '92 cheer on the River Hawk hockey team at the Kennedy College of Sciences Alumni and Friends Night.

## HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

**27.** Sigma Phi Omicron brothers (from left) John Sotirakos '00, Robert McMahon '05, Mike Jarvis '06 and Azar Louh '00 hit the golf course for the third annual UMass Lowell and Sigma Phi Omicron Alumni Association Golf Tournament.

**28.** Alumni, friends and future River Hawks gather for an adventurous afternoon at the Purgatory Chasm State Reservation Hike in Sutton, Mass. From left: Alex Warmouth, Assoc. Prof. Ellen Wetmore, Ben Warmouth, Jeff Warmouth, Chris Blake '18, Paula Hogan '84, Lawrence Hogan '83 and Assoc. Teaching Prof. Lori Weeden '00.

**29.** Asst. Prof. Erica Steckler, Asst. Prof. John Cluverius, Assistant Dean Emeritus Frank Talty '77 and Asst. Teaching Prof. Amy Smalarz pose for a photo after the Political Science Faculty Showcase.

**30.** Along with other young UML alumni, Sony '10, '12 Yung and Macara Yung cheer on the Red Sox vs. the New York Mets.

**31.** UMass Lowell and Greentown Labs announced a partnership focused on renewable energy. Shown at the announcement are, from left, state Rep. Tom Golden '93, '01, chairman of the Massachusetts Legislature's Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, who played a key role in forging the partnership; Greentown Labs CEO Emily Reichert; and UML Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Julie Chen.

**32.** Alumni gather to reconnect and network during the Multicultural Student and Alumni Social. Back row, from left: Azhar Zahiruddin '14, Emmanuel Lamour '05, '16, Charlene Clerveau '18 and Matilda Matovu '17. Front row, from left: Bao Tran '06, '15, Zoila Gomez '00, Bonie Rosario '12, Karina Cruz '14 and Jacky Ingram '04.

**33.** At the Oak and Iron Brewing Co., Ethan Brown '15, Dean Sandra Richtermeyer, Rowdy, Men's Ice Hockey Coach Norm Bazin '94, '99 and Bill Cox '81 socialize and network.

**34.** Student Alumni Ambassadors and young alumni cheer on the men's basketball team as they play against University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Back row, from left: Jenna Freitas '16, Kelly Freitas '16, Jahmaal Box '11, Charlotte Skolnick '18, Christopher Blake '18, Ralph Saint-Louis '18 and Matilda Matovu '17. Front row, from left: Courtney Sweeney, Heather Sweeney '11, Fahmina Zaman '14, '16 and Charlene Clerveau '18.



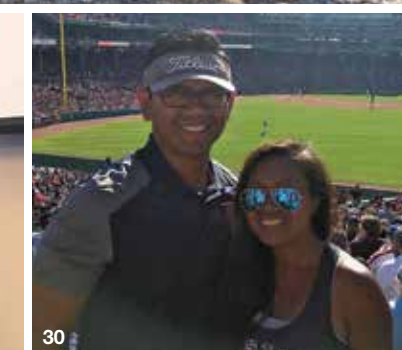
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## HOMEcoming 2018

**35.** The Hawkey Way Homecoming festival provided the chance for Sean MacLeod '16, Director of Life Safety and Emergency Preparedness Richard Wood, Theresa Wood, Christopher Neumann '15, Olivia Marshall '17 and Patrick Kiley '18 to catch up.

**36.** UMass Lowell Digital Marketing Specialist Stephanie Lyon '13 shows her son her River Hawk Pride during the Hawkey Way Homecoming festival.

**37.** At the Hawkey Way Homecoming festival, John Cogan '86 and Kevin Sullivan '94 celebrate being River Hawks.



## IN MEMORIAM

YEAR	NAME	YEAR	NAME	YEAR	NAME
1927	Roger D. Smith	1964	Patricia M. (Foley) Karl	1978	Pauline J. Hamel
1937	Betty M. (Stowell) Keller	1964	Patricia M. Karl	1978	Clara (Arey) McCoy
1939	Ruth E. (Fox) Merrill	1964	Mary Ellen McCarthy	1978	Wayne K. North
1939	Myrla P. (Wilbur) Roseberry	1964	Robert E. Wheaton	1978	Gunars V. Zagars
1942	Arthur L. Hillson	1965	Claire J. Beland	1979	Patrick B. Burns
1942	Elizabeth T. Holton	1965	Joanne E. (Dierauer) Graham	1979	Noreen J. Conlon
1942	Alice G. Kiernan	1965	Janet R. (Johnson) McDonald	1979	John F. Meehan
1943	Phyllis L. Clemens McCormack	1965	Tauno J. Metsisto	1980	David A. Boyd
1945	Frances M. (Montague) Thibaut	1967	Harris J. Bacon	1980	Daniel R. Regan
1945	Shirley M. (Miller) Tippens	1967	David P. Brzezinski	1980	Matthew G. Tibolt
1946	Rosemary B. Nicholson	1967	Joanne M. (Albert) Cudihy	1981	David C. Thornton
1949	Ann M. (Daley) Byrne	1967	Ronald A. Delorenzo	1981	Paul L. Wilson
1949	Ida G. (Squatrito) Simpson	1968	William A. Cole	1982	William H. Anderson
1950	Patricia A. (Clemens) Carroll	1968	Cheryl L. (Zipps) Sumstad	1982	Dennis P. Tully
1951	Hildreth (Palmer) Aldrich	1969	Linda E. (Corcoran) Bryan	1983	Nanci A. (Heffernan) Bolduc
1951	Charles H. Kohnfelder	1969	Joanne E. (Campione) Grella	1983	Anthony J. Joseph
1951	Marjorie M. (Mason) Lawson	1969	Maxine A. Preston	1983	Michael D. Thompson
1951	Elizabeth M. McAvinue	1969	John J. Wolstencroft	1984	Robert T. Keenan
1952	Jane W. (White) Keddle	1970	Ralph C. Brassard	1984	Donald R. Wilkinson
1953	Ellen D. (McKenna) Benedict	1971	Carl I. Cote	1985	Michael G. Demaras
1953	William D. Carty	1971	Rita A. (Farrell) Crane	1985	Richard J. Quigley
1953	Paul W. Kinikis	1971	Linda J. Hess	1985	Lynda M. Skerry
1953	Robert M. Profio	1971	Donald B. Irvin	1985	Carolyn J. Willis
1953	Cynthia L. (Malin) Roth	1971	Robert B. Kennedy	1986	Gregory S. Bourekas
1953	Stanley C. Scheier	1971	Laureen M. (Romelli) Lynch	1986	Joan C. Kilday
1953	Charles G. Tewksbury	1971	Edward T. Salesky	1987	Mary E. (Monsignore) Bartel
1954	Louise T. (McManus) Benham	1972	William J. Daley	1987	Richard T. Brophy
1954	Georgina B. Kinney	1972	Patricia J. (Heffron) Falcone	1987	Wayne Christopher Martin
1954	Tristan A. Laurion	1972	Richard C. Grosky	1989	Edward R. Gosselin
1954	Andre J. Pelletier	1972	Susan E. (Walsh) King	1990	Kathleen M. Allen
1955	Joan (Mullen) Healy	1972	Kenneth W. Kirwin	1991	Karen A. Dowgos
1955	James A. Knox	1972	Linda T. Marsha	1991	June E. (Brunkow) Evans
1955	Kathleen H. (Harrington) Manchester	1972	Robert K. Purington	1991	Barbara Hemingway
1955	Henry J. Powell	1972	Leonard E. Rantz	1992	Rhonda D. Hintergardt
1956	Mary E. (Moore) Fleming	1973	Mary E. (McNulty) Ackley	1993	Christine A. (Messina) Bolduc
1956	Raymond W. Tabloski	1973	Charlene M. Gadde	1994	Charles A. Gargiulo
1956	John R. White	1973	Charles W. Harrington	1995	Richard M. Guenard
1957	Jacqueline D. (Lachance) Dupont	1973	Garey A. Hesselton	1995	Jonathan A. Stockwell
1957	Daniel F. Forte	1973	Cornelius J. Kelly	1996	Amer Koudsi
1957	William P. Mahoney	1973	Richard C. Knightly	1996	Elinor T. Lahaie
1958	Mary C. (O'Connor) Ashburn	1973	Francis J. Kochanek	1997	Ronald A. Mainville
1958	Alice (Merten) Fleming	1974	James E. Chisholm	1997	Paul B. Tuininga
1958	Leonard E. Gagnon	1974	Kevin R. Fitzgerald	1999	Jennifer E. Desjardins
1958	Howard M. Gorlin	1974	Pauline M. Gagne	2002	Charles Kaminski
1958	Robert A. Hunter	1974	Paul A. Levasseur	2002	William S. Rizos
1958	Barbara H. Krysiak	1974	Dennis M. Litwinetz	2003	Luke Edward Karpinski
1958	Alan C. McKittrick	1975	Michael Kowal	2003	Kevin D. Smith
1958	Harold F. Neville	1975	Marc W. Lupien	2004	Justine Marie Wilbur
1958	Nancy E. (Jordan) Paine	1975	Frank E. Payson	2006	William Michael Faulkner
1958	Clyde L. Paulauskas	1975	Richard A. Violette	2009	Sherri G. Carter
1959	Paul A. Getchell	1976	William E. Chetwynd	2011	Trebor Martyn Dooley
1959	L. Donald LaTorre	1976	Terence F. Conlon	2012	Allison J. Donovan
1960	J. Armand Bergeron	1976	Arthur L. Gaudette	2012	Mikhail Lomakin
1960	Edwin J. Kaine	1976	Richard E. Gerst	2012	Jeffrey Paul Sawyer
1960	Thomas F. Kane	1976	Michael M. Gustin		Ruizhe Yao
1960	Francis L. Kitchenka	1976	David C. Kilbourn		Mario Aste
1961	Margaret E. (Keyes) Bowen	1976	Roger G. Michaud		Alan Doerr
1961	Donald J. McQueen	1976	Gerry R. St. Peter		Bernadette Galvin
1962	Joseph P. Chmielowski	1976	Lawrence P. Viens		William L. Rogers
1962	Philip G. Tays	1976	John A. Whites		Gary Sales
1963	David J. Gleneck	1977	Thomas H. Bowen		Conrad J. Sevigny
1963	Kathryn A. (Crane) Lucier	1977	Leona R. Dolloff		Carolyn S. Wolf
1963	Maureen A. (Shanahan) Roberts	1977	Richard F. Kalagher		
		1977	Robert G. Nichols		

## Alumni Events Calendar

For more information, or to register for events, visit [www.alumni.uml.edu](http://www.alumni.uml.edu).

### SEPTEMBER

#### 10TH ANNUAL PLASTICS ENGINEERING GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, Sept. 20  
12 p.m. Lunch  
1 p.m. Shotgun start  
Connecticut National Golf Course, Putnam, Conn.  
Enjoy a day of camaraderie and fun while playing golf with fellow Plastics Engineering alumni, faculty, friends and industry partners. This event benefits Pi Lam and UML's Plastics Engineering students.

#### LATINO HERITAGE MONTH ALUMNI AND STUDENT NETWORKING

Wednesday, Sep. 25, 6-8 p.m.  
University Crossing, Moloney Hall  
Alumni and students will gather for the celebration of Latino Heritage Month with a night of socializing and networking.

### OCTOBER

#### 125TH ANNIVERSARY Including our CELEBRATION OF PHILANTHROPY

Thursday, Oct. 17, 6-8 p.m.  
UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center Chancellor's Leadership Society members, loyal donors and the newest members of UML's lifetime giving societies are honored for their generous support during this annual event.

#### 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION RECEPTION AND DINNER INCLUDING OUR CELEBRATION OF PHILANTHROPY AND UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AWARDS

Thursday, Oct. 17, 5:30-9:30 p.m.  
UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center  
Homecoming kicks off with UMass Lowell's 125th Anniversary Celebration! We started small, we worked hard and today we are one of the fastest-growing

public research universities in the country. Join us in celebrating our accomplishments and this important milestone with entertainment, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, honors and awards. Limited tickets available.

#### RIVER HAWK HOMEcoming WEEKEND Celebrating 125 Years

Oct. 18-20  
Alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends gather for a weekend full of entertainment, reunions and family fun.

#### UML DAY OF SERVICE

Saturday, Oct. 19  
Join alumni and students in giving back to the Lowell community before heading to the homecoming festivities.

# THEN...

For more than two decades, students experienced the thrill of flight with the University of Lowell Hang Gliding Club. Founded in 1974 by a pair of faculty members, Bill Blood and the late John Kelly, the club combined classroom instruction on safety and the mechanics of gliders with weekend flying lessons on small hills around the area. Club participation satisfied students' one-credit physical education requirement (when that was a thing).

"We had a good bunch of kids," says the now-90-year-old Blood, who worked as an engineering lab technician at the university from 1966 to 1996. "They never seemed too nervous. We'd start them on flat ground so they could get the feel for it and then work up to hills."

For 12 years, the club hosted an intercollegiate hang gliding meet over Columbus Day weekend in Claremont, N.H. The annual event drew hundreds of competitors from schools across the U.S. and Canada, including MIT, the University of Maryland and even Northern Essex Community College.

The hang gliding club was ultimately grounded in 1996 due to liability concerns. Blood, who lives in Londonderry, N.H., recently loaned a treasure trove of club-related photos, videos and documents to the UML Libraries Center for Lowell History so that they could be digitized. You can find the collection online at [uml.edu/library](http://uml.edu/library).





# NOW...



Students are no longer required to take physical education, and there isn't a hang gliding club on campus for them to test their nerve. But thanks to the university's Campus Recreation program, today's students have more opportunities than ever to work out, play a club or intramural sport, or just get out of their comfort zone.

The popular Outdoor Adventure Program offers local skydiving, surfing and mountain biking excursions, as well as annual hiking trips to the Grand Canyon (as seen here) and sea kayaking trips to Florida.

"It's a great way for students to recharge and enjoy the outdoors," says Kevin Soleil '05, assistant director of the outdoor and bicycle programs, whose mission is to "support the development of healthy, balanced lifestyles for the UML community through outdoor recreation activities."

Soleil can't imagine the university ever offering a hang gliding club again, but he and his staff are constantly finding new ways to help students get their blood—and adrenaline—pumping.





**OCT. 17-20, 2019**

**HOMECOMING FEATURES**

- ★ River Hawk Way Homecoming Festival
- ★ Reunion Celebrations for Those with Class Years Ending in "4" or "9"
- ★ Jennifer's 5K Run/Walk
- ★ Community Service Day
- ★ Live Music
- ★ UML Hockey
- ★ Athlete Alumni Celebrations
- ★ Division I Games
- ★ Parent & Family Reception

Don't miss this event-packed weekend filled with entertainment, family fun and opportunities to reunite with friends and classmates. Alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff, friends and the community are all invited.



[uml.edu/homecoming](http://uml.edu/homecoming)

