

# UMass Lowell

## MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Oct. 10-13, 2013

## Reminisce, Reconnect and Rediscover UMass Lowell.

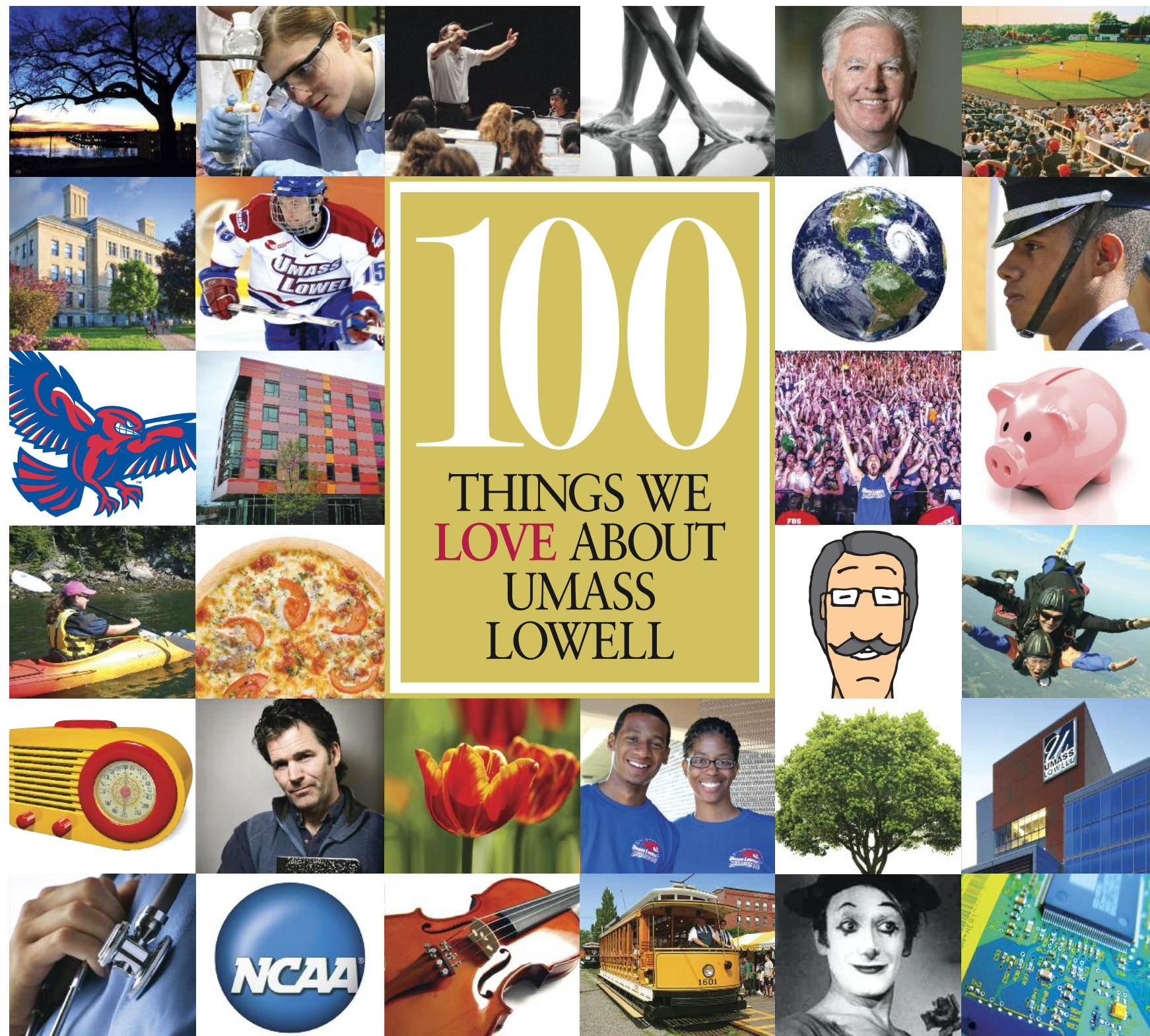
*See the major changes happening on campus!*

**NEW IN 2013:** Open classroom opportunities,  
Oktoberfest, open ice skating at the Tsongas  
Center, children's magic show and more!

- Division I Hockey East Champions Home Opener
- Division I Volleyball and Women's Soccer
- Athletic Alumni Games
- Golden Alumni Luncheon, Class of '63 or Earlier
- Greek Life Gala
- 15th Annual Jennifer's 5k Run/Walk
- Celebration of Philanthropy
- Family Day
- Campus Tours
- Student Leader Alumni Reunion

*fall* **festival**  
Homecoming || Family Day || Reunions

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Sarah\_Corbett@uml.edu

**Chancellor**  
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**Executive Vice Chancellor**  
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**Director of Alumni Relations**  
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**Communications Manager**  
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**Editor**  
Sarah McAdams Corbett

**Designer**  
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**Staff Writers**  
Edwin Aguirre  
Karen Angelo  
Geoffrey Douglas  
Sheila Eppolito  
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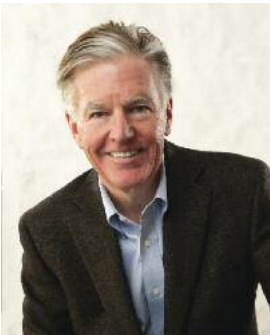
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University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Office of University Advancement  
Southwick 250, One University Ave.  
Lowell, MA 01854-2882  
alumni\_office@uml.edu  
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A Message From  
Chancellor Martin T. Meehan '78



Few people could possibly love UMass Lowell more than I do.

I grew up in this city and was a student on this campus. I left a job in Congress to return to my alma mater and help lead it. I work out in the Rec Center and cheer on our River Hawks at athletic events. I teach classes in political science and donate to student scholarships. I believe in UMass Lowell and never tire of telling people why.

But I'm not alone.

Our community, our UMass Lowell family, is like no other. Whether we were here when the campus was called Lowell Tech or ULowell—or one of its other iterations—we share a passion for this gutsy and pioneering University.

Wherever I go, people stop me to chat about the exciting things happening here now—or to share vivid memories from days past. Many of the things they mention are included in this issue, much of which is dedicated to the “100 Things We Love About UMass Lowell.”

The list is not peer-reviewed or scientific. Not everything on it is prestigious or enlightening. But each item is uniquely *ours*, from the quirkiest characters to the most remarkable research.

Please turn the page and read about all of it. And then let us know what we've omitted. Because, after all, there are far more than 100 things to love about UMass Lowell.

Martin T. Meehan '78  
Chancellor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**UMass Lowell Fourth Annual Plastics Engineering Golf Tournament:** Sept. 20, Connecticut National Golf Club, 12:30 p.m. For more information, please contact the Alumni Office at 978-934-3140 or Alumni\_Office@uml.edu.

**Fall Festival Weekend:** Oct. 10-13. Activities will include athletic events, Jennifer's 5K Fun Run/Walk, Family Day, campus tours and reunions. For more information, visit [www.uml.edu/fallfestival](http://www.uml.edu/fallfestival).

**Chancellor's Leadership Society Dinner,** Oct. 10, UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, 5:30 p.m. Help celebrate donors who support the University with annual gifts of \$1,000 or more, as well as lifetime honorees who have given over \$100,000. For more information, call 978-934-4449 or email [Gerty\\_Sousa@uml.edu](mailto:Gerty_Sousa@uml.edu).

**Celebration of Scholarship Luncheon,** Oct. 11, 2013, UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, Noon–2 p.m. Join student scholarship recipients and the generous benefactors who made their scholarships possible. For more information, call 978-934-2216 or email [Kristen\\_Walsh@uml.edu](mailto:Kristen_Walsh@uml.edu).

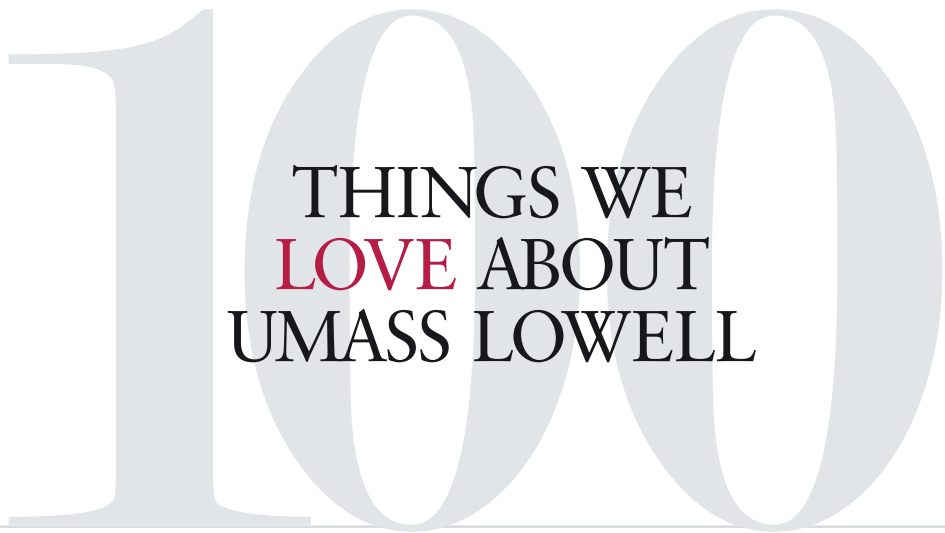
Visit [uml.edu/alumni](http://uml.edu/alumni) for more listings.

The UMass Lowell Magazine for Alumni and Friends is a 2013 winner of platinum and gold Hermes Creative Awards, a Silver Bell Ringer, an APEX Award of Excellence and honorable mentions in the PR Daily Awards and the PR Daily Nonprofit PR Awards.



UMass Lowell  
MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The Feature



**What do you love about UMass Lowell?** We asked alumni, both recent and not-so-much. We polled students. We cornered longtime faculty members and administrators. We queried guys on lawnmowers and women building sandwiches. We pored through old yearbooks and photos, and we stalked our online community. The results of our research can be found on the following pages, as part of our first-ever, favorite-things issue. There are people and places, traditions and ... pizza. From the prestigious to the irreverent—in no particular order and with no particular objectivity—we present 100 fantastic things about our University.

ALUMNI LIFE

EVENTS

DONOR THANK YOU

CLASS NOTES

IN MEMORIAM

Editor's Note

Please send comments to Editor Sarah McAdams Corbett at [Sarah\\_Corbett@uml.edu](mailto:Sarah_Corbett@uml.edu). Submit class notes to: Class Notes Editor, Southwick 250, One University Ave., Lowell, MA 01854 or [www.uml.edu/advancement/classnotes](http://www.uml.edu/advancement/classnotes).



48 Ken Geiser



51 Deborah Friedl '83



55 Sarah Wroblewski '05



56 Rich Hamel '91, '04



59 Lydia Sisson '12



61 Nina Coppens

CORRECTION: The Spring 2013 issue stated that Jessica Huizenga '05, '12 received her doctoral degree online, but the University does not offer online doctoral programs.

LOWELL TEXTILE SCHOOL • MASSACHUSETTS STATE NORMAL SCHOOL • STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE AT LOWELL • LOWELL TEXTILE INSTITUTE  
LOWELL TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE • MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE AT LOWELL • LOWELL STATE COLLEGE • UNIVERSITY OF LOWELL





# 100 THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT UMASS LOWELL



**P**ERHAPS IT'S A SOUND. A hockey puck slapping against plexiglass, the steady beat of a drum major, a trolley whistle. Or maybe it's a scent. Hot pizza, blooming lilacs, fresh-roasted coffee. Or it's a glimpse of a whiteboard, a bright blue sweatshirt, a car decal.

Something triggers a memory. And suddenly you're right back at UMass Lowell.

Sure, the University has changed since it opened its doors in 1894. But its soul remains the same. Whether we were Chiefs or River Hawks—or had no mascot at all—our hearts are connected to this plucky University along the banks of the Merrimack River. Our campus, like the city it's in, has always been identified with invention and innovation. And the same can be said for its students. Its alumni carry that resourceful approach out into the world.

They also carry some pretty fantastic memories.

There's a lot to love about UMass Lowell, after all, and as we move into a brand new school year, we've devoted much of this issue to describing 100 of them.

*And now, in no particular order ....*

DISCLAIMER: There are certainly more than 100 things to love about UMass Lowell. And so this list—created with the help of alumni, students, faculty and staff—is in no way comprehensive. We'd love to hear your favorites, and would be happy to share them in later issues. Email Editor Sarah McAdams Corbett at [Sarah\\_Corbett@uml.edu](mailto:Sarah_Corbett@uml.edu).



No. 99

**Our  
underworld.**

Ah, yes, the tunnels—those popular subterranean passageways on North Campus that for decades have been the route of choice between buildings on cold, snowy or rainy days. And those exposed steam heat pipes kept them warm. Very warm. Hot. Former residents of Eames and Smith halls remember that the tunnels allowed them to “dress down” en route to class when the weather outside was frightful. The tunnels (all 2,900 feet of them) are still there but the steam pipes are, thankfully, now enclosed.



No. 5

**WE GIVE GOOD ROI.**

The return on investment in a UMass Lowell education is solid. A new study by PayScale, which compared alumni earnings to the price of earning a bachelor's degree, ranked the University 10th among U.S. public colleges—and 50th among all universities. And this summer, Forbes named us the 10th best value among all public colleges in the U.S.

No. 25

**Our real-life avian mascots.**

High above the University—perched atop 18-story Fox Hall—lives the fastest, wildest couple on campus. Two endangered Peregrine falcons selected Fox Hall's roof for their love nest, and thanks to help from the University and the U.S. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, their romance has flourished with the birth of several offspring. First discovered by accident in 2007 by facilities workers attempting to hang a banner, the falcons protected their eggs by taking turns swooping in to attack the workers. Over the years, University and state personnel have worked on their relationship with the birds—the fastest on earth, capable of diving 200 m.p.h. for a tasty robin or pigeon—and now band chicks for monitoring and use a falcon nanny-cam to monitor their behavior 24/7. In 2009, when none of their eggs survived, officials presented the couple with a foster chick who'd been abandoned in Lawrence. Two healthy chicks were born recently—making a falcon family of 15 and one adopted son—and the happy couple shows no signs of slowing up.

[ No. 67 The UMass Lowell Inn &amp; Conference Center. ]



No. 13

**Rowdy  
the River Hawk.**

No. 11

**The way(s)  
we were.**

*Scattered pictures  
of the smiles we left  
behind; smiles we  
gave to one another  
for the way we were.*

Massachusetts State Normal School at Lowell (1894-1932), Lowell Textile School (1895-1928), Lowell Textile Institute (1928-1953), State Teachers College at Lowell (1932-1960), Lowell Technological Institute (1953-1975), Massachusetts State College at Lowell (1960-1968), Lowell State College (1968-1975), University of Lowell (1975-1991), University of Massachusetts Lowell (1991).

**(Part of) our campus is on a national park.**

For the last 22 years, thanks to a unique partnership between the Lowell National Historical Park and our Graduate School of Education, we've been able to offer intensive, hands-on programs for students and teachers from third grade to graduate levels.



No. 42

No. 87

**The Ranchero.**

Grilled chicken, melted cheese, bacon, tomato, lettuce, onion, chipotle ranch dressing. What could go wrong? Thanks, Southwick.

**THE BAT LAB.**

No. 60

Our Baseball Research Center uses serious science (and really cool equipment) to make sure the bats and balls used in America's pastime follow the rules, too. Featured on Discovery Channel and PBS, the center's client list includes Major League Baseball, the NCAA, the National Federation of State High School Associations and Little League Baseball. High-profile cases like the 2000 “juiced-ball” controversy have been settled here (the finding was that nothing was wrong with the balls) and our research on the aluminum vs. wood debate was featured in scientific papers. The lab team employs extensive knowledge, scientific principles and an array of equipment like three high-speed air cannons to mimic the effects of the bat hitting a ball. Batter up.

**No. 50 OUR GRANT  
SWAG.**

Our faculty land hefty and potentially life-changing research grants. In areas spanning global warming to breast cancer, from homeland security forensics to Alzheimer's, our researchers are winning millions of dollars in grants. But it's not just faculty earning the support of organizations like the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Army. Student researchers are also racking up the awards, like the \$90,000 prize a group of engineering and chemistry students recently won from the EPA to help them expand their innovative study on non-toxic and biodegradable alternatives to cleaning agents found in millions of household products.



No.  
53

## We're DI. (Now What?)

Well, it's official: As of July 1, the River Hawks are members of the Division I America East Conference. The benefits of competing at the highest level of collegiate sports are many—not least among them increased visibility and buzz and better student retention. Yes, Division I athletics cost more money, but they also attract more revenue in everything from ticket sales to scholarships to tuition income from increased enrollment. "Being in Division I will make us more attractive to students outside Massachusetts, and that's part of our strategic plan," says Chancellor Marty Meehan, explaining that universities are often characterized by the athletic company they keep. (Incidentally, in America East we'll keep company with research universities more similar in size and academic scope than those in the Division II Northeast-10 Conference.) Naturally it won't be easy in the early years. "It's tough to get through the Big Ten or the ACC to win anything," says Athletic Director Dana Skinner. "But, you know what? You could have a moment. This an opportunity to dream." Of course, dreams won't be enough. Here's how we're preparing:



**DANA SKINNER, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR:** "It's certainly been an exhilarating time. Our department has had two months to complete facility upgrades, hire 15 new employees and create office space for each one, finalize Division I schedules and travel arrangements, better develop fundraising initiatives, rebrand uniforms and athletic venues and develop a promotional calendar to introduce Division I athletics to the campus and surrounding communities. Our action plan could be seen by some as frightening. That said, it's a transformational moment for the athletic program and every component of the University is impacted. The response by everyone in the campus community has been impressive."



**BOB BRADLEY, PROJECT MANAGER:** "Outside, we undertook two major projects this summer: installing new turf in both the field hockey and soccer/lacrosse playing areas. The early stages saw the group installing new drainage and a high-flow irrigation system—a requirement for Division I field hockey. The system consists of six high-volume sprinkler heads that dampen the field before the start of each game and also at halftime to provide the optimal—slick and fast—playing conditions. Fans will quickly notice the color of the new field. Blue turf is a common medium for field hockey play in Europe, with many top teams using it as their surface. In addition to the bold look, the color also makes the ball easier to see as it moves around the field. A similar process is in place for the new soccer/lacrosse fields, though they will feature the more traditional green turf. Each facility will also feature upgraded LED scoreboards."



**SHANNON HLEBICHUK '98, FIELD HOCKEY HEAD COACH:** "My student-athletes are excited. They accomplished so much in Division II—multiple conference championships, national championships—so they are ready for a new challenge. As soon as the announcement was made that we were elevating, they committed themselves to training like Division I athletes. For me, there will much more of an emphasis on both national and international recruiting, which means I'll be traveling quite a bit more in order to see prospective student-athletes during our non-traditional season and during the summer."



**KRISTI STAKE, ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, COMPLIANCE:** "I am in charge of monitoring and enforcing all of the NCAA and America East regulations. This includes education for coaches, staff, boosters, outside departments and all fans. Basically, I am in charge of making sure everyone plays by the rules. The NCAA and America East requirements are much more complex and detailed at the Division I level. I have been involved with a campus-wide education program for all offices involved—including admissions, financial aid, registrars and housing. The coaches have also been receiving bi-weekly educational sessions to make sure they understand the new regulations that will affect them."



**SCOTT DONNELLY, ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS:** "I'm working on many of the marketing, promotions and social media efforts—such as Rowdy's 'Welcome to America East' video. We've been collaborating with University Relations on our Division I rollout, with a focus on the Sept. 2 kick-off event when field hockey hosted Northwestern. I'm also working closely with the Division of Student Affairs to expand our Mission: All In student rewards program as we enter America East. The goal is to create the same atmosphere and excitement that we've developed at home hockey games at all of our athletic venues."



**TED PRIESTLY, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT:** "It takes a lot of resources to be successful in Division I and I'm spending most of my time trying to raise them. The bar is being raised in every area—from scholarships for student-athletes, to facilities and equipment, to the expanded coaching staff required to thrive at this level. Thankfully, our alumni and friends are extremely excited about our move, and their generosity has made an immediate, positive impact on UMass Lowell athletics."

### Rowdy the River Hawk:

"I'm looking forward to taking on some new foes. If Twitter is any indication, I've got game. Only Wolfie from Stony Brook has more followers than me in America East ... and he beat someone up to do it! Crazy times!"



Check out the University's full athletic schedule at [www.goriverhawks.com](http://www.goriverhawks.com). To support the River Hawks' Division I transition, visit [www.uml.edu/givenow](http://www.uml.edu/givenow).





## No. 78 Arno Minkinen.

He could teach anywhere on the globe, but this world-renowned photographer says there's no place he'd rather be than UMass Lowell. Prof. Minkinen uses self-portraits and unmanipulated images of his human figure in natural and urban scenes. No Photoshop, no assistants. His major collections include the MoMA in New York, the Centre Pompidou and Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris and the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. Minkinen will show 70 works in the 44th Rencontres d'Arles in France (the same town, he says, where "Van Gogh and Gauguin threw knives and tables at each other.") In addition to photography, Minkinen has recently become a writer, with a preview of his autobiographical film "The Rain House" recently showing at Lincoln Center. Also, he's got an app: Minkinen was one of several artists invited by Louis Vuitton to create an "amble" through a particular world city: he created a tour of New York's Chelsea neighborhood.

## No. 38 ENROLLMENT IS UP, UP, UP.

As prospective students and their parents continue to weigh heavily the value of a college education, UMass Lowell's enrollment numbers swell. The student body has grown by 40 percent since 2007; the Class of 2013 was our largest group of graduates ever, at 3,169.

## No. 8 OUR ALUMNI ARE FUNNY (AND CONCISE!).

Take Charles Yang '90, a software development manager at Abbott Laboratories in San Jose, Calif., who, upon receiving our "what's new?" query, sent us this response: "The regular stuff: got job, got car, got hitched, got house, got divorced, lost kids, lost car, lost house, got God and got happy back!"

## No. 63 We're so generous!

Thanks to alumni and friends, UMass Lowell has experienced a 107 percent increase in annual fundraising dollars since 2009.

## WE'VE GOT WOOD(S).

For a third consecutive year, the University has been designated by the Arbor Day Foundation as a National Tree Campus for its commitment to sustainable campus forestry. We're the only school in Massachusetts and one of two in New England to earn the title.

No. 45



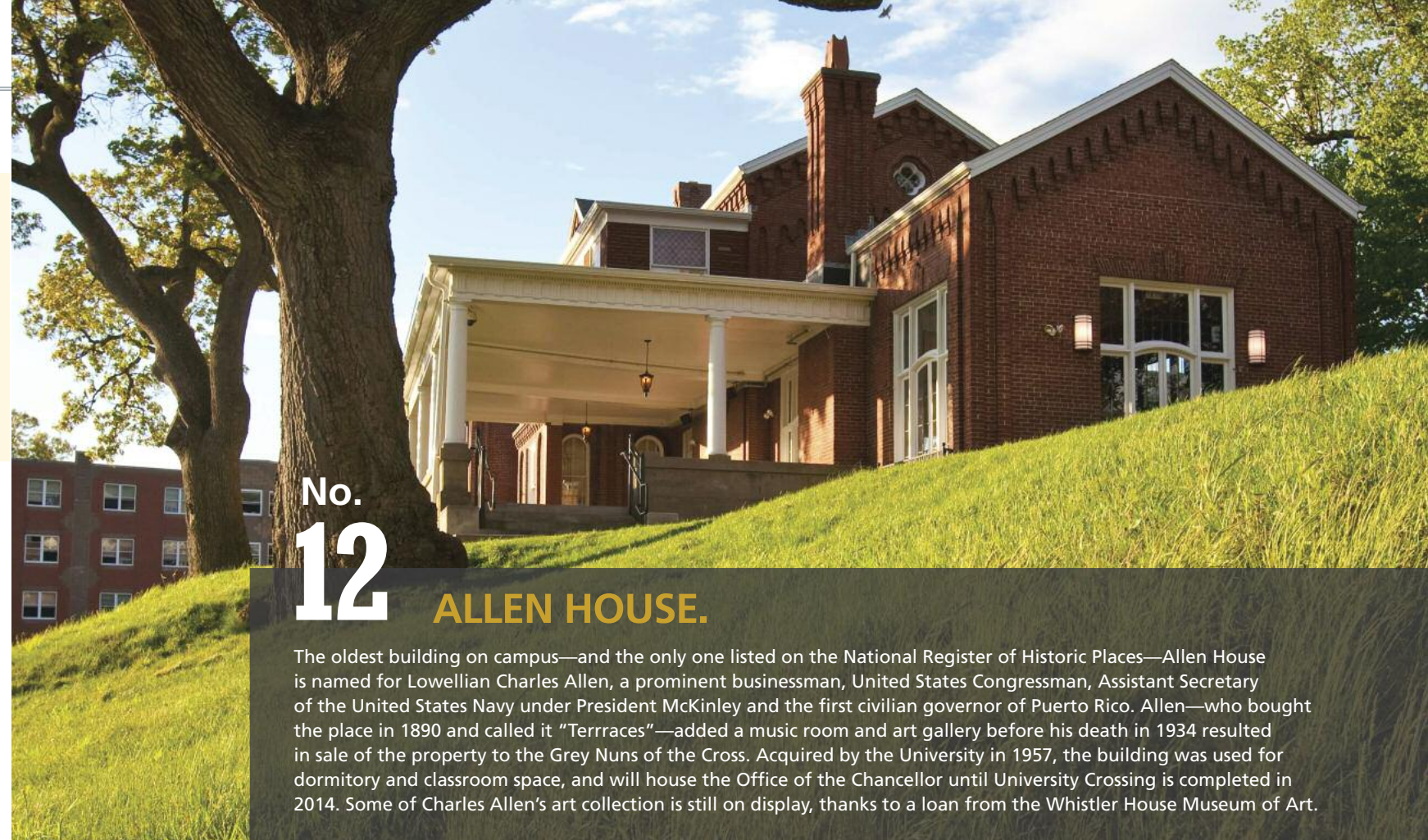
## No. 44 We put our money where we live.

UMass Lowell delivers a positive economic impact on the region of \$490 million a year, according to the UMass Donahue Institute.



## No. 1 We embrace change.

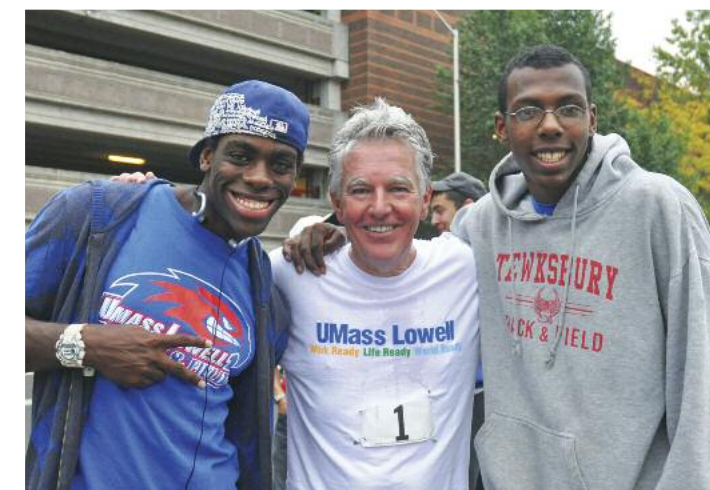
Recently, for instance, we elevated two departments to school status and changed the name of the School of Health and Environment to the College of Health Sciences. The Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology is now known as the School of Criminology and Justice Studies and the Department of Nursing has changed to the School of Nursing. "These changes reflect the increasing complexity of these units and are expected to raise the profile of each school's programs and research among prospective students, faculty, partners and funders," says Provost Ahmed Abdelal.



## No. 12 ALLEN HOUSE.

The oldest building on campus—and the only one listed on the National Register of Historic Places—Allen House is named for Lowellian Charles Allen, a prominent businessman, United States Congressman, Assistant Secretary of the United States Navy under President McKinley and the first civilian governor of Puerto Rico. Allen—who bought the place in 1890 and called it "Terraces"—added a music room and art gallery before his death in 1934 resulted in sale of the property to the Grey Nuns of the Cross. Acquired by the University in 1957, the building was used for dormitory and classroom space, and will house the Office of the Chancellor until University Crossing is completed in 2014. Some of Charles Allen's art collection is still on display, thanks to a loan from the Whistler House Museum of Art.

## No. 29 Marty Meehan.



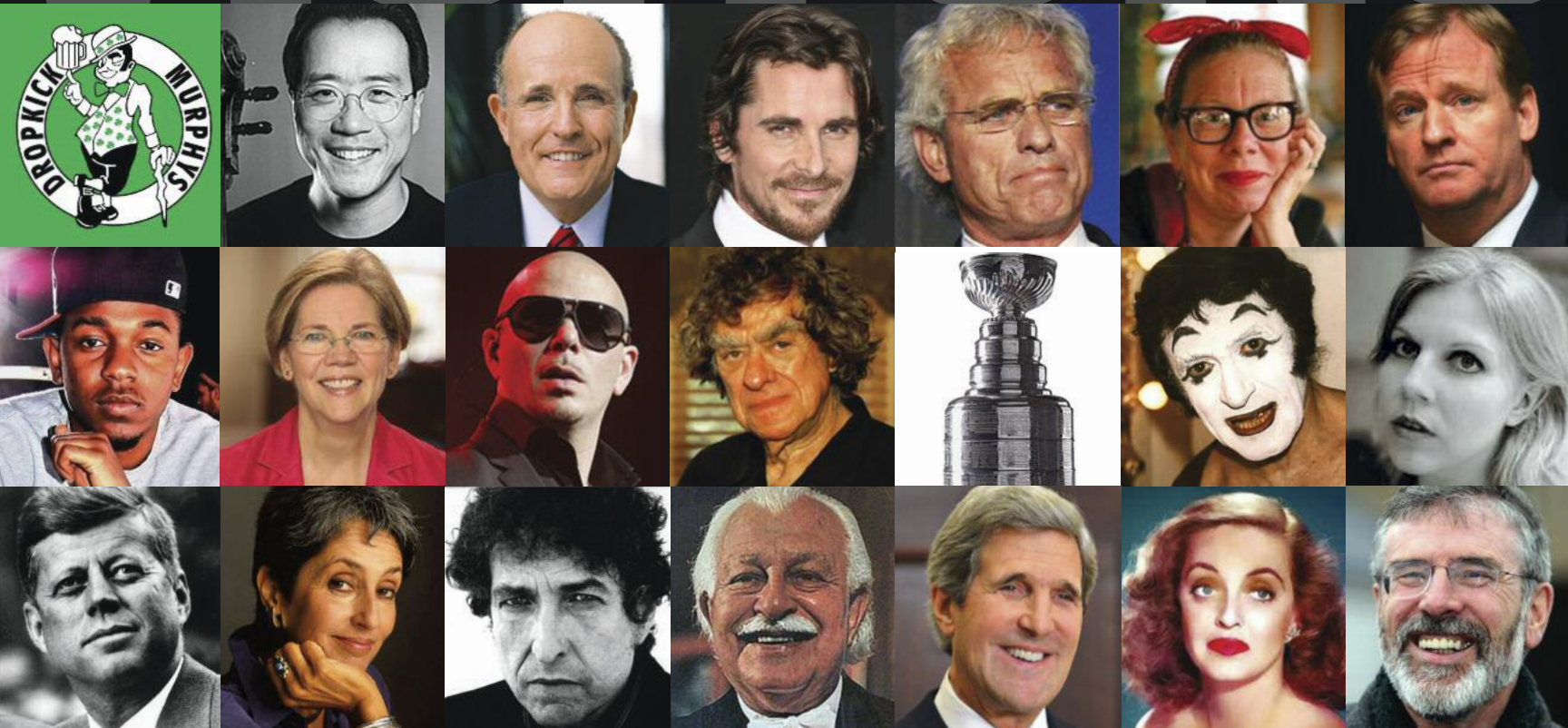
He runs. He drums. He gets things done (like, oh, \$600 million in capital projects). Guess we'll keep him.





No. 73

John F. Kennedy. Bob Dylan. Stephen King. Scott Brown. Billy Joel. Rick Moody. Snoop Dogg. Hillary Clinton. Henny Youngman. Drake. Ted Kennedy. The Stanley Cup. Roger Goodell. Pitbull. Elizabeth Warren. Dropkick Murphys. Bette Davis. Barney Frank. Mark Wahlberg. Richard Neal. Micky Ward. Leymah Gbowee. Niki Tsongas. Yo Yo Ma. John Lewis. Nancy Pelosi. J. Cole. Doris Kearns Goodwin. Enrique Iglesias. Ed Davis. Stephen Lynch. The Hanson Brothers. Richard Nixon. Kay Ryan. Robert Kraft. Kelly Clarkson. Joe Kennedy. John Prendergast. The Harlem Globetrotters. Ed Markey. Christian Bale. Michael Capuano. Shawn Thornton. Harold Ford. Anita Shreve. Kevin James. Rudy Giuliani. Lynda Barry. Gerry Adams. John Kerry. Eliot Fisk. Kendrick Lamar. Joan Baez. Katy Perry. Richard Goodwin. Henry Winkler. Joseph Kennedy III. Russell Banks. Phil Ramone. Dennis Lehane. The Pixies. Ken Salazar. James McGovern. Pie McKenzie.



No. 76



**Billy Riley.**

The colorful ice hockey coach led the Lowell Chiefs (later to become the River Hawks) to 363 victories over 22 years and three Division II national championships. His teams won the titles in 1979, 1981 and 1982 before the program made the jump to Division I in 1983 and joined Hockey East when that league was formed the following year. Billy was hired in 1969, at age 23, to be Lowell Tech's athletic trainer, a physical education instructor and, incidentally, coach of the fledgling hockey team, which had gone 11-16-1 over the previous two years. Billy Riley stories abound. One classic took place around Thanksgiving in a game against Merrimack, a team that was Riley's nemesis. To unnerve the Merrimack goalie, the team manager mailed a series of pictures of a turkey to him with his picture superimposed on the bird. Riley then dispatched the manager to buy a live turkey and when the Merrimack team skated onto the ice, the turkey was tied to the visitors' goal net. The plot failed. The game ended in a 3-3 tie.

No. 6



**SWING, BATTER BATTER!**

Smack dab in the middle of UMass Lowell's East Campus is a stunning baseball stadium with old-school looks but all the modern conveniences. LeLacheur Park, built in 1998 by the City of Lowell, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and UMass Lowell, is home to the Lowell Spinners, the Class A affiliate of the Red Sox. It's also where the UMass Lowell River Hawk baseball team—elevated this summer to Division I—plays. With seating for almost 5,000, the park has spectacular views of the Merrimack River and offers great family entertainment throughout the baseball season. The park also hosts youth baseball camps and concerts. The ballpark held its first concert in 2008 when Celtic punk band Dropkick Murphys played there with The Mighty Mighty Bosstones. You can practically hear the crack of the bat from the Campus Recreation Center across the street and the residence halls next door to the park. Hot dog anyone?

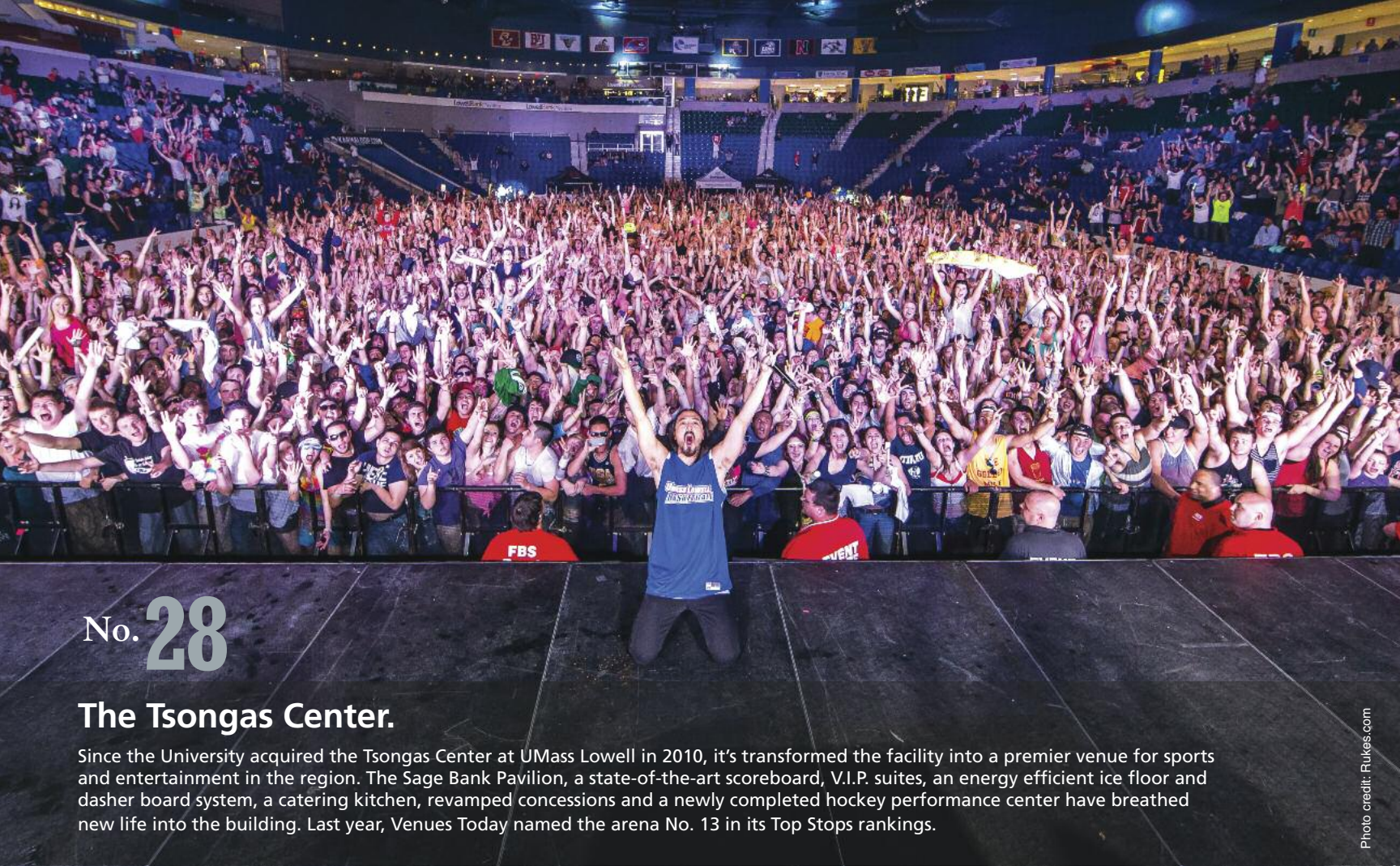
No. 30 We make top-notch learning accessible and affordable.

Our Division of Online and Continuing Education—which had more than 20,000 enrollments in 2012—offers one of the largest public online and continuing education programs in New England. Students can take classes online or on campus—or a combination of both—in areas such as information technology, engineering technology, liberal arts, psychology, criminal justice, management, education, science and health care. The division—which offers graduate and undergraduate courses, degrees and certificates for busy professionals—has won every major national award for excellence in programs and teaching. Most recently, the online master's degrees in information technology and bachelor's in psychology were ranked among the best in the nation by TheBestSchools.org.



No. 85 We're invested in educating the community. Take Science Express—a national initiative launched by a team that includes two Graduate School of Education professors, David Lustick and Jill Lohmeier. The project aims to determine whether advertising space on subway platforms and trains is an effective way to educate the public about about climate science. It's a great idea, according to the National Science Foundation, which awarded the team \$2.2 million.





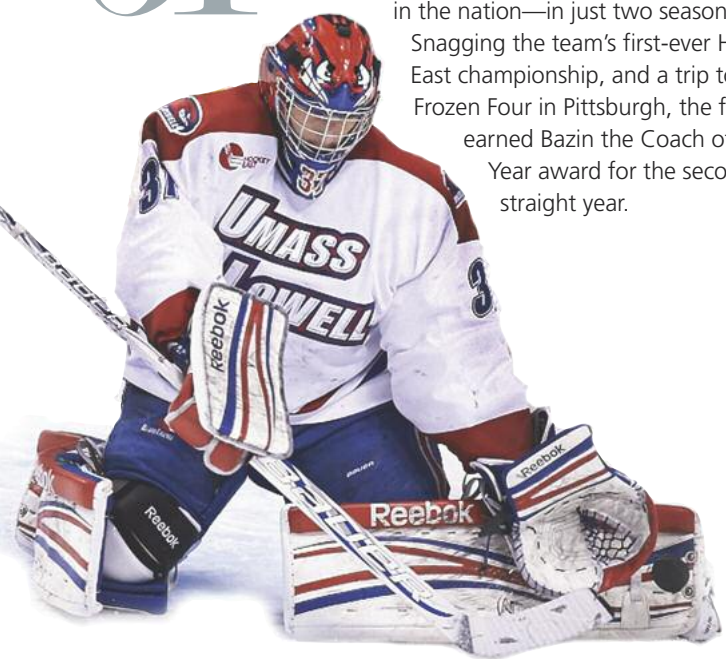
## No. 28 The Tsongas Center.

Since the University acquired the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell in 2010, it's transformed the facility into a premier venue for sports and entertainment in the region. The Sage Bank Pavilion, a state-of-the-art scoreboard, V.I.P. suites, an energy efficient ice floor and dasher board system, a catering kitchen, revamped concessions and a newly completed hockey performance center have breathed new life into the building. Last year, Venues Today named the arena No. 13 in its Top Stops rankings.

Photo credit: Rukes.com

## No. 31 RIVER HAWKS' DIVISION 1 HOCKEY.

It was the turnaround of the century: River Hawks' Division I hockey coach Norm Bazin '94, '98 helmed a team that went from five victories to 28—and from last in the league to third in the nation—in just two seasons. Snagging the team's first-ever Hockey East championship, and a trip to the Frozen Four in Pittsburgh, the feat earned Bazin the Coach of the Year award for the second straight year.



## No. 66 ONE WORD: PLASTICS.

Plastics are often called the most versatile materials on Earth. UMass Lowell has the only accredited undergraduate plastics engineering program in the U.S. It's also home to a celebrated research-oriented graduate program, the National Plastics Museum and the Plastics Hall of Fame.

## No. 49

Ours was the nation's first public music education school.

[No. 88 Greek life.]



## No. 9 Smarty Pants Classrooms.

Smart faculty and smart students. Sure. But smart classrooms? Absolutely. Every single classroom at UMass Lowell is outfitted with a high-tech teaching podium, computer, digital document camera, DVD/VCR player, laptop and network connections, integrated sound and a system that controls all audio and video from the lectern. Teaching technology in certain lecture halls also includes an interactive LCD touchscreen that acts like an electronic writing tablet to save, share and print class notes and lecture-capture, which allows students to access presentations later from any computer or mobile device. A handy "clicker" system in some classrooms allows faculty to ensure that students are keeping up with the material being presented. Students use handheld devices to answer questions throughout the lesson, letting the professor know when to go over facts and concepts again. Now *that's* smart!

## No. 74



Everybody's talking about us. *The Wall Street Journal. BBC News. The Huffington Post. ABC News. MSNBC. USA Today. Time. The Chronicle of Higher Education. BusinessWeek. Boston Business Journal. NECN. Politico. The Boston Globe. NPR. Newsday. U.S. News & World Report. The Today Show. Boston Herald. The Christian Science Monitor. Nature. The New York Times. The Today Show. The Washington Post. WGBH. The Phoenix. ESPN. Baron's. And that's just some of the coverage from the past year.*



## No. 23 Our building names. *Ames and Eames. Olsen and Olney. Dugan and Durgin. Confusing? Sometimes. Ours? Always.*

## No. 79 Our 17 eateries (an ode).

From Oodles of Noodles in Hawk's Nest-East and Red Mango fro-yo at University Suites, from Starbucks to Einstein's to F'Real Milkshakes, foods of every shape and taste await.





# No. 4 Mary Jo Leahey's Symphonic Band Camp

The week-long music-immersion program affords student-musicians in grades 8-12 from across the U.S. the chance to hone their skills—under the tutelage of UMass Lowell faculty, alumni and students—while sampling an early taste of college life. The camp, which accepts roughly 115 students per session, just finished its 17th summer. Leahey '37, its founder and inspiration, died in 2011 at the age of 95.



**No. 46**  
Coburn Hall, built in 1897 in the Beaux Arts style with \$25,000 from the City of Lowell, features New Hampshire granite steps, custom oak paneling, brass light fixtures and copper gutters with carved lions' heads. The building was named for Frank F. Coburn, former Lowell High School headmaster and first principal of the University's predecessor institution, the Lowell Normal School. The first class of 108 students—105 women and 3 men—arrived at Coburn Hall mostly via a trolley that ran along Broadway until 1930.



**No. 61**  
WLTJ/WJUL/WUML:  
More than 60 years on, still kicking out more jams than Smucker's.

# No. 91

We awarded students more than \$125 million in student aid in 2012.



# No. 96

**SRT.** It stands for Sound Recording Technology, but it means so much more. What, you thought recording and production was Spectorish sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll? Not even close. This unique and intensive program pays dividends for everyone. That State of the Union address? Our grads in the mobile truck made sure it sounded perfect. Those Pearl Jam reissues you just snagged? One of our own, Grammy-winner Adam Ayan, improved the sonics. The video game you played? Yup.



# Jim Stone.

He seldom went far afield to recruit his ballplayers. "Stoney" drew his talent mostly from nearby Merrimack Valley high schools. But that was all he needed. Soft-spoken and mod-

est, he nonetheless played the "tough love" card with his young athletes and they loved him back. Coach Stone retired 10 years ago after compiling 801 wins in his 37 years at the helm of the University's baseball program, during which he also took the team to the College World Series twice. He was New England Division II coach of the year and Northeast Region coach of the year multiple times and was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. "I've had a good run," he said with characteristic understatement when, in 2003, he stepped down from the job he began when Lyndon Johnson was president.



# No. 15 Our arch treasure.

According to The Boston Globe, "American architects of the late 19th and early 20th centuries would often leave empty spaces in their blueprints and simply write, 'Guastavino here.'" One of those empty spaces is now the arch at the entrance to Southwick Hall. That arch was built in 1903 by Rafael Guastavino, who brought his celebrated "Tile Arch System" from Spain, and it can be seen in major constructions across the United States—including the Boston Public Library arch, the Plymouth Rock portico and the Queensboro Bridge in New York.



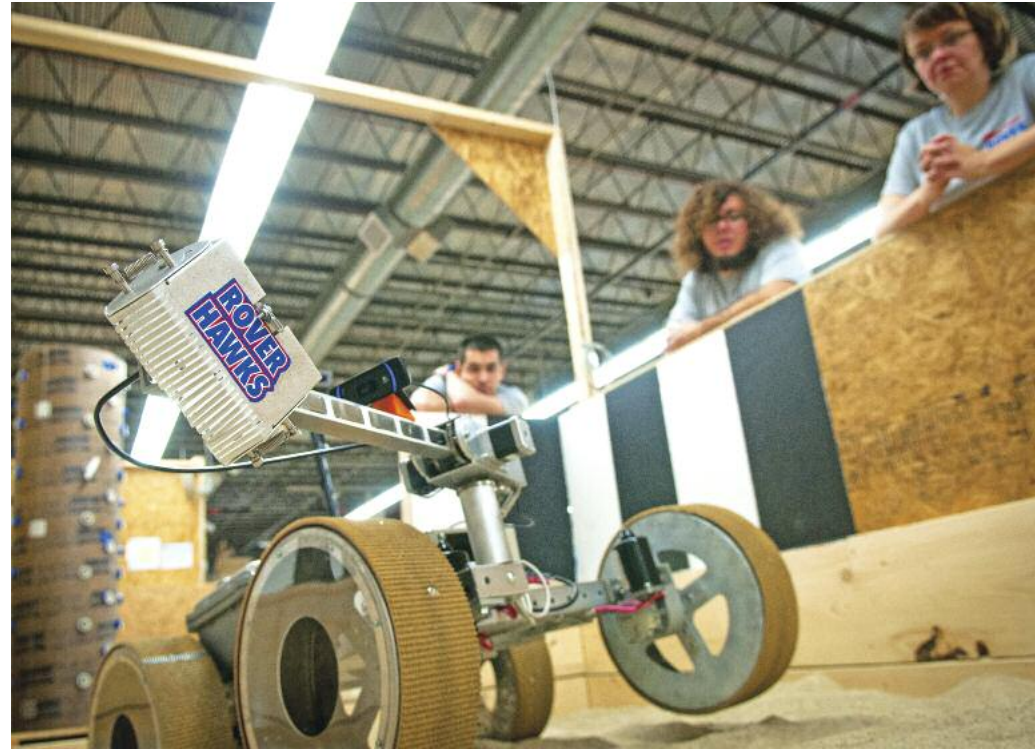
[ **No. 35** We spend \$60 million on vital research every year. ]



# No. 92

## Domo arigato, Mr. Roboto.

We have a state-of-the-art robotics testing center, state-of-the-art robots—and state-of-the-art robotics students. And on June 6, a team of the latter—called the Rover Hawks—beat out 10 other universities to win a NASA competition in which they simulated driving a semi-autonomous vehicle on Mars. The rover was shipped to the Johnson Space Center in Houston but was controlled by the team from UMass Lowell's New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation (NERVE) Center. Students used a commercial 4G wireless network with a several-second delay that simulated the problem communicating with other planets. The rover negotiated a series of obstacles while performing a variety of tasks, including traversing slopes, sand and gravel pits, picking up specific rock samples and placing them on the rover's onboard container and driving over rocks of specified size. "We totally rocked it," says team leader James Dalphond, a Ph.D. candidate in computer science.



# No. 65



**WE GO THE EXTRA MILE—  
GIVE OR TAKE 2,600.**

Take Lori Weeden. Between semesters, the geology lecturer flies her students to the Grand Canyon to further their study of "Sedimentation and Stratigraphy" ("Sed and Strat") on her husband's frequent-flyer miles.

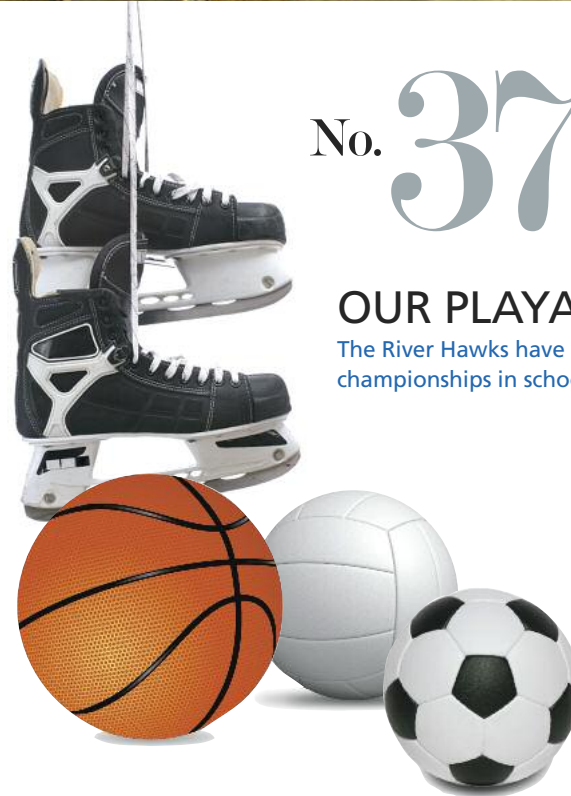


# No. 37



## OUR PLAYAHS.

The River Hawks have won 16 NCAA championships in school history.



[ No. 41 The Clinical Lab Sciences/Medical Technology program has received perfect accreditation scores since 1989. ]

# No.

# 81

## Our View.

A glistening river bouncing over rocks and around bends. Historic red brick buildings framed by a deep blue sky. Mountain ranges to the north. A small-city landscape of steeples, mansard roofs and the crenelated towers of public and cultural buildings. UMass Lowell, set in and throughout the historic City of Lowell, is sprinkled with stunning vistas. Some of the views—as those from atop 18-story Fox Hall—are dramatic and sweeping, taking in miles of the Merrimack River and mountain ranges in New Hampshire. Others—as you walk from North to South campus and turn a corner to come upon a graceful 19th century gatehouse, jutting out over the Pawtucket Falls—are small but impressive. There are also small green areas around campus with clusters of benches, landscaping and trees.





No.  
10

**UMass Lowell** graduated 3,169 students on May 18—setting a record for the sixth consecutive year. Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis, who returned to his hometown to deliver the keynote address at the undergraduate commencement ceremony, spoke about his role in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings. He told students that his leadership during that time was the result of lessons he's learned throughout his life.

"You have had exceptional instructors during your time here at UMass Lowell, and I guarantee you that at some point in your lives, probably when you are completely not expecting it, you will hearken back to some pearl of wisdom that was imparted to you during one of your classes here," said Davis, who was Lowell police superintendent for 12 years.

The new grads were enrolled here during a time of unprecedented growth. New programs and faculty were introduced, a construction boom changed the campus landscape and plans were unveiled to move all athletic teams up to Division I. Many students feel like they played a part in the changes, whether they signed the steel beam that sits atop the \$80 million Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center, attended a concert by a national headliner like Drake at the Tsongas Center or cheered on the River Hawks men's ice hockey team.

The graduates share an optimism that is tempered by no-nonsense practicality. They want to make a difference while also making a living. They see enormous societal challenges—the economy, climate change—and they feel ready to tackle them. They are already leaning in to the future, whether they're starting careers, launching businesses or pursuing advanced degrees. Here are some parting words from representatives of our Class of 2013.—JG

"I am optimistic. I am ready for the next phase. Whatever the world has to offer, I can handle it."  
—Michael Boyer, community health



"I grew so much while I was here. I'm like a different person. Once I got involved on campus, everything started to change."  
—Rudy Baez, business



I took a climate change class with Assoc. Prof. Juliette Rooney-Varga. That class opened my eyes and formed the career goals that I have."  
—Heather Merhi, biology



# COM'13MMENT CEMENT

I have learned how to problem solve and manage my work, time and daily life."  
—Savannah Marshall, music education and psychology



"Our class helped jumpstart the transformation on campus. The administration has listened to our ideas and used our feedback."  
—Ryan MacInnis, English



I lived in a quad. I was so scared; I didn't know my roommates. But those three girls are my best friends now; they're my sisters."  
—Yahaira Campusano, psychology and sociology



## WEB EXTRA

To watch Ed Davis' speech and the rest of Commencement exercises, visit [uml.edu/Commencement/Videos](http://uml.edu/Commencement/Videos). To view photos from the ceremony, visit [web.uml.edu/gallery/Commencement](http://web.uml.edu/gallery/Commencement) and to view photos from Commencement Eve, visit [uml.edu/gallery/CommencementEve](http://uml.edu/gallery/CommencementEve).





No.  
33

## Tully Forum.

Among those who knew it when, the mention of the Tully Forum elicits a slow shake of the head and a wry smile. Home to the Chiefs of Lowell for nearly two decades (until they moved into Tsongas Arena in 1998,) the North Billerica hockey rink was described in its early days as gritty and blue-collar. That was kind. Built in 1964, Tully at one time had no hot water for showers and no heat (players' long underwear literally froze in the locker rooms). There was a chain-link fence instead of glass behind the net. With a 185-by-85-foot ice surface, the rink was renowned for its tiny neutral zone. It had seats for about 3,200 fans but more than 4,200 tickets were sold for the Division II ECAC tournament that the Chiefs hosted in 1983. Despite all its quirks, it was where the Chiefs won 168, lost 111 and tied 20 games in front of wildly enthusiastic, raucous, chilly fans.



## No. 64 Our Sense of Humor.

Like that of Civil and Environmental Engineering Chair Cliff Bruell, who took it very well recently when graduating students left a thoughtful present in his office.



No.  
98

## OUR WICKED SMART FACULTY:

93 percent have the highest degree available in their fields.

No. 48

We learn by doing. Thanks to our partnerships with hundreds of employers around the world, we offer countless co-ops and internships in all disciplines—at everything from Fortune 500 companies to start-ups, from nonprofits to research think-tanks. The result? Our students are way ahead of the game when they graduate.

No.  
54

## OUR VETS (and vets' services) rock.

The University is home to 1,200 student veterans ranging in age from 19 to 61. Most have served our country through active duty and three-quarters of them have a G.P.A. of 3.0. G.I Jobs magazine has designated the campus "military friendly" for the past three years.



No.  
89

## These Rifles Aren't Guns.

In 1893, General John Joseph ("Blackjack") Pershing founded the Pershing Rifles, a group dedicated to advancing camaraderie among all military branches of the ROTC. Squadron N-12 of the National Society of Pershing Rifles served as an elite drill team from 1962 to 1974 at Lowell Technological Institute. Pershing Rifle alumni recently committed to raising \$250,000 to provide financial aid to student veterans, ROTC candidates and dependents of disabled veterans. Visit [www.uml.edu/givenow](http://www.uml.edu/givenow) to contribute.





No.

40

OUR  
INCUBATORS.

Sometimes it's design assistance or donated office space. Other times it's legal help or the fine-tuning of a business plan. Or it's even more direct—as with cash grants that allow University researchers to speed their discoveries to market. Whatever form they take, the boosts provided by our incubators—most notably the Office of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property (CVIP) and the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2)—move research from the laboratory to the real world.

This year alone, three UMass Lowell researchers—Profs. Erno Sajó, Daniel Schmidt and Pradeep Kurup—have received \$25,000 CVIP grants from the UMass President's Office to help commercialize their discoveries: an improved, more sensitive x-ray technique; a molecule to prevent disease-causing fungi from gathering on medical catheters; and a new “electronic tongue” to detect toxicity in water, soil and food.

At the same time, a medical start-up called Little Sparrows was awarded \$10,000 in services by M2D2 for its discovery of a method to treat jaundice in infants in developing countries.

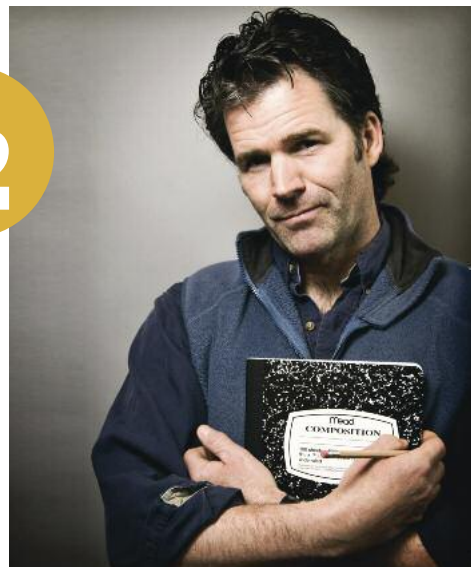
“These are discoveries that help change the world for the better,” said UMass President Robert Caret at the time of the CVIP awards.

No.  
77

In the autumn, zombies. Every October, the Humans vs. Zombies game runs rampant on campus. The game, created in 2005, arrived in River Hawk land in 2009, and now draws hundreds of students at UMass Lowell every fall, melding the traits of Nerf tag, strategy games and creepy movies. It actually brings people together (alive or otherwise).

OUR  
TOWNIE.No.  
82

Assoc. Prof. Andrew Dubus III is a seriously famous writer who shares his gift with lucky students. His hugely successful works—novels “House of Sand and Fog” and “The Garden of Last Days” racked up kudos including National Book Award Finalist, New York Times Editor's Choice and inclusion in Oprah's coveted book club, while his gritty blockbuster memoir “Townie” climbed to No. 4 on The New York Times Bestseller List.



No. 36

We're making the campus—  
and the planet—healthier.

Carbon-neutral by 2050. Prototype hybrid cars. Submeters to track energy use. Bike-share programs. Energy efficient buildings (the new Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center is certified LEED Gold). Photovoltaic panels on four campus buildings. Recycling efforts skyrocketing. Whatever, Kermit: It is easy being green.



No.

39

## BROWNIES AND BOARD GAMES AT MIDNIGHT.

The Canal Side Café on the second floor of Fox Hall is open every night until 2 a.m. as a cozy, late-night retreat for students. The stone fireplace is always lit; huge windows overlook Lowell's historic Northern Canal; an array of toasted panini and snacks such as brownies, scones and fruit are available for purchase. Comfy booths, tables and chairs are filled with students talking, laughing, playing board games, watching TV or enjoying the occasional open-mic night or performance by a small musical group. Sometimes they even study.

## O'LEARY LIBRARY.

Built in the 1970s in the Brutalist style (yes, that's a real thing), O'Leary received an interior facelift last year. Now a hub for 21st century learning, the library features bright and airy spaces for collaboration, quiet study and computing.

No.  
68

No. 20

Bernie Shapiro '56.

Some folks just stand out. Bernie Shapiro (along with his wife, Yana—this is a package deal) is a campus classic. Bernie is beloved by the thousands who took his math classes, including Rob Manning '84, for whom the business school is named. Bernie was captain of the lacrosse team at Lowell Technological Institute during his senior year. After joining the faculty in 1962, he chaired the University's Athletic Committee (1971-86) and served for years as the faculty representative to the Board of Trustees. In May, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Yana worked until recently as a part-time administrator in the Continuing Education department. The Shapiros still live in Lowell and support current students with an endowed scholarship.



No. 18

Claire Cedrone.

In the cafeteria in Southwick toils a woman named Claire Cedrone. She makes coffee and has other duties, but mostly is a register goddess, a cafeteria sage. She once saved a student's life. She is an ultimate Hawks' booster, who tirelessly sought the signature of every hockey player on the 2012-2013 team on a T-shirt. And she got them. The coach, too. All in a day's work. Pay for your morning coffee, Grasshopper, and wonder, “Is there anything Claire can't do?”



No. 7

## The river that runs through it.

The 2009 student Commencement speaker, Abbey Denaro, fittingly compared our students' journey with that of our watery neighbor: "The Merrimack River is a principal symbol and life-force of the University. It is deep, wide and clear; it is powerful, enduring and brilliant. But farther down the river you can see the strong rapids with trees and rocks in its way, interfering with its path. The Merrimack continues on this journey, from calm and unobstructed to occluded and strained, until it reaches its final destination into the open and free Atlantic."



No. 95

## Our fancy fitness factory.

There are many rooms at the Rec Center, but none for excuses. The 65,000-square-foot facility on East Campus offers something for everyone: a two-floor fitness center with the latest work-out equipment; basketball, racquetball and squash courts; an indoor running track; multipurpose studios for fitness classes; locker rooms with showers and saunas; and space to chill with friends over ping pong. Closer to South Campus? A similar, brand-new fitness center was built in the new residence hall Rview Suites this summer.



## OUR GRADS RULE THE SCHOOLS.

Educating teachers is an art that runs deep at UMass Lowell; when Lowell Normal School was founded in 1894, the school of education was at its core. Finding a product of the program isn't much of a challenge. The



Graduate School of Education began producing those with master's and doctoral degrees in 1987 and 26 years later, our alumni are overseeing districts and classrooms across the region. At last count, more than 50 superintendents and principals in the area are our grads.

No. 55

No. 27

## They like us, they really like us!

U.S. News and World Report says we're awesome (we're in its top 100 public campuses in the country). So do the Times of New London (they rank the UMass system 42nd in the world) and Obama's administration (we've been on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll four times in four years).



No. 16

The Pawtucketville Social Club. (If you were here during a certain era, you know what we're talking about.)





## Our building boom.

Six new buildings have opened in the past year. The latest? The 148,000-square-foot residence hall University Suites, located just steps from the Tsongas Center and LeLacheur Park on East Campus. Featuring 88 four- and six-bed suites, study areas and an outdoor courtyard, University Suites is also home to a café open to the public. Next up: The \$95 million University Crossing, a stunning student engagement center that will open next year.







## Our innovative teaching.

Take Javier Horta, who teaches physiological and organic chemistry in the College of Health Sciences. Believing classroom time offers students precious opportunities to apply the concepts they are learning, he tried a new approach in a lab class last fall. Using what is becoming known as the “flipped” classroom method, he recorded his lectures and posted them online for students to view as homework, freeing up class time for discussions and hands-on assignments. “Students come into the classroom to have an experience, rather than just absorb data,” he says, adding that the approach was highly successful.



## No. 56 *The Easy Guy.*

John Bautista—a 2013 alum and rabid River Hawk hockey fan—proudly raises a homemade Easy button every time his team puts one in the net. He’s been covered on ESPN and in a host of newspapers—and fans from other teams have followed suit. “I unintentionally started a little cult,” he says.

[ No. 94 Even our students have patents. ]

## WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

No. 86

Our Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship’s DifferenceMaker program makes it a priority to encourage students to improve the world while they’re still in school. From an annual \$25,000 Idea Challenge to assistance with business plans and patents, the program and its industry partners help students create sustainable solutions to real-world problems. The program has been so successful that Assoc. Vice Chancellor Steve Tello and Assoc. Dean of Students Brenda Evans were asked to educate other colleges about it at the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance Conference in March 2013.

No. 58

## WE’RE CENTERED.

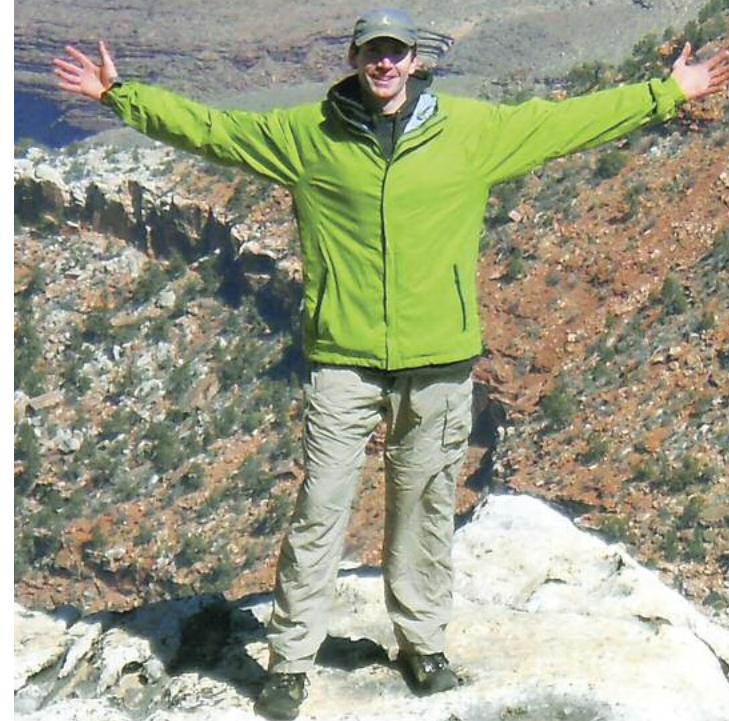
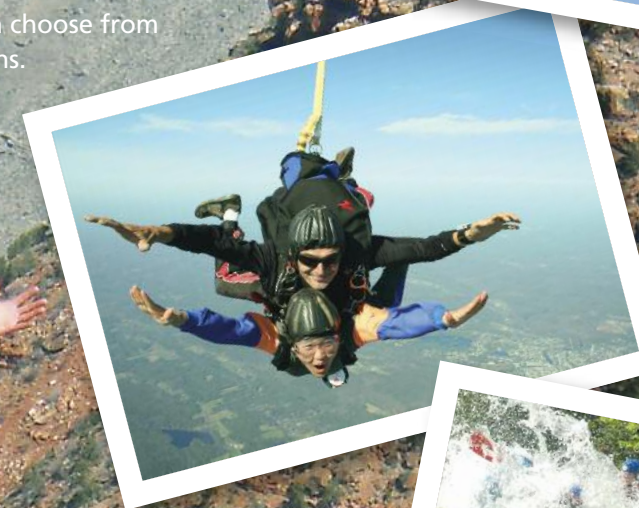


Center for Advanced Materials. Jack & Stella Kerouac Center for the Public Humanities. Submillimeter-Wave Technology Lab. Center for Arts and Ideas. Center for Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace. Nanomanufacturing Center. Climate Change Initiative. Middle East Center for Peace, Development and Culture. Toxics Use Reduction Institute. Tsongas Industrial History Center. Center for Atmospheric Research. The String Project. We’re home to more than 50 research and engagement centers and institutes where cutting-edge exploration is taking place.

No. 19

## The Outdoor Adventure Program.

Skiing, surfing, biking, rock climbing, kayaking, skydiving, hiking, white-water rafting, ice climbing, backpacking in the Grand Canyon. It’s all available to students. And if they’re still bored, they can choose from more than 120 other clubs and organizations.





No.  
59Our Faces of  
Philanthropy

*Luis Pedroso strolls through downtown Lowell on July 28, during the 27th Lowell Folk Festival, a celebration of ethnic music, art and food from countries all over the world, including his native Portugal. Pedroso is responsible, in part, for the creation of the University's new Saab-Pedroso Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture.*

Photo credit: Emily Antonelli Ray

**H**E WAS 9 YEARS OLD when his family moved from the Azores—an autonomous region of Portugal spread across nine volcanic islands in the North Atlantic—to California's San Joaquin Valley. It was 1969, midway through a vast migration of Azoreans to the U.S.—many of whom, like Luis Pedroso's father, Helio Pedroso, would look for farm work in California's fertile Central Valley.

For the next four years, Helio worked as a milker on a dairy farm south of Sacramento. It was a hard life, but the family was together and there was food enough on the table. Then, in 1973, he fell ill, with leukemia—though his son, by then 13, wouldn't learn this until later. Helio returned to the Azores, where he would die the following year.

Qualitronics, a contract electronics manufacturing services firm.

The company at the time had three employees: Pedroso, his partner and his mother, whom he'd hired away from the shoe-factory job. By the time he sold the firm 16 years later, it had 165 employees and \$25 million in yearly sales.

By then, he'd become a leader in the area's Portuguese community. A member of St. Anthony's Parish in Lowell and of the Holy Ghost Society and a supporter of the Senior Center for Portuguese Elders, he made clear from the start that his business successes were not about to set him apart.

"Coming here from Portugal, from the Azores, has been a struggle for many thousands of people," he says. "Many grew up poor, as farmers, under a dictatorship; their education level is often low. Some of

constancy of his immigrant heritage. "I'm a promoter of all things Portuguese," he says simply. "It is not an easy life for them. I try to do what I can."

His efforts have not gone unnoticed—either here or in his native land. Six years ago, in recognition of all he had done on behalf of his fellow countrymen, he was the recipient of one of Portugal's highest awards: the coveted Medal of the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator, an order of knighthood bestowed by that country's king. In 2008, he was the recipient of two more local honors: the Lowell High School Distinguished Alumni Award and the George L. Duncan Award of Excellence.

And now, in the latest iteration of his outreach, his efforts have come to UMass Lowell.

In late March of this year, at a reception at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center that featured

# An Immigrant's Story: 'Leveling the Playing Field' for Those Who Come After

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

"At the time that he died," Luis Pedroso says today, "there was a revolution going on in Portugal [a military coup, which would successfully replace the governing dictatorship with a democracy], and my mother didn't think it was a good idea to go back. So we came east instead, to Lowell, where she had connections with some cousins of my father."

Once in Lowell, Luis' mother, Amelia, now a widow with four children, took a job in a shoe factory on Market Street, where his older sister also went to work. Luis and his twin sister and younger brother meanwhile were enrolled at the Rogers School, then later at Lowell High—though by this time Luis was working as well. He graduated in 1980.

College wasn't an option; his mother's shoe-factory wages were barely enough to support their family of five. So he went to work: first for Honeywell, in a job that lasted a year; then for Lowell Five, where he toiled three months in a teller's cage before deciding there had to be something better.

From there, the future took shape quickly. In 1981, at the age of 21, he found work with Manufacturing Resources, a contract manufacturer in Lowell (and supplier to Wang Labs, its biggest customer), where he remained for three years, assembling circuit boards. When the company changed hands in 1984, he made his boldest move to date: together with a partner (whom he would buy out three years later), and with a client base made up partly of customers he brought with him from his former job, he founded

the early ones came over as refugees, after the volcano on Faial Island [in 1957]. They were also very poor. It was hard for them. Like with most early immigrants, the playing field is not level."

In 2003, he founded his next start-up, Accutronics in Chelmsford, a contract manufacturing business like Qualitronics. As he had years before, he started small: in this case, with his brother and two sisters. Ten years later, now with 80 employees, the company continues to grow.

As the years have passed and his fortunes have improved, his commitment to his heritage has also grown. In 2002, he was named as the largest contributor—at \$300,000—to an endowed chair in Portuguese studies at UMass Dartmouth, the first such chair in the University's history. Named to honor his parents, the Helio and Amelia Pedroso/Luso-American Foundation Endowed Chair brings scholars from all over the world to the University.

He made the gift, he said at the time, because "I wanted to give something long-lasting to the country that has been so good to my family and me."

He has been giving ever since. In his continued support of UMass Dartmouth and Middlesex Community College, in his presidency of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (of which he is a founding member), in the role he has played in the creation of the Portuguese-American Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to Lowell High School graduates of Portuguese descent—he has shown repeatedly the

Portuguese food, music and literature, attended by Boston's consul general of Portugal, the University officially launched its latest international initiative: the Saab-Pedroso Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture. The Center, made possible by a combined gift of \$850,000 from Luis Pedroso, Mark Saab, '81 and his wife Elisia—herself a native of the Azores, who came over with her family at the age of 4 to Lowell, where she and Luis were once schoolmates—will work closely with UMass Dartmouth's Center to sponsor events, coordinate programs for study abroad and arrange faculty exchanges with universities in Lisbon and Braga.

"Luis Pedroso's commitment to education as well as to the Merrimack Valley's Portuguese community, have been reaffirmed continually over at least the past 15 years," says Jacqueline Moloney, UMass Lowell executive vice chancellor. "His generous gift toward the founding of the Saab-Pedroso Center is the most recent demonstration of this commitment. We are proud to be a partner with him, with Mark and Elisia Saab and with UMass Dartmouth, in the creation of this Center, which will do so much, for years to come, to enrich the educational opportunities of our Portuguese neighbors."

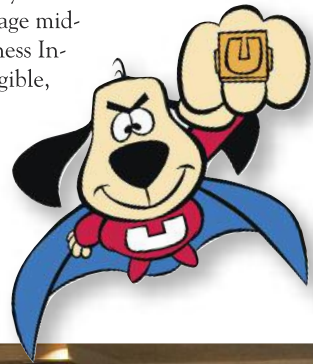
"I'm a little overwhelmed over this," Pedroso told the crowd the day of the Center's launching. "This is truly a huge occasion for the Portuguese community of Lowell and all of northern Massachusetts. ... We're going to do great things." ■



# No. 22

## WE LOVE TO BE THE underdog.

It's the moment you know you hold the winning cards but have yet to play the hand. The band you just know will be huge one day, and you know them *now*. The restaurant you know is going to be hot, and you were there first. And in June 2013, when Business Insider named UMass Lowell the Most Underrated College in America, we already knew. Measuring our grads' average mid-career salary, Business Insider applied a tangible, practical standard to its rankings. In the end, they're saying what we've been saying for a long time.



# No. 3

## Our close ties with brilliant thinkers—

like Desh Deshpande, whose commitment to sustainable change is generating a laboratory for leaders on campus.

Deshpande, an international venture capitalist, visionary and philanthropist, whose work has fed millions of children and brought health care to millions more in his native India, was named in 2010 by President Obama as co-chair of the President's advisory board on innovation strategy. He is also the founder and inspiration behind UMass Lowell's three-year-old Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Created on the strength of Deshpande's conviction that "If you pose a problem to an innovative mind it will come up with a solution," the Center provides students and faculty with the opportunity to develop remedies to some of the region's—and the world's—most intractable problems.

It does this through several channels. One of these, the Merrimack Valley Sandbox, combines the resources of UMass Lowell, Middlesex Community College, Merrimack College, Northern Essex Community College and other regional partner institutions—more than 30 in all—to encourage, mentor and in some cases subsidize the development of entrepreneurial leaders, together with the ventures they pursue. A second initiative, the DifferenceMaker program, brings together small groups of student-entrepreneurs, who then combine talents to develop the solutions to a range of problems, both on campus and in the wider world.



# No. 47

## Our suite life.

Nearly 1,000 students will benefit from two state-of-the-art housing additions this fall. University Suites on East Campus features four- and six-person suites, each equipped with common space, kitchenettes and bathrooms. The \$54 million building is also home to the Hawk's Nest Café and Red Mango, a national frozen yogurt chain. Riverview Suites, on South Campus, offers apartment living for upper-class students. It boasts four- and six-person apartments with full kitchens, living areas and bathrooms; the building also houses a fully equipped fitness center.



# No. 72

## We've got apps.

Dude, where's my bus? RoadsterRoutes can tell you. Launched in January, the app (created by the Web Services team in University Relations) notifies users exactly where the University's shuttles are in real time. And let's just say that students are psyched. Roadster was one of the 10 most visited pages on the UMass Lowell website this spring with 40,000 visits and 70,000 page views.



# No. 17

## Suppa's.



# No. 83

## Steve McCarthy.

Our 2012-2013 University Professor, the plastics engineering faculty member—and co-founder of the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center—has been inspiring students at UMass Lowell for more than three decades. And he works hard for the money: McCarthy is responsible for about \$9 million in research grants and \$33 million in intellectual property donations. We love him with or without his 'stache.

# No. 24

## Our diversity.

How boring would it be if we were all the same? *Really* boring, if you ask UMass Lowell. Enrollment of students in underrepresented minority groups has increased 90 percent over the last five years. The graduating class of 2013 included students from 79 countries. The Office of Multicultural Affairs lists 31 student clubs and organizations, including the African Student Collaboration, Disable the Label, International Student Organization, Society of Women Engineers, Pride Alliance and the Latin American Student Organization. The result: a more vibrant campus life, enhanced learning experiences and better preparation for the global economy.





# No. 32

We're affordable *and* we make millions.

AffordableCollegesOnline.org recently ranked us No.10 for Public Colleges Whose Grads Make Millions.



# No. 57

Our artists-in-residence.

Every year, the University's Center for Arts and Ideas brings a handful of top artists to campus to present their work, teach master classes and meet with students. The spring 2013 artist was celebrated filmmaker and animator Martha Colburn, best known for her animation films created through puppetry, collage and paint-on-glass techniques. Shown above, center, Colburn guided students through making their own experimental films during her visit.

# No. 34

We shoot for the Moon.

And sometimes we get to touch it. Thanks to the efforts of physics Prof. Supriya Chakrabarti, students in earth sciences and physics had a chance to examine up-close a set of lunar rocks loaned by NASA's Johnson Space Center during two special geology seminars held in April. "How many students can say they have held in their hands something that most people of the world can only see from afar or imagine?" asks Chakrabarti. "Add to that an explanation that these pieces of the Moon have not changed in 4.5 billion years—the implications are profound." (Side note: Sometimes we also literally shoot the moon—with a Canon SLR. University Relations staffer Edwin Aguirre and his wife, Imelda Joson, took this gorgeous photo during the "Super Moon" rising on June 23.)



# No. 84

We take care of our students. Messages, ice cream sundaes, group fitness classes, arts and crafts and a kindness wall (pictured above)—we offer all of these things during exam periods to help students relieve stress.

[ No. 62 Convocation. ]



No.  
52

THE COMPANY WE KEEP—

## Like Bauer Performance Sports and its CEO, Kevin Davis '91

BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS



Kevin Davis '91

**ROUGHLY 70 PERCENT OF NHL PROS TODAY LACE UP BAUER SKATES. FOR THE UMASS LOWELL RIVER HAWKS THE COMPANY IS BY FAR THE NO. 1 SOURCE OF EQUIPMENT—SKATES, STICKS, MASKS AND PADS—AND HAS BEEN FOR YEARS.**

Most business success stories follow straightforward paths. A carefully chosen college major; a first job in a field that spins off that choice; a series of promotions; maybe a job change or two within the field, each time at a higher level. And finally the pinnacle: the CEO's corner office, perhaps ultimately the chairmanship.

Kevin Davis has gone about things a little differently. Drawn originally to the University of Lowell for its College of Engineering—it was one of the only schools in the U.S. with a nuclear reactor and Davis had hopes of being a nuclear engineer—once he rethought his options, he switched his major to accounting. He graduated in 1991.

For a while, he followed the accountant's route with a job at Ernst and Young—during which he earned his CPA. But the field, he discovered, served as “a great foray into other things,” and before long he was with Gillette in Boston. Following that came a stint with Boston Scientific, which led in turn to several years' involvement with the medical devices field.

In 2002, he was working for a company called Pathway Medical when the call came from a recruiter. Bauer Performance Sports, the hockey-equipment company, was looking for a controller. And with that, came the end of Davis' winding path.

Bauer is a name known to anyone who's ever played hockey. It had made its name, in 1933, as the first company to manufacture a hockey skate with the boot and the blade permanently attached. Its fame widened in the 1960s with the much-publicized endorsement of hockey legend Bobby Hull. All this, together with the financial might of parent-company Nike, which had purchased it in 1995, had put the Bauer brand squarely at the top of its field.

Roughly 70 percent of NHL pros today lace up Bauer skates. For the UMass Lowell River Hawks, who finished their 2012-13 season as the third-ranked Division I team in the U.S., the company is by far the No. 1 source of equipment—skates, sticks, masks and pads—and has been for years.

“Bauer has been our equipment supplier for both my years as head coach. They've continued to provide us with great service and quality products,” says Norm Bazin, the River Hawks' coach. “The company continues to excel under Kevin's direction in this ultra-competitive hockey market.”

In 2002, the year Davis joined Bauer as controller, its sales revenues, he says, were \$220 million. Two years later, he was elevated to chief financial officer, and two years after that to COO. Then, in 2008, Nike sold its stake in Bauer to a private-equity firm, Kohlberg and Co., for \$200 million. Kohlberg not only retained Davis's services but appointed him CEO.

“I was very fortunate they took a risk on me,” he would say later.

It was a risk well taken. By 2010, Bauer's sales had risen to \$272 million, and they've been climbing ever since—with a huge spike, to \$387 million, last year. And in the meantime, says Davis, the company's profits have tripled.

Much of this growth has come through untraditional sources. Until not long after Davis took over, Bauer had been known almost entirely for its skates and hockey equipment—it controls roughly 52 percent of that market today. But lately the picture has been widening. In June of 2010, Bauer's parent company acquired Maverick Sports, a New York-based manufacturer of lacrosse equipment. This was followed two years later by the acquisition of Cascade Helmets, a maker of lacrosse helmets, also headquartered in New York State.

“Lacrosse is the fastest-growing team sport in North America. The game itself is similar to hockey in concept, as is the technology. So we see it as a natural fit,” Davis says.

Earlier this year, the company announced news of yet another acquisition: Combat Sports, a leading designer of composite baseball and softball bats, hockey sticks and lacrosse shafts.

As its business focus widens, the company's fortunes continue to rise. In the spring of 2011, Bauer went public, with an opening price of \$7.50 per share on the Toronto Stock Exchange. As of June, the price was hovering around \$11.

“Mr. Davis has helped guide [Bauer] to the most successful financial position in its history, including record financial results for the past two years,” BusinessWeek reported in its executive profile last year.

Given its growth-path and string of recent successes, Bauer is often mentioned these days as a takeover target itself. Davis, of course, hasn't much to say about such rumors. For the foreseeable future, he says, “We just plan to leverage our efforts across all the sports we're part of, and try to be No. 1 anywhere we compete.” ■



BY GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

# No. 93

## Our Inspirational Students— Like **Edwyn Shoemaker**

You may have passed by him on the street—or someone just like him. He was lying asleep against a building, or over a heating grate. Or in the rear seat of that abandoned junker at the corner you keep wishing the city would haul away. If it was a cold night in winter, you may not have seen him at all: he'd have broken into the boarded-up building down the block, where he was lying on the floor under a ratty blanket, grateful to be out of the wind.

"You got to be able to scale walls," he says today. "That's an important thing to know if you're living on the street."

His name is Edwyn Shoemaker and he's a senior at UMass Lowell. His father was a coke dealer who got busted in Canada; he hasn't seen him in years. As a child, he lived with his mother, until both their lives were overtaken by her troubles with drugs and booze. That was when the state stepped in and took him away. He was 9 years old.

There were foster homes. Twelve in the first two weeks. Then six weeks in a shelter, followed by four years in a residential program in Plymouth. They had classes there: "Nothing you'd call school, really, just these lessons they'd give you to get you past the MCAS. If it wasn't your year for the MCAS, you wouldn't have to go."

Things get complicated after that. There were more foster homes. One on the Cape, a second one in Wareham: "with this really nice lady, but she lived in the projects and I was hanging out in the streets getting in trouble, so she said I shouldn't stay." There was a year in the Elizabeth Islands at a "school for struggling boys." At one point he moved back in with his mother, who was living by then in a motel. But she was still drinking and doing drugs, and he moved back out again.

By age 17 he was in Lowell, living in a shelter. He tried to attend Lowell High, he says – "But they didn't want me in the school. They said they had enough troublemakers already, so they just sent a tutor around for a while, then let me graduate." He had never attended a class.

At 18 he "aged out" of the system. There would be no more foster homes or shelters, and the streets were the only other thing he knew. It was time for a choice, and he knew it:

"I was getting in trouble, going in the wrong direction. I had to take control of my life. Otherwise there were only two futures—I'd end up either dead or in jail. College was the one ticket out."

In 2008 he enrolled at Middlesex Community College. But now with no home and no fallback—working up to three jobs, taking his showers at the UMass Lowell rec center (\$15 a month), sleeping on park benches—he struggled badly, falling behind in his courses, nearly flunking out.

A kindly adviser took note, and offered a route to help: the TRIO program, a federally funded support service for low-income students. "That was the difference," he says today. "I don't think I could have made it without it. They advise you, encourage you, support you every step of the way. They just won't let you fail."

For the first time in his life, Edwyn Shoemaker learned what it was to thrive. He finished MCC in the spring of 2010, was chosen as a "fellow" in that school's most esteemed program – the Paul Sullivan Leadership Institute—and was asked to speak at a close-of-year reception. UMass Chancellor Marty Meehan was in the audience that day:

"He came up to me after, and asked me what I wanted to major in. I told him, 'political science.' He asked what colleges I was applying to. I told him [a few names]. He said he thought I should come to UMass Lowell."

Which brings us to today. Shoemaker is indeed a political science major, one semester away from his UMass Lowell degree. He is also a member of the University's International Relations Club, through which—as a participant in student models of the UN and Arab League—he has traveled for debates to Boston, Washington, Vancouver and Toronto and met fellow students from as far away as Taiwan. "It's changed my life," he says. "It's opened my eyes to the world."

But for all his wider eyes and far-flung travels, the world that most compels him is still the one closest to home. As an intern in Washington, D.C., this summer, with other former foster children, for the Coalition on Adoption Institute, he helped draft policy proposals to increase the awareness among Congress of the needs of homeless youth. And this fall, back on campus, as co-founder of the University's newly formed Navigators Club—modeled on MCC's TRIO program, and offering "services, support and camaraderie to UMass Lowell students who have been foster children, who have experienced homelessness or who have encountered other challenges"—his mission is much the same.

"I've walked in the path," he says. "And when you walk in the path, you stoop down and toss a stone from the path for the next person coming by. Because a stone can trip anyone, even a giant." ■



# No. 21

## Our student athletes are all-around awesome.

You see what happens on the turf, the ice and the water, but our River Hawks stand out in the classroom, too. So yeah, hockey had an amazing season, but the team also placed 13th on the Hockey East All-Academic Team. The team's overall GPA was 3.06.

Hockey team captain Riley Wetmore received the David Boutin Award as male student athlete of the year again. Vanessa Kent, a senior field hockey standout, was the female Boutin Award winner. She was also named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division II Academic Squad. With six players, the River Hawk team was awarded the National Academic Team Award.

The UMass Lowell ice hockey and rowing teams both received the Bob Griffin Academic Award for the highest male and female team grade point averages. The rowing team's GPA was 3.315.

The men's and women's track & field teams are lightning fast, but they don't run from the books. A pair of juniors, Scott Boiko and Diamond Jones, were named to the Capital One All-Academic District I Track and Field teams.

Jacob O'Keefe, sophomore catcher on the baseball squad, made the Capital One Academic District One Team, with his 3.97 GPA.

Sophomore softball player Abby Jamieson wasn't just a terror to opposing pitchers with her .448 average; she also she got respect. The 2013 National Fast pitch Coaches Association named her a Division II NCAA All-American, third team.

# No. 97

## WE FIGHT TERRORISM.



Or our professors do, anyway. **James Forest**—author, consultant and UMass Lowell associate professor in the School of Criminology and Justice Studies—is a senior fellow with the government's Joint Special Operations University, based at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. Formerly director of terrorism studies at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Forest is among the nation's foremost authorities on terrorism issues. He also teaches a full load of courses on terrorism and counterterrorism, security studies and weapons of mass destruction, and is director of the University's Security Studies graduate degree program.



Joining the School this fall as a professor of security studies, **John Horgan** is also director of the University's new Center for Terrorism and Security Studies, which was established to house a variety of collaborative research projects addressing the complexities of areas like terrorism, cyber-security, transnational crime and weapons of mass destruction. Horgan—author of more than 70 publications on terrorism and political violence—is a member of the Research Working Group of the FBI's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime.



Horgan, who was previously director of the International Center for the Study of Terrorism at Penn State University, is being joined by his former Penn State colleague **Mia Bloom**. A former term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, she is now a professor of security studies at UMass Lowell. Bloom, who speaks nine languages, is the author of several books and regularly appears on CNN, Fox News, CSPAN and NBC Nightly News.

**Roger Cressey '87** is also a frequent presence on TV, having served as an analyst on counterterrorism issues for the past nine years on NBC News, The Today Show and MSNBC. Cressey is a former member of the National Security Council and the State Department's staff on Middle Eastern security issues; more recently, he served as chief of staff for the President's Critical Infrastructure Protection Board. As an NSC staff member, he was responsible for the coordination and implementation of U.S. counterterrorism policy, and helped manage the government's response to multiple terrorism incidents, including the Sept. 11 attacks.

# No. 51

## We take care of our students, part two.

In 2012, we met an average of 92 percent of a student's demonstrated financial need.



No. 90

**OUR URBAN DIGS.** We are lucky. Some urban campuses are lost in cascades of asphalt and cinderblock. Not us. We thrive on the banks of the Mighty Merrimack, which once fueled Lowell's historic Industrial Revolution. Jack Kerouac was born here, as was Bette Davis. We have baseball on the river with future Red Sox, the largest free folk festival in the country and artists filling live-work spaces. We are cobblestone and red brick, strong and quaint at once. We're full of great food and old worlds, a grand splash of vibrant diversity, history everywhere. We're central to all of New England, yet a world unto ourselves. Lowell is a place to learn, a place you'll love.

No. 75

## OUR STUDENTS ARE SO SMART, THEY CAN MAKE CONCRETE FLOAT.

This year, our team placed sixth at the North American concrete canoe competition, finishing near the top among 23 counterparts from institutions across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Held by the American Society of Civil Engineers, the contest challenges student teams to design, build and race canoes made entirely of concrete. UMass Lowell was the only university from New England and one of only two from the Northeast to reach the nationals, earning the right to compete after beating out schools from across the region and Canada, including perennial top national finishers, at regionals in April.

The 20-person UMass Lowell team competed with the canoe the students named "Moswetuset," a Native American word meaning "shaped like an arrowhead" and the origin of the name "Massachusetts." The watercraft measures 19 feet 8 inches long, 26 inches across at its widest point and 13 inches deep. Weighing in at 132 pounds, it was molded from a lightweight concrete and reinforced with fiberglass mesh.

No. 26

## WE'RE WELL-ENDOWED.

As the Boston Business Journal recently reported, we have the fastest growing endowment among public universities in Massachusetts. We recently reached a milestone of more than \$65 million in endowment funds, which support student scholarships, academic programs and faculty development. In the last five years, the number of endowments has grown by 72 percent—putting our growth ahead of a couple of little-known schools called Harvard and MIT.

No. 43

## We know what you're thinking.

We are a research university, and the Center for Public Opinion is just one of the ways we flex our cross-disciplinary muscle. The Center polls on political and public opinion trends, and it all enhances our students' experiences. Thanks to the rigor and integrity with which we conduct our polls, the results are widely reported and respected.



No. 14

## Our University Professors.

The highest distinction bestowed on a UMass Lowell faculty member, the title recognizes exemplary contributions to teaching, research and service. Our most recently named University Professor is Laura Punnett, at right, of the Department of Work Environment, which she helped found. An internationally respected leader in public health and ergonomics, Punnett is one of the top researchers internationally in the epidemiology of work-related musculoskeletal disorders. She leads the Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace, a research center funded with more than \$9 million to date. Previous recipients of the three-year appointment are: biology Prof. Susan Braunhut, work environment Prof. Kenneth Geiser, Chair of the Physics and Applied Physics Department Robert Giles, Graduate School of Education Prof. Regina Panasuk and plastics engineering Prof. Stephen McCarthy.



## Our world is flat.

We have partnerships with nearly 100 universities in more than 40 countries on six continents. (Here we come, Antarctica!) Between team-taught courses, student exchanges and research partnerships, we're building bridges and advancing the public good. And we're not doing all the traveling. A growing number of international students are making UMass Lowell their destination, thanks to programs that make it easier to transfer here from their home universities. Most recently, we've forged such agreements with eight universities in China and India.

No. 69





## No. 80

## We Band Together in Tough Times.

Take the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. Even before we learned that several members of our community suffered serious injuries as a result of the tragedy, there was an outpouring of compassion and inquiries from students, alumni, faculty and staff—all of whom wondered one thing: How can I help? Here's just a sampling of how our UMass Lowell family pitched in:



**We helped at the finish line.** Steve Fiola '03, a first lieutenant and executive officer of the 1060th transportation company in the Army National Guard, was planning only to walk the 26.2 miles of the Boston Marathon on April 15. Only. Making that trek dressed in fatigues and boots and carrying a backpack filled with 40 pounds of equipment—water and Gatorade, a blanket, first aid and trauma kits, spare clothing, extra boots—is not an easy feat. But Fiola and 15 other guardsmen under his command marched the route as part of part of Tough Ruck 2013, which honors fallen soldiers.

Fiola was near the finish line when the two bombs exploded. His military and prior EMT training kicked in, and he ran toward the blast. “Two other soldiers and I crossed the street about 100 yards to the metal scaffoldings holding up the row of flags,” Fiola told Mother Jones. “We just absolutely annihilated the fence and pulled it back so we could see the victims underneath. The doctors and nurses from the medical tent were on the scene in under a minute. We were pulling burning debris off people so that the medical personnel could get to them and begin triage.”

Fiola—who says the scene was “worse than a war zone”—plans to march again at next year's Boston Marathon. He won't be alone. Eight states and Canada have contacted him about sending soldiers.

**We created a scholarship fund.** The day after the marathon, we created the UMass Lowell Boston Marathon Scholarship Fund—which benefits any member of the University community, including their families and alumni, who was affected by the tragedy and wants to pursue an education here. We hope that will include Jeff Bauman, who lost part of both of his legs at the marathon.

In the days following, the father of the 27-year-old—a former student here, who had been cheering on his girlfriend as she ran her first Boston Marathon—told The New York Times that Bauman plans to “pay off his student loans and go back to school at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.” We plan to help him.

To contribute to the fund, visit [uml.edu/givenow](http://uml.edu/givenow).

**We held benefits.** On April 27, we helped host a benefit at the UMass Lowell Inn & Convention Center to support Lowell-area bombing victims (including Bauman and alum Roseann Sdoia '91). The next month, Scott Walfield '10, '12—who's now part of the first doctoral class in criminal and justice studies—helped organize a fundraiser called Seven on the Green Line, hosted by the University's ultimate Frisbee club team. The May 11 event raised money for Lowell victims Sydney and Celeste Corcoran. “Tyngsboro Sports Center donated their facilities and we received donated products from more than 15 different companies, both ultimate Frisbee related and local businesses,” Walfield says. “In all, we ended up raising \$5,000 for the family.”

**We comforted the community.** The marathon tragedy left everyone in the area feeling anxious and scared, including a Boston College student who took to the Internet to thank alum and B.C. Police Officer Katrina (Brown) Thompson '96 for making her feel better. Thompson joined the student and her friends for dinner to talk to them shortly after the bombings:

“While she ate [Officer Thompson] asked us how our weekend was going, what we had done during the lockdown and what our plans were for study abroad. Understandably the conversation revolved around the bombings and successful capture of the suspects, but Officer Thompson kept it lighthearted.

“Things got heavier when Officer Thompson told us that she had joined the BCPD as recently as July 2012. She had transferred from the MIT campus police force, where she knew Officer Sean Collier [who was shot and killed by the Boston Marathon bombing suspects during their attempted escape] and had worked with him for years. She talked about how hard the loss was for everyone in Boston, and how the BCPD was especially cut up by the death of one of their own in the line of duty.

“Before she left, Officer Thompson offered a parting remark that stuck with me: ‘Don't be afraid to talk to us. We're all struggling with this as much as you are. We're here if you need anything.’ Her farewell almost brought me to tears.”

**We designed a T-shirt.** Graphic design alum and Medford native Kevin Zwirble '04—who now lives and works as a graphic designer in the Baltimore area—created a T-shirt (at right) to help the victims of the marathon tragedy. By selling it on the website Ink to the People, he raised more than \$2,500—every penny of which went to the One Fund Boston. “Words cannot describe how I feel,” he says. “I'm glad that in some small way we can help those affected by the bombings. One City. One Heart.” ■



No. 100

## Our Alumni...



...like Anne (Dittami) Theroux '31, '35 (that's her famous son, right). In March, celebrated author Paul Theroux (“The Great Railway Bazaar” and “The Mosquito Coast”) rode the train from his native Medford to

Lowell—tracing the route his mother, Anne, took to attend UMass Lowell predecessor Lowell Normal School more than 80 years ago. He wrote about the experience this year for Barron's Online:

“The sharpest memory she has—a memory still strong at 102—is of taking this train every school day from 1928 to 1931 to attend college in Lowell and become a teacher. The train was her liberation, too.

“‘I got the 7:30 train at West Medford station,’ my mother told me recently. ‘I rode with my friends, and others got on at Winchester and Billerica. We talked and laughed among ourselves—we were full of life.

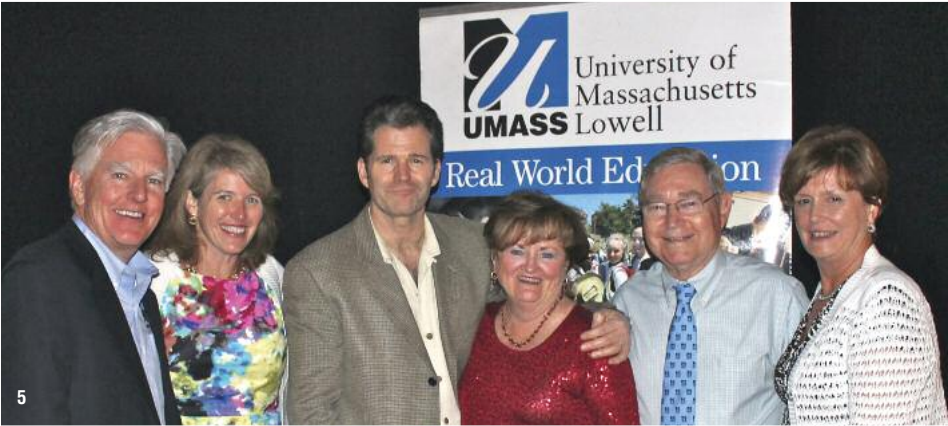
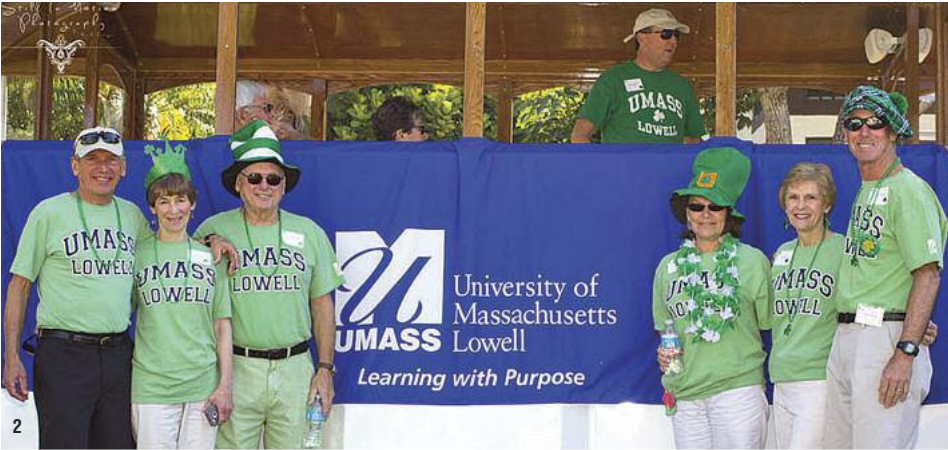
‘There were always businessmen on the train in good suits, with briefcases. They probably thought, ‘These silly girls will be teaching our children!’”

Photo credit: Jason Grow





Alumni Take Florida



1. Enjoying an alumni reception at 50 Oceans at Boston's on the Beach in Delray, are, from left, AnnMarie Clark '74, world-renowned author Andre Dubus III and Justine '69 and Edwin Quimby '69.
2. Alumni gather to march in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Naples. From left, Doug '64 and Carole Stagnaro, Dick '62 and Carol Dauksys, Lorraine and Gerry Lydon '66.
3. Alumni and friends gather at the annual Ft. Myers Red Sox barbecue and baseball game.
4. UMass Lowell baseball player Jacob O'Keefe and his girlfriend, Chelsea, enjoy a family barbecue in Boca Raton hosted by UMass Lowell alumni and friends in honor of the River Hawks baseball team.
5. From left, Chancellor Marty Meehan '78, Ellen Murphy Meehan, Prof. Andre Dubus III, Maureen and Arnold Lerner and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney enjoy a reception hosted by the Lerner at their home in Naples.
6. Alumni and friends gather at the home of Maureen and Arnold Lerner in Naples. From left, Roy '57 and Ruth '57 Zabierek, Tom '63 and Karen McAviney, Valerie McCann, Fred '63 and Kathy Lemire.



Frozen Four Game Watches Nationwide!

Alumni and friends gathered all over the country for game-watches to support the River Hawks as they competed in the Frozen Four for the first time ever. Thank you for all of your alumni support.

1. Florida Alumni Network members Keith Carney '00 and his family join Erik Brown '58 at Boston's in Delray Beach, Fla., to watch the River Hawks compete in the Frozen Four.
2. Members of the Georgia Alumni Network cheer on the River Hawks at the Frozen Four. From left, Matt Keaveney '92, Robert '89, Karen Papetti '88 and John Spעד '86.
3. Restaurants all over Massachusetts celebrate and embrace the UMass Lowell alumni community as they cheer on the River Hawks.
4. Members of the Colorado Alumni Network watch the River Hawks compete in the Frozen Four. From left, Laura Fickenwirth '11, Sam Dyas '11, Ross McAviney, Karen and Tom '63 McAviney.
5. Members of the Upstate New York Alumni Network watch the UMass Lowell River Hawks compete at the Frozen Four. From left, Kevin O'Malley '00, Colleen Janeiro '03 and John Harding '83.
6. Alumni, students and friends from the Washington, D.C. Alumni Network gather at the Public Bar to cheer on the River Hawks.





40th & 50th Reunion Weekend

**1.** Lowell Tech Class of 1963 alumni gather for their 50th reunion: Standing, from left, George English, Rose Ann English, Al Daigneault, Ray James, Tom Burke, Andy Dudek, Tom McAvineu, Ron Lafond, Ed Zebroski, Rob Florek, Jerry Znoj, Dick McAllister, Mike Sheehan, George Anagnostopoulos, Bill Lipchitz, Dave Hopwood, Reggie Hamer, Matt Sliwa, Jim Donald, Bruce Kubek and Bob Bernier. Seated, from left, Joseph Lamore, Richard Cacciapouti, Carolyn Ellis Lumenello, Joseph Zmuda, Thomas Keefe, Robert Hookway, Fred Lemire and James Hunt.

**2.** Members of the Massachusetts State Class of 1963 enjoy their 50th reunion. Back row, from left, Katherine Serratore Manousos, M. Eileen Conrad Marcotte, Maureen Guerin Breen, Peggy Mulcahy Orroth, Linda Theisz Queller, Warren Austin, Maureen Hayes DiPalma, Margaret Inglis Janas, Malcolm Chrupcala, Ruth Black Beloli, Cosette Beaudin Dulmaine and Linda Chalfin Fleishman.

Center row, from left, Carol DiPalma Zusin, Margaret Hennessey Martin, Ann Regan Dziadose, Mary Fitzgerald Downing, Diane Costopoulos Braga, Mary Buchinskas Foley, Patricia Kelly Knowlton, Pauline King and David Taggart.

Seated, from left, Anne Leary Garvey, Katherine McKillop, Marjorie Seminatore Ryan, Barbara Manseau Hamer, Sandra Ferreira, Judith Wilhelmy, Claire Grant and Kathryn Crane Lucier.

**3.** Members of the Lowell State College Class of 1973 enjoy their 40th Reunion. Standing, from left, Jane Wolfindale Gilmore, Linda Kimberlin Kapeckas, Barbara Dunsford, Charlene Voyer, Brenda Grassello, Ann Molda, Katherine McDonnell, Martha Bassett Dufresne, Ann Elie Scannell and Richard Warner. Seated, from left, Denise Guilbeault Arvidson, Karen Schelling Fitzgerald, Paula Calderone Casey, Ellen Dolan Stokinger, Johanna O’Hearn, Catherine Bolis Robie and Sharon Hession.

**4.** Members of the Lowell Tech Class of 1973 gather for their 40th reunion. Standing, from left, Kai Leung, Ronald Plummer, Theodore Peltier and Sanford Way. Seated, from left, Susan Livsey, Peg Palmer and Joseph Zabik.



**Classes of 1964 and 1974: Help make your reunion fantastic!**  
To volunteer before or during the events, email [alumnioffice@uml.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@uml.edu) or call 978-934-3140.



**1.** Family, friends, faculty and staff honor the 2012-2013 class of Student Alumni Ambassadors at the first Student Alumni Ambassador Pinning Ceremony held at Allen House. Back row, from left, Richard Asirifi '14, Gianni Falzone '13, William Deady '13, Joseph Guzman '14, Kevin Doherty '14, Ibrahim Lahlaf '15 and Yao Zhai '15. Center row, from left, Kylie Quinn '13, Tamara Vincent '13, Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92, Brian Dano '13, Chancellor Martin Meehan '78, Ierusha Bandeira '13, Kerry Hanafin '13, Viraj Palkhiwala '13 and Danielle Mello '14. Front row, from left, Genesis Peralta '15, Rudy Baez '13, Jemima Abankwa '13, Yoamerby “Melvin” GomezCisnero '15 and Chantelle Polanco '13.

**2.** Gathering for the fourth annual Student Leader Reunion Night at the River Hawks Hockey game are, from left, Marck Clerveau '12, Koffi Selom Egbeto '12 and Sade Jean-Jacques '11.

**3.** All generations of the UMass Lowell Hockey family gather for Riley Reunion Night. From left, Chancellor Marty Meehan '78, UMass Lowell Hockey alumnus Travis Tucker '99 and Head Coach Emeritus Bill Riley.

**4.** Delta Kappa Phi alumni gathered for a pre-game reception at the Tsongas Center before the River Hawks took on the Boston University Terriers.

**5.** Alumna Margaret Bota '03 presents at an Alumni Showcase for students, friends and alumni of the Black Alumni Network.

**6.** Alumni, students and friends gathered at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell for the second annual Sigma Phi Omicron Chris Sullivan '98 Memorial 5K Run/Walk in April. From left: Alumni Director Heather Makrez '06, '08, Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, Skip Kittredge '67, Director of Veterans' Services Janine Wert and Adam Hogue '03.

**7.** Alumni gather the Center for Productivity Enhancement Reunion to honor the late Prof. Pat Krolak. From left, Frank Drake '87; Rich Miner '86, '89, '97; Ross Miller '88; Chuck Kosta '85, '90, '96 and Mark Miller '91.





1. University Alumni Award recipients were recognized for their exceptional leadership, commitment and significant contributions in their professional fields by Chancellor Marty Meehan '78 and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92, together in the center. From left, Graduate School of Education: George Tsapatsaris '77, superintendent, Lowell Public Schools (retired); Manning School of Business: Mark Forziati '78, senior vice president and partner, Tudor Investments (retired); College of Fine Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences: George Membrino '52, owner and founder, GEM Consulting; College of Sciences: Kimberly Sawyer '89, deputy laboratories director and executive vice president, mission support, Sandia National Laboratories; Recent Alumni Award: Danielle McFadden '07, president and CEO, Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce; School of Health & Environment: Bruce Arakelian '82, nurse anesthetist, Carolinas Medical Center; and Francis College of Engineering: Jeffrey Cosiol '67, principal project director, Kling Stubbins (retired).

2. Renowned author Andre Dubus III, center, with honorary degree recipients at the sixth annual Commencement Eve "Honoring Excellence" gala. From left, Bernard Shapiro '56, '13 (H), Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92, Mark '81, '13 (H) and Elisia '13 (H) Saab, Sally Mucica, accepting for Gary Mucica '71, '13 (H) (posthumous), Nancy Donahue '13 (H) and Harish Hande '98, '00, '13 (H).

3. Ken Geiser, co-director of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, celebrates his retirement with colleagues and friends.

4. UMass Lowell alumni and friends working in Billerica's Technology Park Drive gather for a winter reception and networking event held in February.

5. The Washington, D.C. Alumni Network gathers at the City Club of Washington in D.C., with Associate Dean of Student and Community Engagement Brenda Evans '94, '95, Nuclear Engineering Prof. Gil Brown and Associate Vice Chancellor of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Steve Tello '80, '02.

6. Enjoying an alumni event prior to a performance of the Broadway show "Jekyll and Hyde," produced by Bonnie Comley '81 and her husband, Stewart Lane, are, from left, Jim '73 and Sue Feeney, Bob and Claudia Monteith, Daniel '72 and Virginia '72 Quinlan.

# Thank You

## TO OUR COMMENCEMENT EVE CELEBRATION SPONSORS

For the sixth year in a row, UMass Lowell has broken its record for the funds raised for student scholarships. In total, the annual Commencement Eve Celebration resulted in \$725,000 to benefit our students. Since 2008, over \$3 million has been raised.



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Chet and Linda '83 Szablak  
John Ting  
TMI Property Management & Development  
George Tsapatsaris '77  
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Vanguard Construction Co.  
Krishna Vedula  
Walsh Engineering Services  
David Wegman  
Geraldine Williams



For information about this event, please visit <http://alumni.uml.edu/commencementeve>.



1956

Gil Diloreto, who has lived in Sarasota, Fla., for more than two years, reports that there is plenty of sunshine, theater and music everywhere down there.

1959

Bruce Heald recently published “Old Country Stores of New Hampshire” in which he tries to capture the essence of these quaint establishments that he despairs are disappearing. “They’re going,” he says. “We’re losing this heritage and legacy.” Bruce, who teaches history at Plymouth State University, has produced more than 40 titles.

1966

Laurence F. Brundrett retired in March after serving as an engineer with the IRS for 22 years.

1971

Ara Jeknavorian, Ph.D. ’71, ’74, ’99—a research fellow at W.R. Grace & Co. in Cambridge—received the Award of Merit from the ASTM International Committee on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates. The award, and its accompanying title of fellow, is ASTM’s highest recognition for individual contributions to standards activities. Also a member of the American Chemical Society and the American Concrete Institute, Ara earned three degrees here: a bachelor’s in chemistry and a master’s and a doctorate in analytical chemistry.

1973

Gary Marcus and his wife of 40 years have 27-year-old fraternal twin boys, one a nursing home administrator and the other a luxury car salesman. Mrs. Marcus is an executive administrator of a hospice company.

1974

John Murphy, a member of the University’s Athletic Hall of Fame, recently toured the San Francisco Giants’ AT&T ballpark during a swing through California wine country. John is director of purchasing for Virbac Corporation, a pharmaceutical/animal health company based in Ft. Worth, Texas. He and wife, Pam, live in St. Louis. John’s baseball achievements at Lowell State included a .485 batting average in 1973, which earned him the Adirondack Big Stick Award as the number one hitter among District I players while ranking him third in the nation among collegiate batters.

1978



Nche Zama is director of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at Aria Health and is a clinical professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

1979

John O’Shaughnessy has published his second novel, “encounter,” about the opportunity to speak again with someone loved and lost. John and his wife, Sandy, co-founded Good Mourning Ministry, a Catholic bereavement organization in the Detroit area. John spent 30 years in the business world before becoming a certified grief counselor. John and Sandy have four children and live in Plymouth, Mich.

Continued on P. 52

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1958

‘Times Were a Little Different’



Erik Brown ’58—who, after a long career in life insurance, wrote the novel “Palm Beach Detective: Sunny Skies, Shady People”—recently sent us an essay detailing his fondest memories of his time on campus. Here’s an excerpt:

“Lowell Tech drew students from all over the world due to its specialty courses in textiles, paper and plastics. For those it fit, it fit well. “Duke” Snyder, after being thrown out of Notre Dame, joined his brother “Doc” in the family woolen mill in North Chelmsford after graduating. Another classmate, Joe Frederichs, went onto working for his family’s knitting mills and making sweaters for many national labels. Irving Lask went back to Mexico City to work with his family’s leather manufacturing company.

“...My roommate at Eames Hall, a student of textile engineering because his father owned textile mills, had a slight altercation with a friend of mine from Marblehead who came for a weekend visit. We came back from a weekend of partying to find he had taken his closet full of suits and sports jackets and moved down the hall to room with an Indian student from Bombay. Only my single maroon corduroy jacket remained.

“Bob Kriegel, my good friend of now nearly 60 years, moved in and introduced me to his pal Roy Zuckerberg, who also became a lifelong friend.

“... Al Helin and Joe Chifeti, two former football players from Fitchburg, often shared in the Dinty Moore beef stew dinners, cooked on my hot plate in the dorm. Vinnie Mazza from Jersey City split his time between preparing to box in the Golden Gloves, with the help of the ROTC boxing sergeant, and playing the guitar with his roommate, budding cartoonist Jack Lamb, leaving little time for studying. Another colorful Jersey boy, Joe Tancredi, would come back to the dorms nightly to brag about his exploits with the girls from Lowell. All were gone by sophomore year.

“Tancredi compatriot, Dave Sullivan, a very bright lad from Lowell, stayed. Dave spent some time at a bar owned by Manny Bellow. The rumor was the bar was mainly inhabited by beautiful women and jockeys, who occasionally helped Manny win a race. I went to Suffolk Downs with Dave and his mother and bet five bucks while watching one of Manny’s picks set a course record in the mud.

“The prettiest girls in Lowell were the Larkin sisters, dated at the time by Joe Liston, a former Lowell football player who had the most wonderful infectious laugh and his pal Jimmy Dean, also from Lowell, who was the star fullback on the Boston University football team. Another classmate who was student head of the ROTC was unable to marry a third sister, the girl of his dreams, because she was Catholic and he was Protestant.

“Yes, times were a little different.”

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1983

BY SHEILA EPPOLITO

First Woman to Lead Lowell’s Finest

Sofia Friedl is only 8 years old, and she knew it was a big deal.

When City Manager Bernie Lynch ’78 named Deborah Friedl ’83 interim superintendent of the Lowell Police Department—the first woman to hold the post—Sofia sprinted to the principal’s office at her school to share the news about her mom.

Friedl is a true Lowellian, having graduated from Lowell High before enrolling at the University of Lowell. First a psychology major, she tacked on a second one—in the newly formed criminal justice program—and found her place.

“Criminal justice was a great fit for me,” says Friedl, admitting her mother was less enthusiastic about her only daughter’s career choice. There wasn’t a lot of time to get used to the thought, either, since Friedl sailed through the civil service exam on her first try, just months after graduation. She and 11 other new Lowell cops (including three women) joined the force at a ceremony at the Somerville Police Academy.

Twenty-eight years later, Friedl is perched atop a 232-person force, charged by Lynch with passing the department budget and with cleaning up some messy and highly publicized personnel issues, all while she manages every facet of a busy urban force.

It’s been a long ride in the same department. As she rose through the ranks, Friedl became an expert in domestic violence cases, combining her police training and her psychology background.

“Nobody calls the cops on their best day,” she says. “Police are called to help people at their most vulnerable: mental illness, substance abuse, missing persons, issues with the elderly and immigrants are often at play.”

While she acknowledges that violence is a real threat to the community and responding officers, she says she’s been trained to be “ready for violence, but prepared for ways to calm the situation if at all possible, using empathy, patience and intelligence.”

Friedl expresses deep respect for her colleagues, but she does admit to challenges related to gender. On today’s Lowell Police force, just 19 of the 232 officers are women, and national statistics place women in law enforcement at just 10 percent. When you look at female cops in the top ranks, the numbers fall even lower.

“When most of your friends and mentors are male, it can be challenging,” she says. “You’ve got to be very careful in cultivating and maintaining relationships in a professional way, keeping your guard up to avoid even a whiff of impropriety.”

She cites the value of creating relationships with female cops through organizations like the International Association of Women Police Officers, where she sits on the board.

A permanent superintendent will be selected in the coming months, from a pool of two deputies and nine captains on the Lowell force, as well as external candidates.

For now, Friedl will keep doing what she’s done best for nearly 30 years. ■



Photo credit: Emily Antonelli Ray



WE MAY BE ON SIX CONTINENTS, but our presence in Iowa seems to be lacking. Suzanne Lane Conrad ’81 says she’s been living in the Hawkeye State for 16 years and still hasn’t run across any UMass Lowell graduates there.



**1980**  
**Lawrence Broderick** has been named vice president of municipal banking at Belmont Savings Bank where he is now responsible for all sales, market development and municipal relationship management in Essex, central/northern Middlesex and Worcester counties.

**1982**  
**Ken Kaiser** and George Popp ’84 once again this summer played their annual marathon round of golf at the Vesper Country Club to raise money for the Dana Farber Breast Cancer Research Fund. They teed off at 4:45 a.m. and played until dusk except for a two-hour period when violent thunderstorms closed the course. (See 1982 class note.)

**William Manzi III**, the former mayor of Methuen, has been named town manager of Seabrook, N.H. Bill earned an M.B.A. here.

**1984**  
**Joseph Albanese** has been named to the board of directors of The Village Bank in Auburndale. The founder and CEO of Commodore Builders, Joe is a registered professional engineer with a degree in civil engineering from the University of Lowell and an M.B.A. from Boston University.

**David Beati** has assembled a team of professional consulting engineers and land surveyors into a multi-disciplinary firm he refers to as Greater Lowell Engineering Associ-

ates. It’s a cooperative, he says, not a business. All the principals are UMass Lowell graduates. Dave has a degree in civil engineering.



**George Popp** and Ken Kaiser ’83 once again this summer played their annual marathon round of golf at the Vesper Country Club to raise money for the Dana Farber Breast Cancer Research Fund. They teed off at 4:45 a.m. and played until dusk except for a two-hour period when violent thunderstorms closed the course. (See 1982 class note.)

**1985**  
**Sandra Brock**, chief engineer at Nitsch Engineering, has increased her ownership in the company to the principal level, meaning that it now exceeds 5 percent. Sandra has more than 25 years of civil engineering experience. Nitsch Engineering’s president is Lisa Brothers ’84.

**Tjama Tjivikua**, rector of the Polytechnic of Namibia, has been awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree by Lincoln University of Pennsylvania in recognition of his “outstanding contributions to higher education and as one of the most dedicated and committed humanitarians.” A graduate of Lincoln, Tjama earned a master’s degree in chemistry here and later earned a doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh.

**1986**  
**Linda Montminy DeJoie** has earned a master’s degree in healthcare administration.

**1989**  
**Robert Anderson** retired in 2012 after working 37 years as a ground and missile system troubleshooter for Raytheon Corp. He and his wife, who also worked for Raytheon, say they love to travel in their motor home and cruise in their Corvette. Bob reports that he just bought a new boat and is looking forward to fishing with friends and family. He sends thanks to the University for helping him achieve his goals.

**1992**  
**James Kennedy** is co-owner of My Town Sports, a sports equipment business in Littleton. The business established a “Cleats to Fight Cancer” campaign through which it collects donated sports equipment and sells it via consignment with the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society’s research programs.



**Daniel Loring** and Kathryn O’Hearn Loring were married in August 2012.

**1994**  
**Joshua Alston** recently became a shareholder of Nitsch Engineering where he is civil engineering project manager. The company, whose presi-

dent is Lisa Brothers ’84, now has 13 shareowners.

**1995**  
**Peter Alberti** founded non-profit PetChance.org in September 2012 to help pet owners overcome obstacles that prevent them from providing proper medical care for their pets. PetChance enables pet owners to raise money online, and makes direct payment to the veterinary hospital. In its first seven months, the non-profit raised more than \$15,000 and helped pets in 33 states.

**Dennis Martell** has been named director of professional relations and network development at Altus Dental, a dental benefits company headquartered in southern New England. Dennis, who earned his degree in business administration, is married with three children and lives in Lunenburg.

**Sasson Tarahomi**, president of the Society of Plastics Engineers’ Detroit division, is teaching the first engineering course at Schoolcraft College, which is building a program in plastics engineering. Sasson earned a doctorate in plastics engineering here.

**1998**  
**Lisa Gingras**, a teacher at Nashua South High School, has been named the 2013 recipient of the Richard C. Evans Distinguished Mathematics Educator Award by the New Hampshire Teachers of Mathematics. She was recognized for her “philosophy, passion and knowledge of mathematics education.” Lisa earned a master’s degree in education here.

2002

**Gregory Garrett**, vice president/administrator of health services of Peconic Landing, a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community in Greenport, N.Y., has been honored by The American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) with the 2013 ACHCA Facility Leadership Award. The award recognizes organizational leadership. He earned a master’s degree in health services administration here.

2003



**Adam Hogue** and Katy Green planned a September wedding and have bought a home in Lincoln. Adam, a captain in the Massachusetts Army National Guard, gave the keynote address at the Town of Lincoln’s Memorial Day Celebration. He is an advisor with Coastal Capital Group LLC.

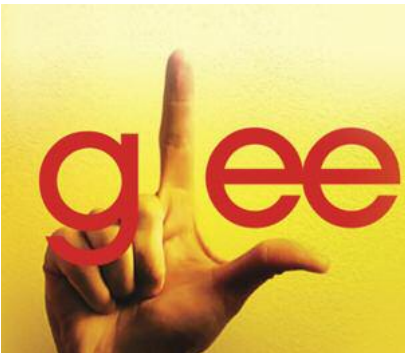
**Chris MacKenzie** has been named head coach of the women’s ice hockey team at the University of Connecticut. For the past two seasons, Chris was an assistant at Ohio State University. He was an assistant with the UMass Lowell men’s team from 2001 to 2009 and, during that time, earned a master’s degree in psychology.

2004



**Tara Krch** married Jason Torrey ’05 and, in August, was named director of campus operations at Granite State College in New Hampshire. She also is in New England College’s doctoral program and expects to complete her Ed.D. in higher education in the spring of 2015.

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1993



Ward Hake ’93 Hits Just the Right Note at Fox



On this day, Ward Hake’s job entails work on a soundtrack for the revived comedy *Arrested Development*, and his office is trying to track down the band *The Hold Steady* to discuss possible music for a new sitcom. He will deal with people who are musicians, those who are fans, and those who don’t know *The Monkees* from *The Byrds*. His job is to please them all, then please millions of viewers clutching channel changers.

*“UMass Lowell toughened me up and taught me how not to give up.”*

Hake ’93, who lives and works in Los Angeles, is vice president of music at 20th Century Fox. At 44, he oversees the music of 36 primetime shows, on several networks, from *Sons of Anarchy* and *Homeland* to *Glee* to *The Simpsons* and *How I Met Your Mother*.

“It’s a unique job,” says Hake by phone from his office. “There are more starting quarterbacks in the NFL than there are people who do what I do for a living. For me, there’s a huge sense of accomplishment, and a lot of it I can attribute to my time at Lowell.”

There were fun times before he got here, and rough times since, but Hake says his experience at Lowell was a formative wake-up call:

“UMass Lowell toughened me up and taught me how not to give up. I was challenged in the way you are in the real world. I’d partied a lot, been in rock bands, all of that. Then I went up to Lowell and in my first class, ear training, I thought, whoa, what did I get myself into?”

A musically inclined native of Lafayette., Ind., Hake grew up with two options: teach music or sell instruments. “I didn’t want to teach music or sell it, and rock star wasn’t a viable choice,” says Hake.

He was an accomplished musician, beginning with piano lessons when he was 6. He was first chair, first violin in his high school orchestra and turned down a scholarship to play violin at the University of Wisconsin.

He settled on nearby Purdue for college, believing his proficiency in math and an interest in aeronautical engineering might pay off.

They did not.

“Within a couple weeks, I knew, wow, this is not for me,” he says. “It was a valuable lesson: just because you qualify to get in doesn’t mean it’s for you.”

His interest in the guitar deepened. He got good. He played with a band, discovering “the guitar was one of the few things I didn’t have to work as hard to be decent at.” After years of violin, piano and voice, “guitar seemed easy. Well, until I got to Lowell.”

He left Purdue for stints at Arkansas College and Florida Southern College. He heard of UMass Lowell and applied. He was accepted and arrived in 1991 to study classical guitar.

“Before, I’d had a couple of decent music teachers,” says Hake. “Up in Lowell was a whole other deal. I got my chops busted. I started feeling I was maybe not quite as good as I had thought.”

Mitch Benoff, a professor at Berklee College of Music now, challenged Hake at every turn.

“He was a no-BS teacher,” he says. “He really told it how it was. He was hard for a reason, and I know now he was right.”

Following graduation, Benoff helped Hake land an internship at Hit & Run, the company that handled publishing for Phil Collins and Genesis.

When the gig ended, Hake sold instruments. The jobs weren’t out there.

He finally landed a position at Warner Chappell, producing demos in-house. He also worked with his own band, Nylon Kincaid, which was good enough to open for Mötley Crue and gain industry buzz. That all fizzled with the arrival of the latest wave of idol-pop from Britney Spears and ‘N Sync.

“We were three or four years too late,” says Hake. “Good, not great.”

He packed everything, bade farewell to New York and drove to Santa Monica, Calif.

“I was essentially starting over with no job, no friends or family,” says Hake. He surfed with the morning sun, then fired off resumes as the day wore on.

Eventually he read about a job at Fox in its DVD distribution arm. “I was out of money, pretty close to being in trouble,” he says.

A woman in Fox’s HR department noticed that “there’s a lot of music” on his resume. “We keep a file for that,” she said.

A few months later, when Hake was approaching desperation, she called. In September 2000, he got a job in the company’s TV music division. Now, he oversees all the music, from picking a music supervisor and assigning a budget, to dealing with creators, composers and studio chairmen.

“My degree, and the practical knowledge I gained in Lowell, helped a great deal,” says Hake. ■

BY DAVID PERRY

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► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1996

## The Puerto-Rican Conga Sensation

Yahuba Garcia-Torres has been rocking the national music scene for the past seven years as a member of the Ryan Montbleau Band (which headlined at Boardinghouse Park on Aug. 2). Yahuba—who sings and plays congas, timbales, bongo and glockenspiel—has toured, recorded and played with musicians like Martin Sexton, Dave Matthews, ALO, Jack Johnson and Los Lobos.

He says UMass Lowell gave him his musical foundation. “Durgin Hall is a special place to me,” says Yahuba, who was an English and music performance major. “I discovered a lot about my musical self in that building and spent countless hours practicing in there. The recording facilities in the building were also an extra special feature that allowed us to record and capture a lot of great moments in our musical development. I still dig up those old recordings from time to time and listen to who I was back then.”

He also fondly remembers a University trip to the Metropolitan Museum in New York City.

“I spent the day with Dr. Ogasapian, who was one of the most feared and demanding teachers in the Music Department,” he says. “I got to see a side of him that day that not many other students got to see. He gave me and my friend a personal tour of the musical instrument wing of the museum that was worthy of several course credits. After the museum, we had a few hours left before getting on the bus, so he took us to some of New York’s most famous churches to show us their pipe organs, as he happened to be one of the world’s leading experts on pipe organs. I’ll never forget it.”



Saber Strout is an environmental engineer and safety specialist with NextEra Energy. She and Eric Strout were married in 2011.

Nicole (Page) Lemay was married in September 2012, three months after graduating from Salem State with a master’s degree in social work.

Heather Leonard has been appointed principal of the Barrows Elementary School in Reading after having been assistant principal of the Newbury Elementary School. Heather earned a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction here.

Joe Parker ’04 ’08 is a doctoral student at Nova Southeastern University, majoring in information systems/information security. He earned both a bachelor’s degree and an M.B.A. at UMass Lowell.

### 2005

Mat Griswold was married in August of 2010 with a reception held at Fenway Park. This past December he became the father of Mackenzie Catherine Griswold.

### 2005

Henry Ndawula has a daughter, Florence, who is a junior at the University.

Jason Torrey married Tara Krch. (See 2004 class note.)



Jessica Wright and Mark Beauregard ’07 were married in St. Thomas on Jan. 9. Both Jessica and Mark graduated with chemical engineering degrees from UMass Lowell and earned master’s degrees in engineering management from Duke University and Dartmouth College, respectively. Fellow chemical engineering alumni Sean McKenna and Jennifer Bernier joined the Beauregards for their destination wedding.

### 2006



Danielle Turner and Thomas Donigan ’07 were married in May.

Josselyn (Mroz) Wilson and Patrick Wilson ’08, who were married in September 2011, welcomed their first child, Jacoby Patrick Wilson on Dec. 1, 2012.

Continued on P. 58

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2005

By David Perry

## Any Way the Wind Blows (She Is There To Ask Why)

Tornado and flash flood warnings are popping up like a meteorological game of whack-a-mole. Lowell has one, and then it’s gone. Minutes later, the warning is resurrected. Most of the region is experiencing similar weather, torrents of rain cascading from charcoal skies. On Boston’s WFXT, meteorologist Kevin Lemanowicz is keeping track of the frenzied changes.



Alas, Sarah Wroblewski ’05 is at home. WFXT-TV’s weekend meteorologist and environmental reporter has worked a stretch of 11 consecutive days, but not this one.

“My husband was saying, ‘today’s the day you should be at work,’” she says with a chuckle by phone from her home outside of Boston. Not that she minds hanging with the couple’s 14-month-old son, Kellen.

The weather on this summer day takes her back to why she loves forecasting. It was UMass Lowell, she insists, that gave her the tools to transition from dream to reality. The University was also where the Connecticut native formed lifelong friendships with teammates on the women’s soccer squad.

Wroblewski, who captained the soccer team her senior year, is one of the University’s several visible meteorologists. Others include Shiri Spear ’07, who also works at WFXT and earned her master’s in atmospheric and environmental science here. Danielle Niles ’06 was soccer team captain after Wroblewski and the two shared an apartment after graduation. Niles is NECN’s weekday morning meteorologist.

When she finished college, Wroblewski already had a job at WBZ-TV, where she would serve as weather producer and weekend morning meteorologist until 2010. Before joining WFXT, she created and prepared graphics as a weather programmer at WSI in North Andover.

Wroblewski’s road to UMass Lowell began on a high school playing field in her hometown, Marlborough, Conn. She had already been accepted to Penn State and Rutgers when the UMass Lowell coach visited.

“The coach had come to look at the goalkeeper, but I ended up having a pretty good game,” recalls Wroblewski. “She approached me and talked to me, and ever since then, it was all UMass Lowell. It may have been a total fluke, but it was the best one of my life.”

When she visited Lowell’s campus, “they didn’t just show me the athletics. People were friendly, and I knew I could find myself and fit in there. And I just fell in love.”

She was especially smitten with the Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department, since she’d always had an interest in weather. “I never had any idea of being on TV. I just wanted to be a forecaster,” she says. “Since I was 12, I had always been interested, and had taken extra math and science classes in high school to prepare.”

The transition of moving from home to campus was eased with athletics, she says: “I loved my time at UMass Lowell. The soccer team was really special. I still follow the River Hawks and try to see games when I can. I’m so proud they’re Division 1.” ■





► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2004

BY DAVID PERRY

# THE TORNADO CHASER

“A

blizzard? No problem driving for me,” says Rich Hamel.

It’s not bragging; he’s just stating the facts. When you’ve run the gauntlet of Tornado Alley in 100 mph winds while being pelted with huge hail stones—which occasionally claim a windshield—any other automotive travel doesn’t seem so difficult.

Hamel, who earned his undergraduate degree in computer science in 1991, then returned to earn his master’s in atmospheric science 13 years later, is a top-notch tornado chaser. He chases part-time, during time off from his full-time job at the Chelmsford office of AECOM, where he specializes in air dispersion modeling and emissions variability.

And he has just returned from Oklahoma, where historic tornadic activity has left him excited and stunned. On the day he spoke to this magazine, noted tornado chaser Tim Samaras was buried in Littleton, Colo., with his son, Paul. They died with meteorologist Carl Young

when a massive tornado shifted direction and killed them near Oklahoma City. Samaras was known as one of the stars of the Discovery Channel’s “Storm Chasers.”

“Last Friday is a good example of how erratic these things can be,” says Hamel over a coffee in AECOM’s cafeteria. “I knew that one day it was going to happen to some crazy person, but I never thought it would be someone like Tim, so experienced and smart.”

Originally from Salem, N.H., Hamel, 45, had “no idea whatsoever” he’d ever be doing such a thing.

“I chose UMass Lowell—then the University of Lowell—because it was a tech school with a good reputation for computer science, it was local and I was able to commute for a couple of years,” he says. “While I was at Salem High School, I’d visited with a field trip and really liked it.”

Once he delved into computer science, he

found it “challenging—a lot of people were doing computer science at the time. The core classes were killers.” But he caught on and there were jobs. After graduation, Hamel worked for Bull, Cambridge Tech Partners and others. “In high tech back then, if you managed to survive at the company, the company often didn’t survive,” he notes.

Meanwhile, he’d always had an interest in weather, huddling with his sister on the family’s porch to watch thunderstorms. And while working as a high-tech consultant, he traveled frequently, often to the Midwest.

“The thunderstorms there were so much bigger and more dramatic than anything here. I got more and more interested,” he says. And less interested in 80-hour work weeks.

In 2001, he took a tornado-chasing tour. “We only saw one super cell,” he says. “It was kind of a dud.”

But he did talk at length to David Gold and Roger Hill, owners of Silver Lining Tours.

He nursed his meteorological passion by returning to UMass Lowell, first as a part-timer taking night courses. “Then I realized it would have taken me forever to get through. So I went full-time during 2003 and 2004,” says Hamel, adding that he also got married during that time, and now has two daughters, 5 and 7.

He took five courses and served as a teaching assistant for two others, pushing himself. But it was what he loved. In 2003, he contacted the owners of Silver Lining, offering to help with research. They offered him a job as a tour guide.

“With bus and tour groups, people are out to see a show,” says Hamel. “And we’re there to minimize the risk. They’re enthusiastic. I’m an enthusiast. I mean, there’s a difference between all of this stuff on paper and having it laid out in front of you in real time.”

Leading a 10-day tour, he notes, he can rack up 5,000 miles.

He’s a regular on TV and radio when major storms whip and whirl across the Midwest. “I guess I’m sort of a big fish in a small pond around here,” he says.

He also was asked to join the 11-member advisory board for UMass Lowell’s Earth, Environment and Atmospheric Sciences master’s program

“It’s funny being back. Change didn’t always come fast here,” says Hamel. “Now, with the Meehan years, it’s pretty amazing and exciting.” ■





► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2007



**‘It All Came Together for Me There’**

When Peter Struzziero was 5 years old, he was diagnosed with ADD and dyslexia. By the time he was 8, he was struggling mightily with reading and writing, and was well behind the level of his classmates. Several years after that, a high-school guidance counselor, noting that academics were “not his strong suit,” suggested a transfer to technical school.

Proving that counselor wrong was all the incentive he needed. In 2001, he graduated—on time—from Billerica Memorial High School. There followed several years, in Massachusetts, Florida and elsewhere, of taking courses and “tasting life.” Today he holds a dual bachelor’s degree, in philosophy and communications, from UMass Lowell and a master’s degree in library and information science from Simmons College.

His time at UMass Lowell helped him put his struggles behind him, he says: “I took advantage of any opportunity afforded me as far as teacher assistants, office hours and the Centers for Learning—and spent tons of hours in libraries as well. I learned so much, from all of them, about how to really learn. It all came together for me there.”

Previously the young adult and reference librarian in Methuen and Scituate, Struzziero is now executive director of the Winthrop Public Library and Museum. He is also founder and publisher of an online film-review site, The Big Brown Chair (thebigbrownchair.com), which has received accolades from several independent film organizations, filmmakers and theaters in Greater Boston. He also writes a movie column for the Scituate Mariner.

“I’ve always loved film—loved talking about film, sharing my opinions, writing,” he says.

“It’s been over two years now [heading up The Big Brown Chair], and we’re a staff of 11 and getting coverage all over the state. The plan is to see how far we can go with this.”—GD

2007

**Mark Beauregard** and **Jessica Wright ’05** were married in January. (See 2005 class note.)



**Bethany Evans** and **William Bonczar ’07, ’08** are engaged and an October wedding is planned. Bethany is a police officer in Groton and Bill is with the Department of Homeland Security in Boston. Both received their bachelor’s degrees in 2007 and Bill earned a master’s in 2008.

**Thomas Donigan** and **Danielle Turner ’06** were married in May.



**Jennifer (Wordell) Elineema** became assistant superintendent of Winchester public schools on July 1. She was previously interim superintendent of the Dighton Rehoboth Regional School District and assistant superintendent there from 2008 to 2012. Jennifer has three degrees from UMass Lowell: a bachelor’s in English (1995), a master’s in teaching English (1998) and a doctorate of education (2007).

2008



**Stacie Hargis** is seeking a spot on the Lowell City Council in the election on Nov. 5. The director of Community Teamwork’s Merri-mack Valley Small Business

Center, Stacie is a member of the Lowell Green Restaurants Program, the Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board and the advisory committee for the Center for Women and Work at UMass Lowell. She is also on the board of directors for the Lowell Development and Financial Corporation and is a mentor in the Big Brother Big Sister program. Stacie received a degree from the Regional Economic and Social Development graduate program.

2011

**Courtney L. Anderson** is pursuing a doctorate in molecular pharmacology at the University of Pittsburgh.

**Andrew Mendonca**, a public accountant with McGladrey LLP of Charlestown, and **Amanda Feeley ’12** have announced their engagement with a fall wedding planned. Amanda is with American Renal Associates of Beverly.

**Constance Schere** is a graduate student in environmental policy at SciencesPro Paris.

**Derek Mitchell** is seeking a spot on the Lowell City Council in the election on Nov. 5. He is the Lowell site director for the International Institute of New England. He previously worked at the United Teen Equality Center in Lowell as chief innovation officer for nearly seven years. Derek received a master’s degree in regional planning and economic development and an undergraduate degree in philosophy from Brown.

2012

**Amanda Feeley** and **Andrew Mendonca ’11** have announced their engagement. (See 2011 class note.)

**Janielle Martin** married Kirk Monbleau at St. Michael’s Church in Lowell in January, a month after starting a new job at Lowell General Hospital.

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2012

# The Farmer

Just over a year ago, Lydia Sisson ’12 launched Mill City Grows “with the goal of empowering Lowell residents to create a safe, healthy food system through access and education,” says the alum of the Economic and Social Development of Regions program. Sisson, who received an undergraduate degree from Vassar, oversees three community gardens and provides more than 80 gardeners with growing space, supervision and access to tools and training. This year, Mill City’s Urban Community Farm opened as an educational and market-driven operation, with retail sales in the Lowell farmer’s market and a traveling market bus that visits neighborhoods. Sisson entered UMass Lowell after successfully running her own farm because, she says, “I felt detached from social justice issues. UMass Lowell gave me the professional transition, the time to create a project around food justice and the community connections to make it happen.”—SS



Photo credit: Paul Cary Goldberg, www.paulcarygoldberg.com



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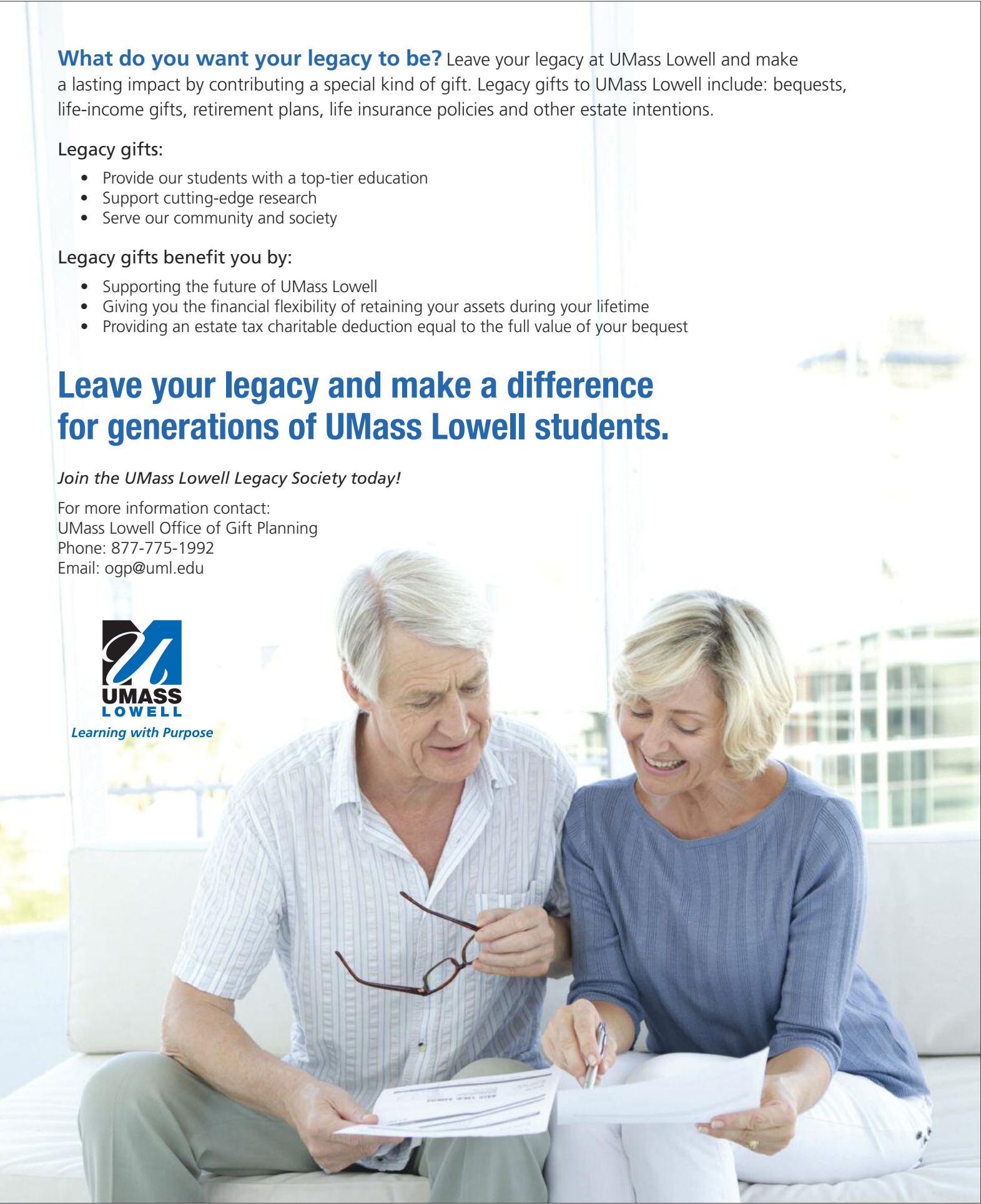
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## Inmemoriam

ALUMNI LIFE

### Nina Coppens: ‘Mentor, Leader and Friend’

Nina Coppens, former dean of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, died on April 18 after a long struggle with brain cancer. She was 62.

With graduate degrees in nursing and a doctorate in psychology, Nina began her UMass Lowell career as a Nursing Department faculty member. She later moved to the Psychology Department, which she chaired for many years, before being named dean of FAHSS.

Praised by those who knew her as a mentor, leader and friend, her zest for life encompassed a variety of things and activities ranging from tulips, butterflies and movies to her dogs and painting with watercolor.

Typical of the many tributes from former students is one from Tamar Cloyd who said, “She was my adviser when I was a grad student. Such a beautiful and warm woman. She will be missed but I thank God I had an opportunity to be led by her.”

Nina served on the boards of many academic and community organizations, including Lowell’s Angkor Dance Troupe. The Troupe’s dance program received the National Coming Up Taller Award at the White House by the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. In recognition of her volunteer service, Nina was awarded the Angkor Dance Troupe’s Community Leadership Award.

Nina was also a passionate champion of the University’s new academic building on the South Campus—The Health and Social Sciences Building—where a garden has been planted in her name.

“Nina was known by everyone as a mentor, leader and friend,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan. “Her dedication to UMass Lowell is evident by the decades she spent shaping the lives of hundreds of students and we are proud of and grateful for her commitment to the University family.”

As a parting gift to medical science and education, Nina donated her brain to Massachusetts General Hospital in hopes of furthering research toward a cure for brain cancer.

The Dean Nina Coppens Endowed Scholarship Fund was established to honor Nina’s contributions to the University and the fields of developmental and health psychology. The Fund will support research and community co-ops for juniors and seniors in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Get information at [www.uml.edu/givenow](http://www.uml.edu/givenow). —JMcD

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*Learning with Purpose*

#### Deceased

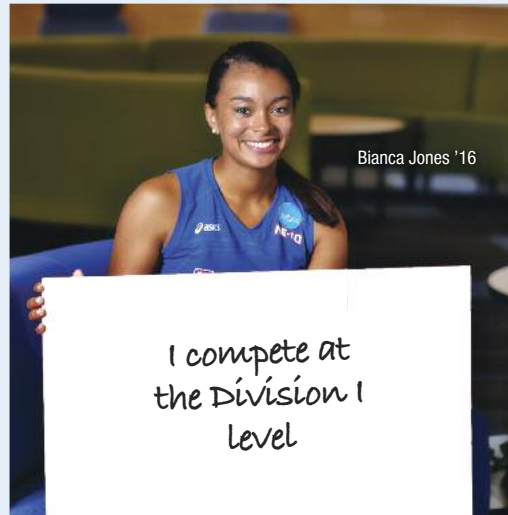
CLASS YR	NAME
1936	Mark Markarian
1946	Louise Levingston
1946	Marjory (Merrill) Robinson
1949	Laurence F. McMahon
1953	Helen T. (Soutter) Dufresne
1953	Muriel I. (Considine) Larson
1954	Thanasis Arthur Tournas
1957	Gerald E. Boches
1958	Jacqueline (Goss) Swymer
1959	Eleanor S. Egan
1962	Nancy E. (Scanlon) Begley
1971	James B. Davis
1972	Alan A. Barretto
1974	Lorraine (Pearsall) McLaughlin
1974	Peter S. Roukas
1975	Mark W. Hamel
1977	Donald G. Munro
1981	Saro J. Picciotto
1981	Helen A. Sycovaris
1982	Thomas S. Bromander
1990	Eugene W. Driscoll
1990	Amar Khelifi
2000	Mark D. Goodhue
	Rita V. Kelleher
	Marguerite F. O’Leary
	Nina M. Coppens

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Learning with Purpose

## Then...

Soon after basketball was invented in 1891, the female students at UMass Lowell predecessor Lowell Normal School played the sport in the gymnasium that once occupied the third floor of Coburn Hall. The uniforms of full bloomers, long-sleeved blouses and wool stockings were actually a respite from the corsets, floor-length dresses and high collars dictated by the times. Attire isn't the only thing that's changed: Women's basketball rules in the late 19th century forbade players from leaving their assigned areas, snatching the ball, holding the ball for more than three seconds or dribbling it more than three times. It was believed that these adaptations to men's rules would help women avoid “nervous fatigue.”





# Now...

*Since it began about 115 years ago, women's basketball at UMass Lowell has evolved from a way to gently let off steam in gym class to an aggressive, competitive and fast-paced Division I sport. Bianca Simmons, center, who graduated in May, starts her pro career this season, as a guard for the Indias de Mayaguez in Puerto Rico. While here, Simmons led all Division II scorers with 28.2 points per game and drove the River Hawks to their best season in 10 years. Simmons, who was named to the NCAA DII 1st Team, was tabbed to participate in the 2013 WNBA College Combine at the Women's Final Four in New Orleans.*



Photo credit: Bob Ellis