

UML

UMASS LOWELL MAGAZINE

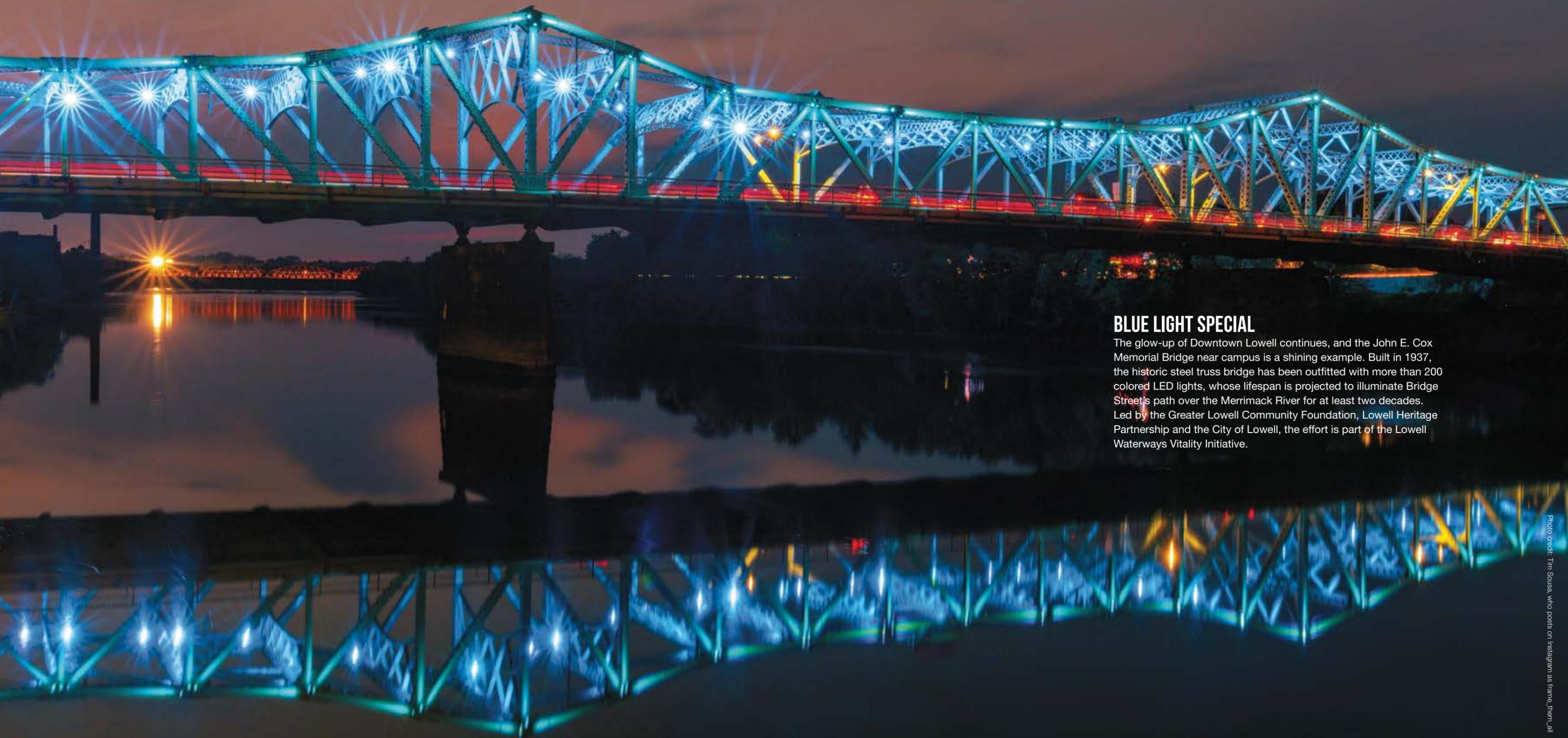
SPRING 2023

CITY LIGHTS

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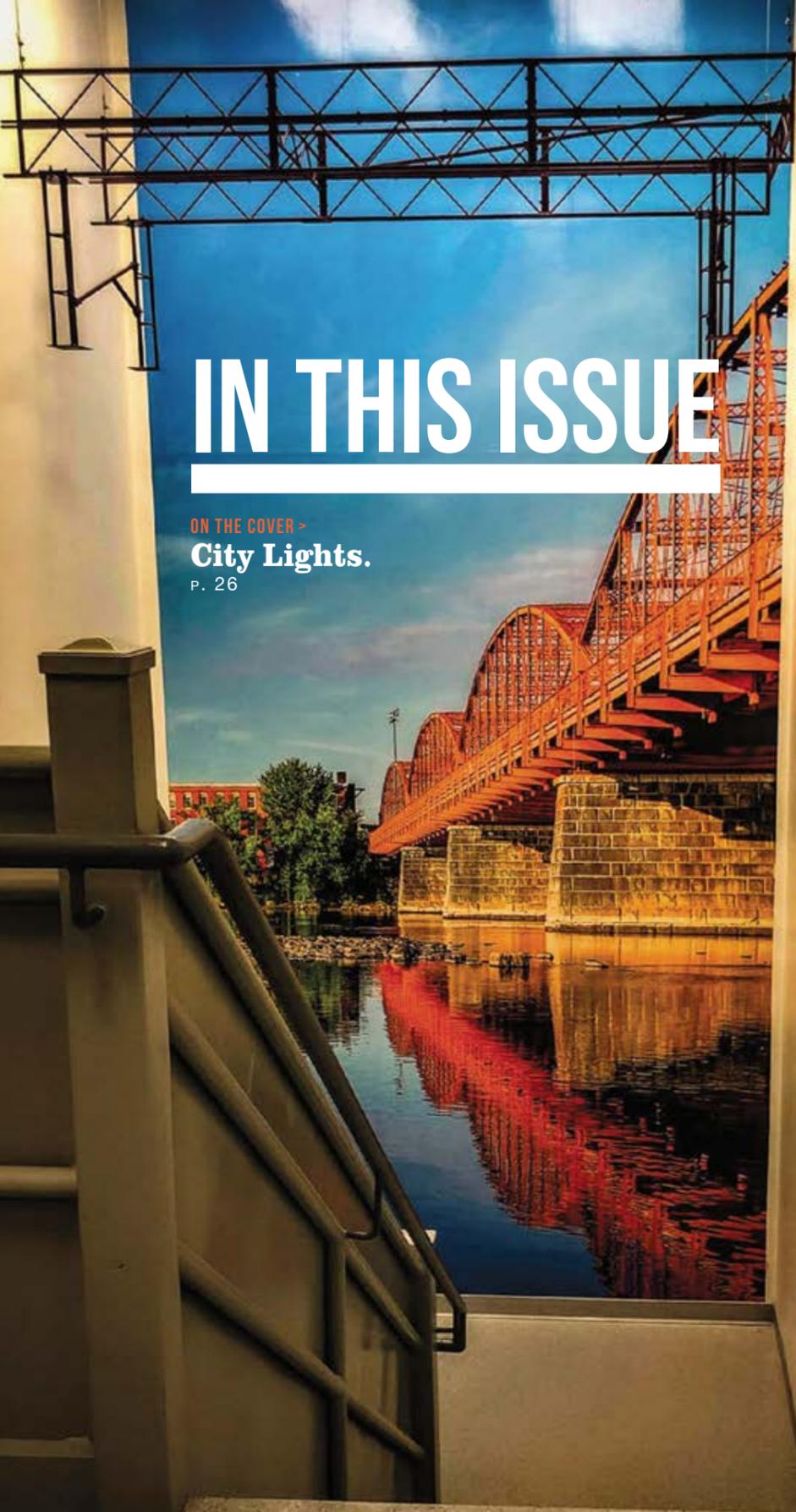


+
**MEET OUR NEW
CHANCELLOR**
PG. 20



BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL

The glow-up of Downtown Lowell continues, and the John E. Cox Memorial Bridge near campus is a shining example. Built in 1937, the historic steel truss bridge has been outfitted with more than 200 colored LED lights, whose lifespan is projected to illuminate Bridge Street's path over the Merrimack River for at least two decades. Led by the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, Lowell Heritage Partnership and the City of Lowell, the effort is part of the Lowell Waterways Vitality Initiative.



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Wherever you are on campus, the Merrimack River is never far, serving as a constant reminder of how the history—and the future—of the city, the university and the river are entwined. This photo, taken by Anthony Sampas, an archivist with the university's library, captures the Aiken Street Bridge, which links East Campus to Lowell's Centralville neighborhood.

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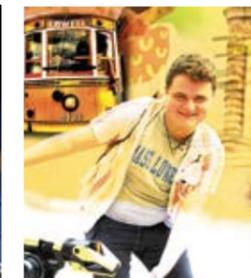
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UML Magazine has been honored with multiple awards, including nods from APEX Awards for Publication Excellence, Bell Ringer Awards, CASE Excellence Awards, Collegiate Advertising Awards, Hermes Creative Awards, Higher Ed Marketing Awards, PR Daily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



EDITOR'S NOTE: Please send comments to Editor Sarah McAdams Corbett at Sarah_Corbett@uml.edu. Submit class notes at uml.edu/updateyourinfo

A MESSAGE from the CHANCELLOR

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I thought I knew UMass Lowell.

After all, I've been at the university for more than 25 years, as a professor, a researcher and an administrator. But since becoming chancellor nine months ago, I've talked to hundreds of members of our community—alumni, students, faculty, staff, partners—and I'm learning so much more, and am even more impressed by our River Hawk family.

There is so much good work being done—on campus, in our region and around the globe. We highlight some of it in this issue, but we could fill another entire edition with stories about your successes, and those happening in our classrooms, labs and athletics arenas.

As we wrap up our first strategic planning process since 2010, I'm excited for what's ahead. We're poised to realize our vision of being an inclusive, sustainable public research university in a vibrant Gateway City, and we're laying out the steps to get there. I explain some of it in the Q&A on page 22, and will share more in months to come.

Sincerely,

Julie Chen

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SMOOTH SLEDDING

Hardcore skiers and snowboarders may be fond of the phrase "no friends on powder days," but that doesn't apply at UML. Students buddied up on a bluebird day to take advantage of fresh snowfall on South Campus.

TRENDING @ UML



EYES ON THE PRIZE

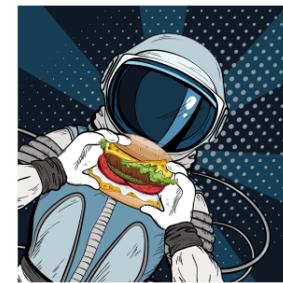
The UML men's basketball team has something special brewing in its 10th Division I season. Undefeated at home (13-0) as of Feb. 8, the River Hawks are off to their best start (20-6) in over a decade. Costello Athletic Center has been selling out, and seems to be cozy for everyone except for the River Hawks' opponents. Taking down America East preseason favorites Vermont and Bryant, the team is eying an inaugural DI title and first-ever March Madness appearance.



SPICING THINGS UP

People lined up to get Craic Sauce at the new Indoor Winter Farmers Market at University Crossing. The hot sauces, created by founder Brian Ruhlmann, are made in Lowell with locally sourced ingredients—some grown right on campus. A limited-edition sauce, Aji Punch, features peppers grown in the greenhouse on East Campus. The monthly market is an extension of the Urban Agriculture Program, run in partnership with UML's Rist Institute of Sustainability and Energy and Mill City Grows, an urban food justice organization in Lowell.

An out-of-this-world menu



Students Ariel Shramko, Eliot Pirone, Michelle Connolly and recent grad Gitesh Shewatker are among the top 25 finalists in NASA's international Deep Space Food Challenge. The team, which got its start through the university's DifferenceMaker program, has formed a company called the Auto Terra Project to develop self-sustaining terrariums for food production for future Mars explorers. They stand to win a contract from NASA worth up to \$150,000.

 **CHECK OUT MORE TRENDING**
UMass Lowell news at uml.edu/news.

A new development ... or developer, anyway.

After a comprehensive selection process, GMH Communities was tagged to develop approximately 10 acres on UML's East Campus. Located along the Merrimack River between the Tsongas Center and LeLacheur Park, the property will be recast into a mix of space that will include business, research, hospitality, student housing and retail. "This will transform the way students, faculty, business partners and community members view and interact with UMass Lowell," says Chancellor Julie Chen. "Our students and alumni already know the impact of hands-on learning to accelerate their career trajectories. This project will dramatically scale up these opportunities for students by co-locating on our campus many of our business, nonprofit and research partners offering co-ops, internships and, ultimately, jobs."



Space Campus

Thanks to a team of students, faculty researchers, scientists and engineers at UML's Lowell Center for Space Science and Technology (with a little help from a \$5.6 million grant from NASA), the university successfully launched a planet-finding telescope to the edge of the atmosphere. The 14-foot-long, 1,500-pound telescope, called PICTURE-C, was carried aloft to the stratosphere by an unmanned, helium-filled balloon 400 feet wide and several stories high; it was released from the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility in Fort Sumner, New Mexico, at the end of September. Its ultimate goal? Discover Earth-like planets capable of supporting life.



UML a National Leader in Online Learning, Especially for Vets

In its 2023 rankings, U.S. News & World Report has again ranked UMass Lowell one of the top schools for online education:

No. 2 in the nation and **No. 1** in New England
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ONLINE MASTER'S

No. 10 in the nation and **No. 1** in New England
GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM

No. 23 in the nation and **No. 1** in New England
ENGINEERING ONLINE MASTER'S

No. 30 in the nation and **No. 1** in Greater Boston
ONLINE BACHELOR'S

And when it comes to supporting veterans:

No. 1 in the nation
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ONLINE MASTER'S FOR VETERANS

No. 9 in the nation
COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ONLINE MASTER'S FOR VETERANS

No. 1 in Greater Boston
ONLINE BUSINESS MASTER'S FOR VETERANS (Non-MBA)



PAINTING THE TOWN RED (AND BLUE AND YELLOW AND ...)

Art major Urdilinya Smith spray-painted graffiti on the side of Mahoney Hall—and she got paid to do it.

Then, over the next two weeks, she helped artist Sophy Tuttle cover up the graffiti with a mural depicting six plants and animals on the Massachusetts endangered species list. In the process, Smith learned how Tuttle uses a graffiti grid to scale up her mural designs, as well as how the artist adjusts paint colors on the fly.

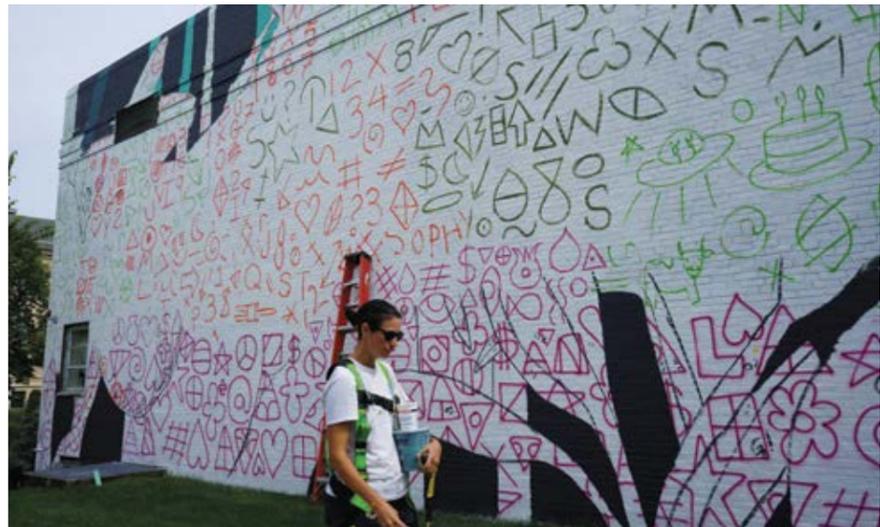
Smith was paid for two weeks of work as a site manager by Project LEARN, a city nonprofit that organizes ArtUp Lowell, a community coalition that sponsors mural projects around the city in partnership with Beyond Walls, an arts nonprofit in Lynn, Massachusetts.

In August, ArtUp Lowell and Beyond Walls brought nine muralists to the city to work on eight new murals, including the two at UMass Lowell, as part of a four-month mural festival spanning five Massachusetts cities. The project was part of UML's ongoing effort to bring more art to the campus.

Tuttle's mural faces Broadway and the South Campus quad-range, while the internationally renowned Puerto Rican muralist "Bikismo" (Joshua Santos Rivera) painted a Caribbean hermit crab, or cobito, on the Pinanski building, facing VFW Highway.

Tuttle, who once lived in Lowell, has painted murals around New England, from the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine, to Harvard University's new campus in the Allston neighborhood of Boston.

"I like the physicality of mural painting—being outside and the big movements—and I enjoy the interactions with people stopping by," she says. "I like that it changes the space, and becomes a landmark that people recognize. And hopefully, it gets people to stop and think."



Clockwise from top: Sophy Tuttle and helper painting mural on Mahoney Hall; "Chrome Cobito," by internationally known muralist Bikismo, depicts a Caribbean hermit crab on the Pinanski building; Sophy Tuttle's mural on Mahoney Hall depicts six endangered species in Massachusetts.

RESIDENCE LIFE BY THE NUMBERS

Nearly 5,000 students live on campus at UMass Lowell—including about 85% of first-year students.



1
Dog-in-residence



40 Terabytes of video streamed daily



840+
Pizzas consumed every week



11
Residence Halls

2
Halls with rooftop solar panels



150
Student resident advisors

30:1
RA-to-student ratio

4

On-site dining halls (including Lowell's largest dining operation in Fox Hall).



5 QUESTIONS

> BY ED BRENNEN

with Ruben Sança, director of the new Office of Student Life & Well-Being

Loneliness. Anxiety. Depression. College students across the country are hurting. A mental health crisis that has been building for years only became more acute during the pandemic. In a 2021 survey by the American College Health Association, almost three-quarters of students reported moderate or severe psychological distress. To help address the issue, UMass Lowell recently created the Office of Student Life & Well-Being. We asked its director, Ruben Sança '09, '11 (and a former Olympic runner), about mental health on campus.

Q: NEARLY EVERY STUDY SHOWS THAT RATES OF ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC. WHAT ARE YOU SEEING AT UML? IS THE PICTURE CHANGING AS ACTIVITIES HAVE RESUMED ON CAMPUS?

A: Based on information we continue to gather through our Behavioral Intervention Team, UMass Lowell is no different when it comes to increased rates of anxiety and depression in our students. Our clinicians in the Wellness Center work so hard to provide the best service for our students, but just like other institutions, we realize that counseling center appointments alone cannot solve this issue. In addition to counseling, we must find better strategies that can address student mental health issues from onset, before they become much larger. We must take an approach from a holistic standpoint with proactive measures.

Q: WHAT HAS THE OFFICE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH IN ITS FIRST YEAR?

A: First and foremost, we've established thoughtful collaboration on campus. We have connected with students, staff and faculty, introducing the concept of health promotions and well-being. So far, we have worked closely with first-year and transfer student orientation to introduce the eight dimensions of wellness—emotional, physical, financial, environmental, social, intellectual, spiritual and occupational—that are fundamental to the student experience. We also launched a student well-being leader program where there is peer-to-peer support for our students. We are still gathering data to be able to understand our student needs. We have partnered with the Student Government Association and Prof. of Sociology Mignon Duffy's survey design class to launch a survey focused on measuring student success through community, family, academic support, daily life, financial, physical and mental health. We are aiming to find specific areas that we have the bandwidth to impact.

Q: IN SEPTEMBER, UML BECAME THE FIRST CAMPUS IN NEW ENGLAND TO SIGN THE OKANAGAN CHARTER. WHAT IS IT, AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR STUDENTS?

A: The Okanagan Charter provides institutions with a common language, principles and a framework to become a health and well-being promoting campus. For our students, it means that our campus leadership has made a deliberate commitment to embed health into every aspect of the student experience. Health and well-being are important pillars for student success at UMass Lowell.

Q: COLLEGE COURSEWORK IS SUPPOSED TO BE RIGOROUS. HOW CAN STUDENTS TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EVERYDAY STRESS AND A DEEPER ISSUE?

A: By nature, all of us experience some level of anxiety and stress. We strive to provide resources to keep those levels of stress and anxiety manageable for our students, but it's never a guarantee that our students are actually using those resources. Through assessments, we can measure where our students are and determine how to effectively deploy resources.

Q: WHAT GIVES YOU THE MOST HOPE ABOUT THE CRISIS?

A: The establishment of this office and adopting the Okanagan Charter are big steps—and now we are doing a complete assessment with specific questions related to health promotion and well-being for students. We're focusing on things we can actually change, and that's really going to help over the next several years.

Ruben Sança '09, '11, director of the Office of Student Life & Well-Being, holds a Tibetan singing bowl in the university's new Serenity Center. First used thousands of years ago in Mesopotamia, the bowls can transport listeners into a meditative state.



Digging at an archaeological site in Lowell recently were (top left photo, from left): Chair of the UML History Department Chris Carlsmith, University Prof. of Anthropology at UMass Boston Steve Mrozowski, Prof. Audrey Horning of Queen's University Belfast and Queen's University's Excavation Director Ruairi O'Boaill. UML history major Quintin Blake (bottom left photo) assisted.



Pieces of the Past: Students Dig Up History in Lowell

A dig site on Market Street in downtown Lowell has uncovered some hints about the lives of the city's Irish settlers in the 19th century.

Students from UMass Lowell, UMass Boston and Queen's University Belfast were part of a team searching for artifacts from a grocery store and dwelling that was operated by Irish immigrant Patrick Keyes in the mid-1800s. The group wanted to get ahead of a new development planned for the parcel at 509 Market, which will, quite literally, cover over the past.

Keyes was an entrepreneur and leading member of the Irish community in Lowell. In the 1870s, he served as a representative in the Massachusetts Legislature. His family owned the Market Street property until 1906. In the mid-1950s, the building became home to a nightclub called the Cosmopolitan Lounge.

Led by archeologists, nine history majors used trowels, buckets and brushes in a search for clues about life more than 150 years ago.

"It's exciting to hunt for a glimmer or twinkle that could be a piece of glass or pottery, giving us a peek into the past, and to learn what people's lives were like in the mid-19th century," says UML history major Deirdre Hutchison, who grew up in Ireland. "I am fascinated by history and find it poetic that Irish immigrants helped build the canals in Lowell, and now I'm using a pickaxe to uncover their way of life all these years later."

Prof. Audrey Horning of Queen's University, who helped lead the dig, says the team uncovered a variety of artifacts, including buttons, pipe stems, shoe heels, nails, clay pieces and marbles.

"These will be researched and documented to preserve an urban history of a prominent Irish immigrant and the people who lived in the Acre area of Lowell," she says.

The project continues archaeological work started in 2010, when researchers hunted for clues of Lowell's early Irish settlers at an excavation on the grounds of St. Patrick's Church, also in the Acre neighborhood.—KA

Nursing Chair Receives International Distinction

The true value of nursing has never been more evident than during the past few years.

In recognition of her dedication to the profession and those for whom she cares, Heidi Collins Fantasia was elected a member of the 2022 American Academy of Nursing Class of Fellows. She was one of nine Massachusetts professionals named in a group of 250 from across the globe.

AAN fellows represent the nursing industry's most accomplished leaders in policy, research, practice, administration and academia and are selected based on their contributions to advancing the public's health.

Chair of the Solomont School of Nursing, Fantasia is only the second UML faculty member to receive the honor. May Futrell, who served as chair of the School of Nursing for 23 years before retiring in 2005, was the first.

Fantasia, who has served the community as a nurse for 32 years, specializes in women's health including reproductive health, contraception, intimate partner violence and sexual consent.



Solomont School of Nursing Chair Heidi Collins Fantasia

New Campus Signs Tell the History of Lowell's Indigenous Peoples

Lowell's backstory as the cradle of the Industrial Revolution is well-documented. Thanks to the work of several UMass Lowell students and faculty, the history of the Indigenous peoples who called this area home centuries before the textile mills came along is now being told—and in some unexpected places.

Led by History Prof. Robert Farrant, the group created a half-dozen educational signs across campus to broaden community awareness and knowledge of the native Pawtucket and Wamesit people of the Pennacook tribe.

The "Indigenous Past and Presence" signage project was the subject of a discussion on Nov. 7 as part of the university's observance of Native American Heritage Month.

With funding from the Provost's Office, the university was able to offer paid internships to three students—two history majors who helped research and write the text, and a graphic design major who created the signs.



An educational sign on the Northern Canal Overlook, addressing how industrialization disrupted the livelihoods of the area's Indigenous peoples, is among those created by a group of UML students and faculty.



Helping First-Gen Students Find Careers

Thanks to \$500,000 in federal funding, the university is now helping its first-generation students get a head start on their careers.

In the fall, UML's River Hawk Scholars Academy launched a Pathways to Career pilot program. While the nationally recognized academy is geared toward freshmen and sophomores, it expanded to provide career and graduate school readiness programming for juniors and seniors.

The program provides the first cohort of 26 juniors with a structured plan for the academic year. Students are required to participate in several activities and programs hosted by the Career and

Co-op Center, such as interviewing and résumé workshops, networking nights and the Dine & Dress event. Students are also required to attend either the fall or spring career fair, as well as conduct career-related interviews with three people from the UML community.

"Every year, the needs of each college cohort are different," says Assoc. Director of Career Services Serwa Addae-Adoo. "By junior year, they understand the ins and outs of college, and now they're thinking, 'Oh, I need to get an internship and do something with my career.' That's why we're here—to support them in a variety of ways."



Juniors Jamilet Amogua, left, and Yaritza Gil-Javier take part in an icebreaker activity during the kickoff meeting for the River Hawk Scholars Academy's new Pathways to Career program at University Crossing.

Freshman mechanical engineering major Chris Jorge-Rosario, left, and his co-pilot from the Lawrence Youth Development Organization, Victor Rivera, make quick work of the Maddening Mud Pit on East Campus.



AHOY!

Their pirate ship sailed through Bone-Shaker Alley and the Maddening Mud Pit before taking on serious water in the Merrimack River.

A pair of mechanical engineering majors—junior Giancarlo Jaime-Guzman and freshman Chris Jorge-Rosario—faced all of this recently in the Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race, an annual event celebrating science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

Started in Northern California in 1969, the race came to Lowell in 2016 thanks to Race Director Michael Roundy, an assistant teaching professor of art and design. This year's race was the first since 2019 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're so glad to be back," Roundy said at the race's downtown starting line on Market Street, a carnival-like scene where spectators checked out vehicles and costumes, a party band played and course marshals dressed as bananas danced to Gwen Stefani's "Hollaback Girl."

Using items like bicycles, boats and recycled materials, teams from as far away as California, Nevada and Maryland built human-powered, Burning Man-like "kinetic sculptures" that had to traverse a seven-mile course of cobblestones, asphalt, water, mud and sand—portions of which are on the UMass Lowell campus.

UMass Lowell Is Only America East School on Athletic Equality List

UMass Lowell remains one of only 15 Division I athletic departments to score a perfect 100 on the Athletic Equality Index, according to the NCAA's recent annual update. Launched in 2017, the AEI measures LGBTQ+ inclusion policies and practices in DI athletic departments.

The aims of the AEI are to set a gold standard of LGBTQ+ inclusive policies and practices in collegiate athletics; provide feedback to athletic departments on how their policies and practices compare to others across the nation; and offer resources to departments hoping to update their policies and practices.

The NCAA's AEI Research Fellows perform a comprehensive annual audit of the student-athlete handbook, policy manuals and official athletics websites of every NCAA DI institution to identify policies and practices of LGBTQ+ inclusion. Every athletic department has the capacity to earn full points on the AEI by enacting and making each policy, resource and training publicly available to staff, fans and student-athletes.

UML Athletics took a number of steps,



including adding resources to goriverhawks.com, such as an Inclusive Fan Code of Conduct and a Bias Reporting link, and encouraging more staff members and student-athletes to participate in Ally Space training.

UMass Lowell is the only America East school with a perfect score.

BEING MUSLIM ON CAMPUS

A new series exploring the perspectives and identities of UML students



A lot of the hate that comes from Islamophobia stems from ignorance.

People just don't know. And a lot of times, it's hard to blame them when all they know are the bad things. We want to counter that by clearing up any of those lingering stereotypes."



SENIOR COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR

Abdullah Abou Mahmoud

STANDING COURTSIDE AT the Campus Recreation Center on a fall Friday night, Abdullah Abou Mahmoud wears a satisfied grin while watching fellow students hoist jump shots, scramble for rebounds and swap high fives.

As president of the Muslim Student Association (MSA), Abou Mahmoud, a senior computer science major, was responsible for putting together the charity 3-on-3 basketball tournament that raised over \$1,000 for Islamic Relief USA. He was happy with the turnout—about 50 players and friends cheering them on—but more so with the joy and camaraderie that he was witnessing on the court. It was the same positive energy that sparked his interest in UMass Lowell's MSA nearly a decade ago.

"It's an organization that I wanted to be part of since middle school," says Abou Mahmoud, who, as an eighth-grader at The Islamic Academy for Peace in Methuen, Massachusetts, was invited by the MSA to recite verses from the Quran at a community event at University Crossing.

Now, Abou Mahmoud is leading one of the oldest student clubs on campus (founded in 1975). Under his leadership, it was named UML's Student Organization of the Year in 2021-22.

"It's a privilege to be part of the organization, for sure," he says.

Coming out of the pandemic, Abou Mahmoud and the group's executive board have been able to grow membership to around 120 students. They've done so by offering "something for everyone," he says. There are the religious activities: Jumu'ah prayers on Fridays at Alumni Hall and Quran memorization programs on Tuesdays at University Crossing's Serenity Center, which is also open for daily prayers and provides an ablution station—a sink used for "Wadu," the ritual cleansing of head, arms and feet.

There are also more social activities: the biweekly "MSA Circle," where members can discuss whatever's on their mind over slices of pizza, and general meetings with scavenger hunts and games of "Jeopardy!" For those who enjoy sports, there are meetings devoted to games of volleyball, badminton and Spikeball.

"The philosophy is to build community," Abou Mahmoud says. "College students don't want to sit through another lecture, so we try to find a balance between the spiritual and social events."

Abou Mahmoud says there are "a lot of misconceptions about our religion," particularly in the media post-9/11. While he has not encountered Islamophobia at UML ("Colleges are more of a melting pot; I think it's more of a problem in high school or with much older people, for some reason"), he still thought it was important for the MSA to host an open house in the University Crossing lobby this fall at which members could answer questions that anyone may have about the Islamic faith.

"A lot of the hate that comes from Islamophobia stems from ignorance. People just don't know. And a lot of times, it's hard to blame them when all they know are the bad things," he says. "We want to counter that by clearing up any of those lingering stereotypes that people may have in the back of their minds."

> BY ED BRENNEN

What does Abou Mahmoud's Muslim faith mean to him? "It has shaped who I am," he says. "But it's not just praying five times a day; it's not just fasting. There are a lot of different things that we are required to do every day that are more of a lifestyle thing. For example, it's a sin to be bad to your neighbor. And it's a sin to be filthy; you have to be clean. We get ingrained from a young age to stay away from a lot of the bad things that are just normalized nowadays. We learn how you should treat children, how you should treat your elders, how you should treat women."



Muslim Student Association members gather for the bi-weekly "MSA Circle" meeting in the Serenity Center in University Crossing.

"If I wasn't part of the Muslim faith, I would not have the community that I have now," he adds. "When you have something common that brings you together, you feel a lot more fulfilled. You feel more motivated. And that's something that I have, both at the university and outside the university."

Abou Mahmoud already has a software engineering job waiting for him at Microsoft after graduation. He interned for the company in Seattle last summer and will work remotely from home in Dracut, Massachusetts. Before then, he wants to "build the tailwinds" that will help propel the MSA into the future.

"For a lot of Muslims, a big part of the college decision is made from, 'How is the MSA?' So, for me to be in a position where I can help influence people joining this university, it definitely motivates me," says Abou Mahmoud, who can't imagine his UML experience without the MSA.

"Would I have survived? Yes. But would I have been fulfilled? No. Fulfillment is something that we get from MSA."

UML



ISLAND VIBES

Noelle Lambert '19 Inspires on "Survivor"

> BY ED BRENNEN

Noelle Lambert '19 found a new way to inspire people by competing on the CBS reality show "Survivor." A former River Hawk women's lacrosse player from Londonderry, New Hampshire, Lambert lost her left leg above the knee in a 2016 moped accident. She has since started the Born to Run Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to providing child amputees with prosthetics, and become a track and field star: She competed in the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo and holds the U.S. record in the 100-meter dash.

On season 43 of "Survivor," Lambert was "stranded" with 17 other castaways in Fiji—on the same island where the 2000 Tom Hanks film "Cast Away" was shot. Lambert returned to campus this fall for a "Survivor" watch party at University Crossing, where she answered questions about almost everything—except whether she won the \$1 million prize and title of "Sole Survivor."

Q: How did you get cast on the show?

A: My mother (Judy) is a huge fan and has been telling me for years that I need to get on the show. But I'd never seen an above-the-knee amputee on "Survivor," so I thought I had no shot. And I didn't think it was the best idea because when I get hungry and tired, I'm a terrible person. But when I was in Tokyo for the Paralympics, I got a DM from the head casting director. I thought it was a joke or a scam, but it was real. I sent in a video to start the whole casting process, which took about six months.

Q: What were some of your strategies in the game?

A: I wanted to starve myself leading up to the show so I could get used to that. When I lose weight, it affects the suction on my prosthetic and my leg will pop off. And I didn't want the other players to know that I'm a Paralympian, so I lied

to everyone and said I'm a lacrosse coach for UMass Lowell. My strategy was just to be likable and useful around camp, and to lay low in the beginning. I think I proved myself. I was able to keep up in challenges.

Q: You wore your Born to Run Foundation sweatshirt on the show. Has it helped the cause?

A: People have reached out and donated, saying, "I saw your sweatshirt." A lot of amputees are also reaching out, which is great. I'm glad I can create a positive light for people going through difficult times. They can see me doing it and be like, "OK, I can get through this."

Q: How did the experience change you?

A: I want to say it taught me patience, but that lasted for about a week. You feel really accomplished after the game is over—"I actually did this." When you're complaining about things back at home, like when you're hungry, you remember: I survived eight or nine days on nothing but coconut. It makes you realize what's important. It makes you appreciate things you have at home. But it's weird how it affects people in different ways. It can psychologically mess with some people. That's what I was most scared of: What if it changes me? But I came home on Memorial Day weekend and was like, "Let's rage."

Q: Would you do it again?

A: Absolutely. On the island, I was like, "I'm never doing this again. This was the worst decision of my life." But a week out of the game, I was like, "OK, I'm ready." It's a really cool experience. You create genuine relationships with every person you play the game with.

"Survivor" contestant Noelle Lambert '19, front row center, joined the women's lacrosse team for a watch party at University Crossing. Lambert made it to the top eight on the reality show.



It's a really cool experience. You create genuine relationships with every person you play the game with."

— NOELLE LAMBERT '19

UMass Lowell Opens Center to Boost Success of Asian American Students

UMass Lowell's Asian American and Pacific Islander students have a vibrant place to call their own. Opened in September, the university's Asian American Center for Excellence and Engagement (AACEE, pronounced "ace") offers staff and peer mentoring to help students access academic, career, financial aid and wellness services.

Phitsamay Uy, an associate professor in UMass Lowell's School of Education, helped establish the center under the leadership of Julie Nash, vice provost for academic affairs, and colleagues Sue Kim, associate dean of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Leslie Wong, dean of equity and inclusion.



The initiative is funded by nearly \$1.5 million from the U.S. Department of Education, which recognizes UMass Lowell as an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution. Thirteen percent of UMass Lowell undergraduates identify as Asian American, and fewer than 1% identify as Pacific Islanders or Native Americans, with each population demonstrating financial need. These factors help qualify the university for the federal designation.

A portion of the grant money—\$10,000 each year for five years, which the university must match through donations—will establish an endowment for scholarships for Southeast Asian American students.

Members of the Angkor Dance Troupe of Lowell performed a blessing at the opening of the UMass Lowell Asian American Center for Excellence and Engagement last month.

Ram Nagarajan Named University Professor

Plastics Engineering Prof. Ramaswamy Nagarajan, an innovator in developing more sustainable and resilient materials, was named UMass Lowell's 2022 Distinguished University Professor, the top accolade bestowed on a faculty member. The annual award honors an educator who is recognized by peers for outstanding contributions to research, education and service to the university community.

Nagarajan, who first came to campus as a graduate student more than two decades ago, joined UML's plastics engineering faculty in 2006 and currently serves as the university's senior director for strategic defense research projects.

He is also the co-director of the HEROES initiative (with the U.S. Army), the Fabric Discovery Center and the Center for Advanced Materials at UMass Lowell.

Known for his team-building skills, Nagarajan calls on the talents of a wide variety of other UMass Lowell researchers and students in his work, enhancing opportunities for scientific discovery and experiential learning. He has been awarded 77 research grants totaling more than \$22 million and holds 20 patents on technology he has developed. In 2011, the UMass Lowell Graduate Student Association honored him with its Faculty Member of the Year award.



RESEARCH ROUNDUP



Prof. Pradeep Kurup gives a demonstration of the E-Tongue to U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan, in red, and U.S. Sen. Ed Markey, center, during a campus visit. Looking on at left is state Rep. Vanna Howard, and at right is Lowell Mayor Sokhary Chau.

\$2.5M NSF Grant Will Help Make Local Drinking Water Safer

UMass Lowell researchers are aiming to improve the quality and safety of drinking water for thousands of Merrimack Valley residents, and a nearly \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation is helping.

Led by Prof. Pradeep Kurup, chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the four-year pilot project will engage residents in Lowell, Lawrence, Dracut and Andover to become “citizen scientists” and help sample and test water.

“Water is a basic human need, and this university and the city of Lowell are here because of the water flowing in the Merrimack River, which supplies drinking water to over 600,000 people in the region,” says Chancellor Julie Chen.

U.S. Sen. Ed Markey and U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan, who were instrumental in helping secure support for the program, came to campus to officially kick off the project.

The project builds on earlier research led by Kurup.

“Thanks to previous funding from the NSF and the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center, our research team has developed a simple, easy-to-use handheld electrochemical sensor—called an ‘electronic tongue,’ or E-Tongue—that can rapidly detect multiple toxins in drinking water on-site,” he says.

These toxins include heavy metals like lead, arsenic and copper, as well as pesticides and even per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—the so-called “forever chemicals” that can last indefinitely in the body and in the environment.

The E-Tongues will be distributed to select households, schools and facilities around the Merrimack Valley with instructions for testing drinking water. Through a user-friendly app, the collected data will be automatically transmitted to a smart, cloud-based computing platform. There, machine-learning algorithms will analyze and predict not only the type and concentration of a contaminant but also the extent of the contamination, and possibly even pinpoint its source.

Does a Common Food Additive Harm the Gut?

Added as a whitener and anti-caking agent to thousands of food products such as candy and salad dressing, titanium dioxide use is on the rise even though research in animals shows a link to increased risk of intestinal inflammation, accumulation in organs and ability to damage DNA.

This year, the European Union banned the substance in food. The candymaker Mars Inc. was recently sued for not phasing out titanium dioxide from its products, including the popular-with-kids candy Skittles.

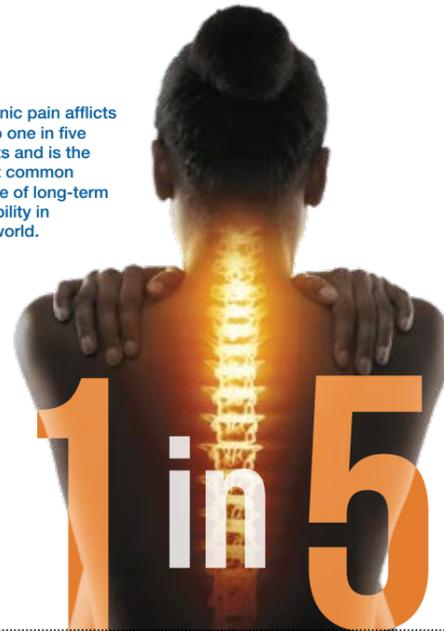
What levels of titanium dioxide do people consume? And is high consumption of the compound related to poor gut health? Assoc. Prof. Kelsey Mangano of the Department of Biomedical and Nutritional Sciences has received nearly \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to find out.

“Scientists know that an unhealthy gut can cause inflammation and lead to chronic diseases, such as obesity, heart disease and colon cancer,” says Mangano. “With titanium dioxide so pervasive in packaged foods, the results of our research could inform public health decision-making and policy regarding its use as a food additive in the U.S.”

The research will measure levels of titanium dioxide in the stool of 80 adults. For those with the highest titanium dioxide exposure, researchers will evaluate whether participants have poor gut health and an unhealthy gut microbiome compared with participants with very little exposure to the food additive. Ph.D. pharmaceutical sciences student Nick Troisi '20, '21 is leading the project under the direction of Mangano.



Chronic pain afflicts up to one in five adults and is the most common cause of long-term disability in the world.



Researchers Developing New Model for Managing Chronic Pain without Opioids

Chronic inflammatory pain, which is often caused by underlying health conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis or fibromyalgia, affects the quality of life for millions of people, impacting everything from mobility to social activities. Treatment is often complicated by the use of opioids because of the related side effects and the risk of addiction.

A research team led by Biomedical Engineering Asst. Prof. Bryan James Black could help change that. Black and researchers from UMass Lowell and the University of Wisconsin-Madison are developing a way to screen non-opioid drugs for use in treating chronic pain. The project is funded by a four-year, \$844,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

The team developed an innovative 3D tissue-chip model of acute and chronic nociception—the process by which pain stimulation is communicated through the body’s peripheral and central nervous system—that could help facilitate the preclinical development of new non-opioid pain treatments, therapies or drugs.

NASA Selects Mendillo for Fellowship Program, Awards Him \$7M Grant

NASA named Asst. Research Prof. Christopher Mendillo as a Nancy Grace Roman Technology Fellow one month after he secured a \$7 million, five-year grant from the agency for a project that will advance exoplanetary dust science and key technologies required to one day capture images of Earth-like exoplanets that orbit sun-like stars.

The fellowship, gives early career researchers the opportunity to develop innovative technologies while growing the skills needed to lead astrophysics flight instrumentation development projects. Mendillo will receive \$500,000 in funding as part of the fellowship, which he says will greatly benefit the Lowell Center for Space Science and Technology.

The research team, composed of students, early-career scientists and experienced professionals from UMass Lowell, the NASA Ames Research Center, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the University of Arizona and Leiden University in the Netherlands, will be upgrading a telescope that was previously sent to the edge of Earth’s atmosphere to photograph exoplanet dust and debris. The latest mission, known as PICTURE-D (Planetary Imaging Coronagraph Testbed Using a Recoverable Experiment for Debris Disks), is in its fourth iteration.



From left: Glenn Howe '16, '20, Asst. Research Prof. Christopher Mendillo, Kuravi Hewawasam '20 and Physics Prof. Supriya Chakrabarti pose in front of PICTURE-C, the predecessor to the PICTURE-D mission.

RESEARCH **ROUNDUP** (CONTINUED)



Management Professor Explores Future of 'Workforce Ecosystems'

You're the leader of a marketing agency that wants to start offering TikTok services to clients. Unfortunately, senior leaders in your company have never used the app. You consider hiring someone, but then you realize that several of your freelance and contract workers—people who are already part of your broader workforce ecosystem—are TikTok aficionados.

By partnering them with more established personnel in your organization, your agency can suddenly provide a valuable new service to clients.

As guest editor for the MIT Sloan Management Review "Future of the Workforce Big Ideas" research initiative, Assoc. Prof. of Management Elizabeth Altman heard such a story while interviewing a marketing executive about workforce ecosystems.

"That's when it clicked for me that this truly is a different way of thinking about strategy," says Altman, who teaches strategy and organizational theory in undergraduate, MBA and doctoral programs in the Manning School of Business.

Altman's work, a joint multiyear research initiative with MIT Sloan Management Review and Deloitte Consulting, has produced a research article and two reports—2021's "Workforce Ecosystems" and this year's "Orchestrating Workforce Ecosystems"—and spawned a book that's due out in the spring, "Workforce Ecosystems: Reaching Strategic Goals with People, Partners, and Technologies" (MIT Press).

The research, Altman says, aims to help executives who seek an integrated approach to managing an increasingly unintegrated workforce—thanks to technology that's enabling new ways of working and roles that are becoming more project- and outcome-based.

Professor Makes it Easier for Humans to Teach Robots New Skills

Asst. Prof. Reza Ahmadzadeh of the Miner School of Computer and Information Sciences envisions a future where more people have robots inside their homes completing housework and other routine tasks.

But before that becomes a reality, Ahmadzadeh says robots need to be more user-friendly, so that people without programming skills can successfully use them.

Under a nearly \$500,000, one-year grant from Amazon Robotics, Ahmadzadeh is working in collaboration with Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Harvard University to develop algorithms that allow robots to learn from humans without the need for programming, making it easier for people to teach a robot how to do household chores, such as making a cup of coffee or folding laundry.

WPI investigators are developing a glove made of sensors that will be worn by human operators as they perform different tasks. The sensors will record the amount of force the operator is using as well as the positions of their finger joints.

Ahmadzadeh will take this information and build algorithms that allow the robot to mimic the human operator's movements. The algorithms will be inputted into the robot's computer, which will prompt the robot to complete the task autonomously. If the robot is unable to do so, a failure detection system created by the Harvard team will alert the human user.

"Our research project will help the elderly as they gradually lose the capability to do things," says Ahmadzadeh, who recently was awarded an NSF CAREER Award, with nearly \$500,000 in funding for additional research. "Eventually, they can use the glove to teach the robot how to make coffee, for instance, and then they can rely on the robot once it learns that task."



RIVER HAWKS AROUND THE WORLD



Honors students spent winter break touring Chile and learning about its history and culture.



Sciences Dean Reps River Hawks in Qatar

Kennedy College of Sciences Dean Nouredine Melikechi was in Qatar for the World Cup in December, and he says it was an experience he'll never forget.

"FIFA invited me, and the entire experience was incredible," says Melikechi, who says that whenever possible, he roots for the national team of his native Algeria, but also supports Manchester United.

The dean attended the semifinal and final matches, as well as several events where he met stars of the sport, including former Boston Breakers player Kristine Lilly, a two-time FIFA World Cup champion with the U.S. Women's National team. But the highlight, he says, was the overall feeling of camaraderie between fans from all over the world.

"Qatar is small, so there were people everywhere, and I did not see a single problem. There were fans from Senegal, France, Argentina, Brazil, Morocco—and they were dancing together, chanting together. Everyone was getting along before and after games. That was really nice to see: the whole world coming together."



Chilling in Chile

A group of honors students spent winter break in South America, exploring and learning about Chile. They toured the Presidential Palace in Santiago and learned about the business practices of a sustainable winery in the Casablanca Valley. In Valparaiso, the street art capital of the world, they met with street artists, and in Concon, they climbed ancient sand dunes. In between, they surfed and ate a lot of great food. It was, says sophomore Caragh Whalen-Feinblatt, "the trip of a lifetime."

Friendship and Rivalry in Belfast

The men's ice hockey team was back in Belfast, Northern Ireland, for the first time since 2015 for November's Friendship Four. UML lost to UMass Amherst 2-1 in the semifinals before Quinnipiac earned the 2022 Belpot Trophy. The River Hawks took a 4-3 overtime win against Dartmouth in the third-place contest. When they weren't on the ice, the players toured the country, visiting a local school and trying their hand at Gaelic games.



Ice hockey team players traveled to Belfast for the Friendship Four tournament, and learned some local sports in their downtime.



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FEATURES



GOOD NATURED

Equipped with tape measures, students recently fanned out around Lowell to collect data about trees.

The information gathered will help the city address urban heat islands, which, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, "occur when cities replace natural land cover with dense concentrations of pavement, buildings, and other surfaces that absorb and retain heat." The net effect of heat islands? They increase heat-related illness, mortality, air pollution and energy costs.

The collaboration is part of Sociology Assoc. Teaching Prof. Thomas Piñeros Shields' newly launched Climate Crisis and Society course.

"We live in this community, and we need to be committed to giving back to it," says Shields, who reached out to Lowell Energy Manager Katherine Moses '12 to find ways to get his students involved with a project in Lowell.

Read about more ways the university is teaming up with the city to address important challenges facing our world, starting on page 25.

SHE'S GOT IT

MEET CHANCELLOR CHEN

BY SARAH CORBETT





The student was sitting on a bench outside the ballroom in Coburn Hall, crouched over a laptop. Frowning at the screen, he typed furiously, his concentration broken only by the sound of footsteps making their way toward him across the lobby's shiny tiled floor.

As he looked up, the student's face lit up and he waved enthusiastically. "Chancellor!" he called. "I got it! I know what I want to do. I'm going to be a special ed teacher! I got it."

He was alluding to a comment Julie Chen had made a few weeks prior at Convocation, the annual ceremony that welcomes the incoming class of first-year and transfer students to UMass Lowell. In her first remarks as chancellor, she had told the 2,500 students gathered in the Tsongas Center that day to use the phrase "I got it" when they see her on campus, so she knows they're exploring new paths and pushing the boundaries of their comfort zones.

"Your time here will be one of discovery—a time when you will figure out who you want to become and how to get there," said Chen, who previously served as UML's vice chancellor for research and economic development.

As she settles into her tenure as chancellor, Chen is also in a period of discovery.

Leading the university was not her longtime goal, she says. After earning bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering at MIT, Chen spent six years as an assistant professor at Boston University. She joined the UML faculty in 1997.

Chen was appointed vice provost for research in 2009 and was promoted to vice chancellor in 2016. By targeting partnerships with industry, government agencies and top-tier universities, she has helped increase research expenditures by over \$40 million since taking on oversight of the area. Today, research expenditures are poised to top \$100 million.

Her plan was to remain in the vice chancellor role and continue to grow the research enterprise, but when former chancellor Jacquie Moloney announced her intention to step down, Chen's thinking shifted.

"At first, when Chancellor Moloney asked me what I was interested in, I said, 'Oh, no, I don't think "chancellor" is the direction I'm going to go in,'" she says. "But the more conversations I had with her and others about the impact of that role, the more I started to change my mind. I had—and have—a lot of ideas and strong opinions on how the university can grow and succeed, and I knew I could bring value."

Chen knew she could bring some other things, too—including inspiration for a generation of students used to seeing a specific, and homogeneous, model of a leader. As the university's first Asian American and first LGBTQ+ chancellor—and only the second woman in the role—she feels an obligation to normalize diversity in leadership.

"It's an important piece of why I decided to apply to be chancellor," she says. "If I'm going to talk about why there should be more women in engineering, or why there should be more people of color in leadership roles, or more LGBTQ+ people at the table, then I should embrace the opportunity to represent that. And if it makes a few more students think, 'Hey, I could be a chancellor of a university one day,' then that is an important part of what I can do to help the next generation."

And that's just for starters. As the university wraps up its first strategic planning process since 2010, we asked Chen to talk about the priorities guiding the process—and how her background has prepared her to lead the university.

LIGHTNING ROUND: GET TO KNOW CHANCELLOR CHEN

Morning person or a night owl?
Night owl

Tea or coffee?
Coffee (but tea with Asian food)

Favorite book?
"The Phantom Tollbooth" by Norton Juster (from when I was a kid)

Driver or passenger?
Neither, I like to walk!

Favorite restaurant in Lowell?
Tasty Dumpling

Last thing you binged on TV?
"Wednesday" (my niece was watching it), "The Crown," "Call My Agent" and "Jack Ryan"

Job you'd have in an alternate universe?
Coach

Favorite vacation destination?
Kauai, Hawaii (but really I like to experience different places as long as they have good food)

Last great concert you attended?
Madeleine Peyroux at Boarding House Park

Surprising hobby?
Fixing and building things around the house (carpentry, plumbing, electrical) and snowboarding

Go-to late-night snack?
Dumplings or pork buns

SC: There's been a renewed focus on partnering with the city of Lowell and surrounding communities over the past year. Why is that so important right now?

JC: Both the city and the university are going through times of transition, and there's a lot of opportunity to support each other. There's no question Lowell is a vibrant Gateway City. With its many cultural, culinary and entertainment opportunities, the city is one of UML's best assets. But it goes both ways. Most of our students stay in the region when they graduate. And not only does the university offer a gateway to a better future for local students, but UMass Lowell is also an important workforce development and innovation pipeline for numerous companies in this region.

If we can continue to get companies interested in our students, we might also get them to relocate to, or have a presence in, Lowell. It's a short trip from Boston to multiple smaller urban centers like Lowell. There are ways to leverage the advantages and resources of these more affordable, urban communities and their higher educational institutions to benefit companies and the commonwealth. It becomes a virtuous cycle, helping both the university and the city.

SC: Presumably, it also helps students get valuable career experiences before they graduate.

JC: Definitely, and that's a very important priority for me. We have a very hands-on, experiential learning environment at UML. We've had a co-op program for years, and we also have what we call a co-location model, where a company has staff on campus working side by side with faculty and students. One great example is the Raytheon-UMass Lowell Research Institute, a joint facility on campus that's focused on the advancement of innovative technologies like flexible and printed electronics. Partnerships like this help our faculty work on interesting research projects, and students have hands-on experience within the boundaries of the university itself, reducing their commuting time and expenses.

But we really want to scale that program, and by partnering with more companies and nonprofits with offices close to campus, we can ensure that paid internships and other career-exploration experiences are available to all of our students. And I do mean all. I'm determined to make paid, career-connected experiences a component of every student's experience here at the university, no matter what their major is. And we're very close to that being the case.

SC: Does research also continue to be a top priority for you?

JC: Absolutely. We're on the precipice of being designated what's called a Research 1 doctoral university—or R1—by the Carnegie Classification of the nation's leading research universities. Being in the top echelon of U.S. research universities is important to UMass Lowell's reputation, which in turn is key to recruiting the best faculty, corporate partners and students. As an R1 university, we'll offer students the highest levels of discovery and impact.

SC: As you think about the challenges facing higher education right now, what keeps you up at night?

JC: There are a few things. The first is something every university leader thinks about: enrollment. Because only about 26% of our budget is funded by the state, enrollment is critical to our revenue. So we're watching demographics, as the number of young people will continue to decrease in coming years, and putting a real focus on reaching and appealing to prospective students in innovative and authentic ways.

But another big challenge we're facing is that incoming students are not as prepared as they were pre-COVID. There's been a real dip in areas like math and analytical skills, so we are having to think about how we can help students get where they need to be, specifically within STEM majors.

The last thing keeping me up is the mental health of our students. It's a real crisis across the country, and addressing it will continue to be a priority for me in the coming years. We have a great team in place, and are addressing it holistically, working with students on getting enough sleep, eating right, developing great friendships, financial wellness and other tools. The message I keep relaying is that it's not just the job of our counselors—everyone on campus, from faculty to staff to students' peers, has to get involved and make it part of their job.

SC: You were a student-athlete at MIT, an Academic All-American in both softball and field hockey, and went on to serve as assistant coach for the latter. How has your experience as an athlete shaped your approach to leadership?

JC: It's very much a core to who I am. I think of everything from the perspective of being part of a team, and bringing different skill sets together to achieve something better. That mentality has been ingrained in me since my early junior high and high school years playing on teams. And sometimes, I don't have the shot, so I'll feed it to someone else—and celebrate when they make it.

SC: What's kept you at UML for so long?

JC: The biggest thing is the sense of having an impact here. About 40% of our students are first-generation, and about the same percentage are students of color. When you interact with our students and see what an impact you have on their lives—that's what UMass Lowell offers. Could I make more money elsewhere? Yes. But I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. Our students as a whole are so bright, and so unentitled. They're hard workers, and they care—and you just want to help them. And it may sound trite to say it, but it's in the DNA of our faculty and staff to want to help these students be successful. We're not the only university that does that, but it's very much core to UML.

> BY KATHARINE WEBSTER

CITY LIGHTS

From internships to research partnerships, the city of Lowell serves as a learning lab for students and faculty

When Civil Engineering Prof. Tzuyang Yu and his wife first drove their Toyota Camry into Lowell in 2008, they marveled at the brick mill buildings, distinctive churches and tall chimneys and clock towers. “Immediately, I could tell this was a historical city,” Yu says.

But “historical” also meant aging. As the couple drove from the Lowell Connector onto the city’s streets, their car bounced across potholes. And when they crossed the old University Avenue truss bridge to North Campus, where Yu was starting his first job as an assistant professor, they shuddered—literally.

“You could actually see through the old steel bridge to the bottom of the river, and the bridge was shaking. And a few days later, I saw the corroded foundation, and I was very worried,” says Yu, who was familiar with such bridges from his days serving as an engineer in Taiwan’s army.



So, once he'd settled in, Yu approached then-City Engineer Lisa DeMeo '83, '94 and said, "Do you have any plans to bring that bridge back to grade?" The city indeed had a plan, and the bridge was ultimately replaced in 2014.

That conversation was the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship between Yu, the city and his students. DeMeo and subsequent city engineers asked Yu for his expertise in evaluating roadways, sidewalks, bridges and buildings. "I jumped on it because I felt that was a way, as a local engineer, to have an impact on our community," Yu says. The work also connected to his research.

When James Troup, deputy director of the city's Department of Public Works, asked Yu to inspect five city-owned parking garages in 2013, Yu turned it into an assignment for students in his new graduate class, Inspection and

do research, volunteer or engage in service-learning projects and classes in Lowell. With the announcement of the university's plans to develop lab, business and retail spaces on what are now surface parking lots on East Campus, university leaders expect those experiential learning opportunities to expand.

Students like recent English major and Honors College grad Autumn Kleiner '22 describe those hands-on experiences as among the most valuable of their educational careers. She took the English Department's service-learning internship class twice; her second internship, at Project LEARN, a Lowell nonprofit that provides K-12 students with extracurricular enrichment, turned into a part-time job—and then a full-time job upon graduation.

"I feel like I'm the poster child for the internship program,

because this is exactly what an internship is supposed to do," says Kleiner, now Project LEARN's communications and grants specialist.

And she's just one example.

From nursing students who volunteered at Lowell's COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics, to education majors presenting lessons in the Lowell Public Schools, to environmental science students doing outreach for energy efficiency programs in low-income neighborhoods, to music and psychology majors volunteering to teach in summer music camps for autistic children, UMass Lowell students are working—and making a difference—in the community.



Civil engineering seniors Tiana Robinson and Yaneliz Garcia Ruiz and master's graduate Tek Dhant '22 examine the subsurface of a downtown sidewalk with ultrasonic testing equipment.

“Nothing's better than giving students hands-on experiences, applying real-world technologies to solve real-world problems.”

—TZUYANG YU

Monitoring for Civil Infrastructure. He divided the students into five teams, and each team used ground-penetrating radar to examine the condition of the parking decks in one of the garages.

That was a decade ago, and the assignment to inspect historic or aging city and campus infrastructure is now an integral part of the class. Yu, who has won multiple federal grants for his research on ways to monitor bridges for structural damage, teaches the students to use radar, sonar and camera-equipped drones in the process.

"It's hard to explain the problems in civil engineering with PowerPoint presentations," he says. "Nothing's better than giving students hands-on experiences, applying real-world technologies to solve real-world problems."

Yu's class is just one example of all the ways in which Lowell serves not only as the university's home, but its partner in faculty research and as a learning lab for students. Since the university's origins as a place to train engineers, chemists and managers for the city's textile mills—as well as teachers for its schools—that partnership has expanded.

Every year, hundreds of UMass Lowell students intern,



Graduate student Kyle Fahey '22 (top photo, right) reviews a park evaluation form with students, faculty and members of the senior Action Group. Assoc. Prof. Sabrina Noel (inset) keeps a map of all the Lowell parks evaluated in her office.



Senior action for health

IS LOWELL AN AGE-FRIENDLY CITY? That's the question faculty and students in the Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences are trying to answer by evaluating outdoor spaces, transportation, safety and more.

The work, through the Center for Population Health, includes an "Age-Friendly Lowell" study funded by the Tufts Health Plan Foundation in partnership with city and nonprofit agencies, including the Lowell Senior Center.

The study is guided by the "Action Group," a diverse group of about 20 older residents who have been shaping the research questions and working in the field from the beginning, says Nutritional Sciences Assoc. Prof. Sabrina Noel, who co-directs the center with Prof. Katherine Tucker and Dean of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Luis Falcón. The age-friendly research team also includes other health and social sciences faculty and staff.

"Our goal was to ensure that this project was truly community-engaged," Noel says. "It was designed to ensure that the voices of older adults in the community are heard in every element of the research."

Kyle Fahey '22 has been working on the study since he was a junior. Although he once contemplated a career in dietetics, that experience motivated him to go on for a doctorate in epidemiology so that he can do work that benefits entire populations. "These projects have opened my eyes to the collaborations necessary to succeed on a larger level," he says.

He enjoys working with data—and values the senior Action Group. "It's been great being able to learn about the priorities and values of the community ... and to know that the work we're doing is directly, positively impacting each of their lives," he says.

It's taxing, but rewarding

IN LATE FALL 2021, Barbara Greenwood '05, director of financial education at Community Teamwork Inc. of Lowell, was looking for UML students who could help low-income residents file their taxes. She reached out to Accounting Department Chair Khondkar Karim about finding students for the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, or VITA.

Karim and adjunct faculty member Edgar Carter quickly recruited three students who took IRS courses online over winter break to become VITA-certified and then helped taxpayers for 10 to 15 hours a week during winter 2022. The students received course credit for their work and a modest tuition scholarship from the Manning School of Business.

Management major Amy Bui was among them, and she plans to volunteer again this year. "I want to keep learning," she says. "Each year, they have new tax laws, and I want to keep myself updated. I can benefit myself and also help other people." She even got a job offer from an accounting firm.

This year, Karim and Carter plan to ramp up the service-learning program to a dozen or more students, especially accounting majors, for whom participation in VITA is a great résumé-builder, Karim says.

"Chancellor Julie Chen has talked about experiential learning, loud and clear," Karim says. "What better way do students have to learn about taxes? It's objective, it's measurable, and we're doing it through community outreach. Plus, it's voluntary and free to taxpayers."

'Why doesn't he quit?'

WHEN A FRIEND OF GIANNA SANDELLI '19, '22 overdosed on opioids and died, she wanted to prevent more deaths. But first, she needed answers. "He kept saying, 'I just want to stop,'" she says. "I thought, 'Then why doesn't he quit?'"

She worked her way through Middlesex Community College to become a licensed drug and alcohol counselor. Then she went on for a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in community social psychology while working fulltime as an outreach specialist for Lowell House Addiction Treatment and Recovery, a nonprofit.

At Lowell House, Sandelli's salary was paid in part by federal grants that faculty and staff at the university's Center for Community Research and Engagement helped the city obtain, with the goal of reducing overdose deaths and diverting people from jail to treatment. Center Co-Director Robin Toof and Criminology Assoc. Prof. Wilson Palacios also serve as the city's research and evaluation partners on the grants.

The first grants paid for police, EMTs and outreach workers to follow up at the site of every overdose to connect survivors with services, while also checking on and helping any children living with them.

Sandelli laughs when she recalls how much she hated her first research methods class at UML and the research paperwork she had to fill out at work.

"I thought, 'I don't want to work with data; I don't want to fill out encounter forms. I want to just do my job.'"

But as she saw how the research was helping Lowell's Community Opioid Outreach Program—which includes city agencies, Trinity EMS, the county sheriff's office and health and mental health agencies—her attitude changed.

"We work predominantly with unhoused individuals and the highest-risk population in Lowell. The researchers taught us to look at data that would never have occurred to us, to show what success looks like with this population," says Sandelli, now division director for outreach at Lowell House.

The UML team's research has helped the city win new grants, including one for a Spanish-speaking outreach worker and a nurse who can provide on-the-spot wound care before people end up in the ER.

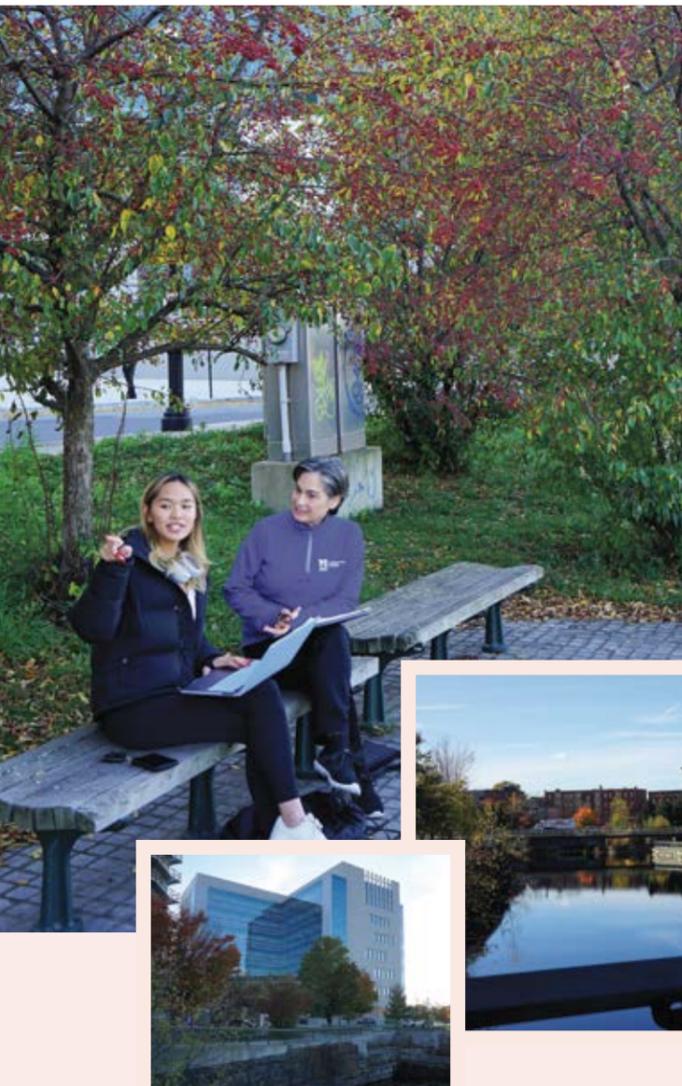
From 2016—when fentanyl became widespread—to 2021, fatal overdoses in Lowell fell by 37 percent, and from 2018 to 2021, nonfatal overdoses dropped by 40 percent, according to the state Department of Public Health. "People on the streets want to work with us. They want to stay out of jail; they want to live a healthier life," Sandelli says. "I hated that word 'research' before—but now I understand it and I love it."



“Every year, hundreds of UMass Lowell students intern, do research, volunteer or engage in service-learning projects and classes in Lowell.”



Outreach director Gianna Sandelli '19, '22 performs a wellness check in a park used by people with opioid use disorder.



Love your community

LAST FALL, Management Prof. Kimberly Merriman sat on a bench facing the Hamilton Canal at lunchtime a couple of times a week, filling out a research form with a description of every person using the canal-side trails and what they were doing: walking a dog, lingering in a tiny park or striding briskly for exercise.

Merriman, a Lowell resident, researches factors that contribute to “quality of place,” attracting people to live in certain communities—and that help communities become more attractive and livable. Now she’s looking at how the design and location of the brand-new Lowell Justice Center affect people who work there or come on court business.

The Justice Center, just across the road from “her” bench, is an example of environmentally friendly architecture and “biophilic” design, which incorporates natural elements including fresh air, natural light and views of the outdoors. The idea is that connecting people with nature can improve their well-being, even in a stressful environment like the court.

Merriman and her student research assistants will find out if it’s working. Step one: See if courthouse workers are getting outside and walking along the canals during their lunch breaks.

Management Prof. Kimberly Merriman and public health major Thuy Nguyen (top, left) observe how people use the canalside trails (right) outside the new Lowell Justice Center (bottom photo).

Fire them up

ASSOC. DEAN FRED MARTIN wants to get kids fired up about computer science. Under a \$1.2 million National Science Foundation grant, he’s doing exactly that in three medium-sized cities with diverse populations: Lowell and Methuen, Massachusetts, and Schenectady, New York.

“Computer science is a ticket to a well-paying job,” Martin says. “From an equity standpoint, we need to give all kids the opportunity to learn what computer science is, and that means bringing it from an elective or an after-school club into the curriculum.”

The CS Pathways grant, which is shared

with a professor at SUNY-Albany, is training middle school teachers in the three districts to show students how to develop apps using Code.org’s free App Lab software. In Lowell, CS Pathways is integrated with the required eighth-grade civics curriculum. Students design apps to promote a social good, such as educating their peers about the dangers of vaping.

Senior computer science major Garima Jain jumped at the chance to work on the project with Martin, School of Education Ph.D. student Bernardo Feliciano and other undergraduate computer science students. The undergrads have helped with the curriculum and visited classes in Lowell and Methuen to give lessons and demonstrate

inquiry-based teaching methods.

Jain loves being a role model, especially for middle-school girls, since women are underrepresented in computer science. “I have seen a lot of girls not take this career path because of a lack of representation,” she says. “When I walked into the classroom, I asked if they were excited, and they all shouted that they were. It was so powerful: Now I was on the other side, being the teacher instead of the student and giving that representation.” [UML](#)

Sciences Assoc. Dean Fred Martin helps schoolchildren get excited about computer science by developing lessons on creating apps.

Step two: Observe people inside the courthouse.

“If someone asked me, ‘Where in the country do you want to travel to study this?’ I’d say, ‘Right here!’” says Merriman, who lives a couple of blocks away in a repurposed mill building.

“Lowell is one of the few urban centers where the walking trails are already here, the canals are already here, you have biophilic design inside the building, you can see outside—and then you can go out there.”

Honors public health major Thuy Nguyen, a sophomore, observed the trails three or four days a week. She applied to work with Merriman because the professor’s research uses tools and methods that Nguyen is learning about in her public health informatics and technology classes.

Nguyen discovered that she loves the hands-on part of the research. The project has also deepened her appreciation for Lowell, which she didn’t visit much while growing up in neighboring Dracut, Massachusetts.

“I personally believe Lowell has a lot to offer. You just have to look into it,” she says. “I’ve discovered that there’s all this culture, all these coffee shops that I love and great restaurants.”

That'll teach 'em

School of Education Teams Up with Lowell Public Schools

> BY KATHARINE WEBSTER



In sixth grade, Kaunitha Heng was chosen to prepare and present a lesson to the other students in an English class—and greatly enjoyed it. Afterwards, “My friends called me ‘Teacher Heng.’”

Now, Heng is in the “Grow Your Own” teacher pathway program at Lowell High School, applying to UMass Lowell and other colleges as an education major and planning to become a teacher. “I just want to do something I actually like,” Heng says.

As part of the pathway program, Heng and 12 other Lowell High students took a UMass Lowell education class, Introduction to Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms. The dual-enrollment class, which was offered for the first time this academic year, is co-taught by UML Ph.D. student and staff member Cassie McCallum '13, '18 and Lowell High English teacher Kendra Bauer.

The high school students can also take UML dual-enrollment classes in psychology, sociology and environmental science, as well as other dual-enrollment classes at Middlesex Community College, during their junior and senior years of high school. Those credits can save them time and money when they start college, says Assoc. Dean Stacy Szczesiul.

The Grow Your Own partnership, which will soon include Greater Lowell Technical High School, is aimed at diversifying the teaching workforce in Massachusetts, where

more than 40% of students are children of color and about 90% of teachers are white. The disparity is even greater in urban districts.

“It’s so important for our students to see themselves in their teachers,” McCallum says. “When they do, their academic achievement goes through the roof.”

The Grow Your Own initiative is just one of many research and experiential learning partnerships between UML’s School of Education and the Lowell Public Schools:

- The Diverse Teachers Network brings together teachers of color for professional support and advancement. The university has applied for a state grant to support 10 of the teachers while they earn certification for leadership roles. “There is also a need for administrators of color,” Szczesiul says.
- Assoc. Prof. Jack Schneider and Visiting Asst. Prof. Elizabeth Zumpe have a \$250,000 grant to help the district develop an in-depth data “dashboard” that measures school performance holistically—and then use that data for continuous improvement.
- Asst. Prof. Robai Werunga works with parents whose first language is not English to help them understand the special education services their children need.
- Education Chair Jill Lohmeier is working with the district and Fortaleza, a nonprofit advocacy group, on ways to better support Hispanic and Latino students.

All undergraduate education majors and UTeach students, as well as the Lowell High dual-enrollment students, get their initial field experiences in the Lowell Public Schools. Recently, a small group of third-graders at Bailey Elementary School enjoyed Heng’s first-ever mini-lesson, on penguins and polar bears. “I loved it,” Heng says. “It really did confirm that I enjoy teaching.”



IMMERSED IN EACH OTHER

Teradyne and UMass Lowell share a focus on interdisciplinary collaboration—and a long history of partnership



> BY BROOKE COUPAL

Sam Paxton '19 wasn't sure where a computer engineering degree would take him. The job opportunities seemed endless: Would he become a developer? Or an engineer? Would he focus on working with software? Or maybe hardware was the way to go.

"Figuring out exactly the profession you want is a deceptively important and difficult decision that usually takes years to figure out after college," he says.

Teradyne helped speed up the decision-making process.

The test and automation company, based in North Reading, Massachusetts, exposed Paxton to applications and software engineering through two co-ops he completed while at UMass Lowell. He says the co-ops were instrumental in helping him choose a career path.

"The biggest realization I made from my co-op experiences was that I wanted to be a software engineer over an applications or hardware engineer," he says.

Three years later, Paxton is still at Teradyne. After graduating from UMass Lowell, he became a full-time software engineer for the multibillion-dollar company and is one of about 95 UML alumni currently working there.

For decades, Teradyne, which was founded in 1960, has depended on UMass Lowell for creative and talented engineers, says Andrew Blanchard, the company's vice president of corporate relations.

"The interns, co-ops and graduates of UML bring fresh thinking, innovative ideas and energy to Teradyne, and Teradyne provides challenging opportunities for them to flourish in a professional environment," he says.

Teradyne tests and helps to build the world's most innovative products, from chips found in consumer technology to collaborative and autonomous mobile robots that free people from doing dull or dangerous tasks.

Greg Denon, UML's associate dean of student affairs for career development, says the company's diverse yet collaborative environment makes it a great place for students to complete a co-op.

"Teradyne is not siloed in its work, so students learn a multifaceted skillset," he says. "They get involved in a lot of different types of projects."

Steve Conte, senior manager of Teradyne's Support Engineering Organization, is a strong proponent of getting students engaged in different areas of the company.

"The internship and co-op programs at Teradyne are immersive, and the student is exposed to not only activities related to their major, but other engineering disciplines as well," says Conte, who received a certificate in Unix and systems administration from UMass Lowell and serves on the Industry Advisory Board of the university's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Teradyne's commitment to giving students a well-rounded experience mirrors that of UMass Lowell. Students receive a comprehensive education through the university's curriculum, allowing them to become knowledgeable in disciplines beyond their major. They can also work with UMass Lowell's research centers, which are highly regarded for producing high-impact, interdisciplinary research.

Scott Diniz, a double River Hawk, credits UMass

Lowell with setting him up for success when he began working at Teradyne in 2014, the same year that he graduated from UML with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

"UMass Lowell provided me with the fundamentals of engineering and software development to have the confidence to be productive from day one at Teradyne," says Diniz, who earned a master's degree in computer engineering from UML in 2016. He now serves as a software engineering manager at Teradyne and is enrolled in UML's Master of Business Administration program.

Within Teradyne, Diniz and Conte are Campus Advisors for UML, ensuring a continuous connection in the partnership between the university and the company. They are directly involved with the success of the co-op program and often work alongside students.

"We typically set up a mentor with each co-op to help guide them into our design process and utilize their skill set while also introducing them to new skills along the way," Conte says.

Ava Howard '18 had two co-ops with Teradyne and got to work firsthand with hardware and mechanical engineers.

"The co-ops helped me make a lot of connections," says Howard, who joined Teradyne as a full-time test development engineer after graduating from UML with a degree in electrical engineering. "I owe a lot of my career to how beneficial the co-op program was."

The partnership between Teradyne and UMass Lowell expands beyond providing students with real-world career experiences. The company also helps students thrive on campus.

Teradyne has made gifts to support several diversity, equity and inclusion programs at UML, including the River Hawk Scholars Academy first-generation program (RHSA); Honors College Fellowships; summer bridge programs for first-year engineering and computer science students; Multicultural Affairs programming; recruiting programs focused on women and underrepresented minorities in STEM; student-veteran programs; and student chapters of the Society of Women Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers and Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

"Teradyne's philanthropic commitment to our diverse population has made a world of difference for so many deserving students. It's a win-win," says Matthew Hurwitz, RHSA director and English associate teaching professor.

Blanchard says the partnership between Teradyne and UMass Lowell will keep growing as the company looks to collaborate with the university's research resources.

"Teradyne engineers work on some of the toughest problems in electrical, mechanical and computer sciences every day. UML researchers and faculty work on the technology building blocks needed to solve many of those challenges and prepare the next generation of engineers and scientists that the industry depends on to create the future," he says. "With UML and Teradyne benefitting from our engagements at multiple levels, we expect the relationship to continue for years." [UML](#)



TERADYNE'S PHILANTHROPIC COMMITMENT TO OUR DIVERSE POPULATION HAS MADE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE FOR SO MANY DESERVING STUDENTS. IT'S A WIN-WIN."

MATTHEW HURWITZ,
RHSA director and English
associate teaching
professor

< Steve Conte, Ava Howard '18, Scott Diniz '14, '16 and Sam Paxton '19, shown from left to right inside the Teradyne headquarters in North Reading, Massachusetts, are ready to welcome more UML students to the company.

> BY JILL GAMBON

For Jim Lou '92 and Cathy Wang '92, a Professor's Kindness Endures

Computer Science Alumni Create Scholarships in Memory of Prof. Georges Grinstein

There are some acts of kindness that you never forget. Help with settling into a new city when you are half a world away from home. A recommendation that leads to a badly needed job. An invitation to a holiday dinner.

Those were some of the kindnesses that the late Prof. Georges Grinstein extended to Jian (Jim) Lou '92 and Xiaoqing (Cathy) Wang '92, who came to UMass Lowell to earn master's degrees in computer science.

"His kindness influenced me," says Lou. "That is something you always remember."

As an undergraduate, Lou met Grinstein at Fudan University in Shanghai, China, where Grinstein spent time teaching computer science.

When Lou was looking into master's degree programs, his best friend, Weidong Wang '87, '92 (no relation to Cathy Wang) was studying computer science at UMass Lowell and encouraged Lou to join him. Lou applied and was admitted, but money was tight. With Grinstein's help, he landed a teaching assistant job, which made it possible for him to afford graduate school.

"I was lucky. Professor Grinstein helped me get the TA position," says Lou, who arrived in Lowell in 1990.

Grinstein continued to extend a welcoming hand to Lou and Wang, who had left behind family and friends in China. On Thanksgiving, Grinstein invited them to his home for dinner. And when Lou and Wang were getting married, Grinstein made sure they had a fitting celebration.

"When Cathy and I got married, we were very poor. We couldn't afford a marriage celebration," Lou recalls.

They were planning on a simple civil ceremony by themselves at City Hall, but when Grinstein found out, he arranged for the couple to be married at the Unitarian Universalist church in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, where he worshipped. Grinstein took care of all the details, right down to hiring the organist and inviting guests.

"He showed us such kindness. The celebration at his church was totally free for us," Lou says.

After the couple earned their master's degrees, they moved to Denver, where Lou got a job with a computer-aided design software company and Wang landed a position with a database firm. They settled in comfortably to their new hometown. As skiers and hikers, they enjoyed the abundance of outdoor activities and the area's welcoming, family-oriented atmosphere, which became a priority when they were raising their two daughters, Wang says.

Driven by an entrepreneurial streak, Lou had a knack for building his own businesses. His first venture was a software consulting firm. Then, in 1997, he launched Easy Sourcing to help businesses source goods from China. In 2005, he started Apex Manufacturing, which makes automotive accessories such as awnings for recreational vehicles and covers for truck beds, mainly for the U.S. market.

In 2015, with Easy Sourcing and Apex Manufacturing firmly established, Lou and Wang decided it was time to give back. They recalled with deep gratitude the support they had gotten at UMass Lowell and came up with the idea for a scholarship in honor of Grinstein.

While they felt indebted to Grinstein for his kindness, Lou and Wang also had deep respect for his academic work. In his 30 years at UMass Lowell, Grinstein headed the bioinformatics program and was the director of the university's Institute for Visualization and Perception Research. His ideas about representing data with graphics were ahead of the times, Lou says.

"His research was very forward-thinking. He was thinking about how people will deal with all that data," Lou says.

Grinstein approved of their idea to create an annual scholarship for undergraduate computer science majors. Undergraduates generally do not have the opportunity to work as teaching assistants—a position that made all the difference to Lou and Wang.

"When we started in graduate school, the financial burden was the main issue for us," says Lou. "Undergraduates can't do TA jobs. They need money."

In 2018, Grinstein, who had joined the faculty at UMass Amherst, died unexpectedly. As they mourned the loss of their friend, Lou and Wang decided to establish a second endowed scholarship fund in Grinstein's memory. Between the two scholarships, the couple has committed \$225,000 to support students at UMass Lowell.

"Jim Lou and Cathy Wang embody the spirit of the River Hawk community," says UMass Lowell Chancellor Julie Chen. "Their appreciation for the support they received at UMass Lowell has come full circle. Their generosity is helping new generations of students to pursue their dreams of a world-class education and is inspiring others as well."

Looking back on their UML experience, both Lou and Wang agree they got the skills and education they needed to succeed in the fast-moving technology business.

"The program at UML was very good, especially when compared to the education we received in China. It was much more hands-on, and that was very helpful," Lou says.

These days, Lou remains involved with Easy Sourcing and Apex Manufacturing, and Wang devotes her time to their investments. They live in Greenwood Village, Colorado, just south of Denver, and continue to hike and ski. Their daughters, both graduates of Northwestern University, work in the computer industry in California.

Lou and Wang are enthusiastic about the growth of the computer science program at UMass Lowell, which is now the most popular major on campus with faculty expertise in robotics, cybersecurity, data science and bioinformatics.

While so much in the technology world has changed since their student days—Lou and Wang arrived at UMass Lowell before web browsers were even invented, when mainframes and microcomputers still reigned supreme—they are upbeat about the range of opportunities available to students studying computer science now.

"It's an interesting field, and there are so many different paths you can explore," says Wang. [UML](#)

Xiaoqing (Cathy) Wang '92 (left) and Jian (Jim) Lou '92, shown here in Pacific Grove, California, established two scholarships in memory of Computer Science Prof. Georges Grinstein, who extended many kindnesses to the couple when they were graduate students.



“HIS KINDNESS INFLUENCED ME. THAT IS SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER.”

—JIM LOU

on the impact and legacy of Prof. Georges Grinstein

YOUR UML ALUMNI NETWORK

As a UMass Lowell alum, you have access to a global network of highly accomplished professionals. Our graduates are movers and shakers in a wide variety of industries—and are a great resource whether you're looking for a new job, a mentor or information about a new field.

Stay connected to UML and fellow alumni:



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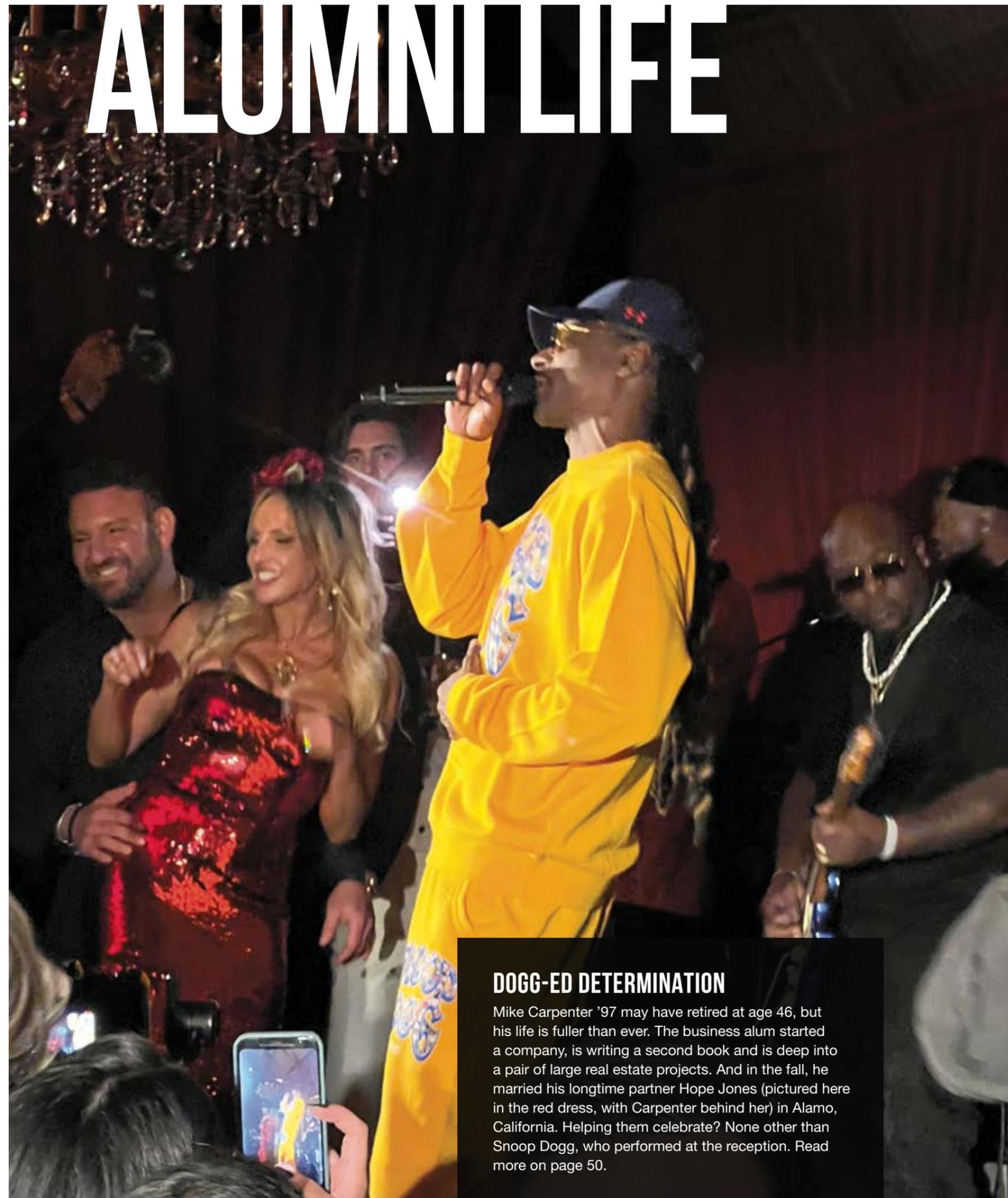
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ALUMNI LIFE

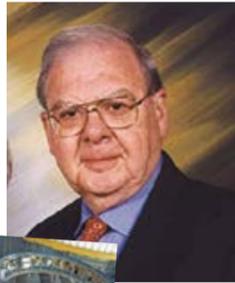


DOGG-ED DETERMINATION

Mike Carpenter '97 may have retired at age 46, but his life is fuller than ever. The business alum started a company, is writing a second book and is deep into a pair of large real estate projects. And in the fall, he married his longtime partner Hope Jones (pictured here in the red dress, with Carpenter behind her) in Alamo, California. Helping them celebrate? None other than Snoop Dogg, who performed at the reception. Read more on page 50.

NOTES CLASSES

1958



Bob Munroe, an LTI textile engineering graduate, says “the pragmatic education and hardy industry input served me well in my career, along with the mantra of never stop learning.”



He says throughout his career—which included long stints at IBM and Motorola—he worked on problems not previously addressed. That included work on the first U.S. astronomical satellite in 1961, dynamic stress analysis of the Gemini computer, the building of custom hybrid circuits used in space, and the first use of a lightweight alloy that

was half the weight of aluminum. Munroe says he “picked up a few awards along the line,” and a couple of years ago, he wrote a book (“primarily for family and friends”) called “An Engineer’s Space Race Stories and More,” describing his pioneering life’s work.

1960



Lowell State Teachers College alumnae from the class of 1960 gathered for a summer luncheon at the beach, including Mary Monaghan Phelps, Jane Bartlett White, Colette Nordberg Welch, Jeanne Thibault Dunn, Sue Murray Holmstead, Barbara Baroni Flanagan and Sandy Scott McDermott.

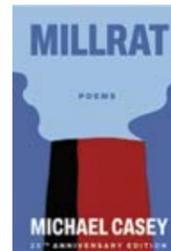


Omicron Pi Brothers of the 1960s and their wives gathered over four days in Portland, Maine. For 28 years, the fraternity brothers have been getting together in various locations across the country. Dick Lockhart '67 hosted the most recent reunion. The next reunion is slated for October 2023 in Charleston, South Carolina.

1966

Alan Ferguson of Scotia, N.Y., retired from Bechtel after nine years. He previously worked for General Electric for 39 years.

1968



Michael Casey is pleased to announce the publication of the 25th anniversary edition of his book, “Millrat,” a collection of poems inspired by Lowell, Massachusetts, that center around the work in the dye house of a New England textile mill.

1970



Kevin Shanahan '70, Peg Shanahan '78 and the Independent University Alumni Association at Lowell (IUAAL) were honored for their commitment to UMass Lowell and its students at the rededication ceremony of the newly renovated IUAAL Alumni Memorial Library Center.



> **CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1956**

Alum Donates Historic Book Collection to UML

Top: Nicholas Dadoly '56 with the historic technical books he donated to UMass Lowell; below: Konstantine Evangelos Dadolys and his wife, Efthymia Phousias Dadolys

Thanks to an alumnus of the Class of 1956, a small piece of the Industrial Revolution recently found a new home at UMass Lowell. Nicholas Dadoly '56 donated more than 170 historic technical books on chemicals, dyes and pigments to the university in the fall. Most of the books are from the late 1800s, around the time of the Industrial Revolution, when the city of Lowell was a manufacturing leader.



Dadoly, a chemical engineer, spent 21 years at the National Aniline Division of Allied Chemical Corp., where he served as a division and national manager. He and his colleagues often referenced the books. When the company moved from Boston to Andover, Massachusetts, Dadoly saved the books from being thrown away. He recently donated those books, along with others from his collection, to UMass Lowell.

“I’m very happy that the university has accepted the books,” he says. “The knowledge in them relates to the history of UMass Lowell’s predecessor, the Lowell Textile School, which taught science and engineering and particular industries—like textiles, paper, leather and nuclear—and the books might be helpful to today’s students and historians.”

Dadoly’s parents were Greek immigrants. His mother, Efthymia Phousias Dadolys, worked in the Lowell textile mills from 1913 to 1920. His father, Konstantine Evangelos Dadolys, was a farmer who grew vegetables and fruit trees and raised animals to feed his family and many Greek Americans in Lowell during the Great Depression. Konstantine was also an entrepreneur.

Dadoly enrolled in Lowell Technological Institute to study engineering. He married the (literal) girl next door, Constance Margaret O’Neil '55, an alumna of the Lowell General Hospital School of Nursing. Constance worked as a registered nurse and was an artist.

“My wife told me that going to Lowell Tech was the best thing that ever happened to me because it made me practical,” Dadoly says of his late wife.

Twenty-six members of Dadoly’s family have attended, graduated or earned advanced degrees from UMass Lowell and its predecessor institutions, and his grandnephew is currently an engineering student.—JB

1971



Bob Ward '71, '12 (H) was awarded the 2021-2022 BioMedSA Award for Innovation in Healthcare and Bioscience. A serial inventor and entrepreneur whose contributions to medical innovation have benefitted millions of patients globally, Ward is currently the founder and president of ExThera Medical Corp., where he developed a method of extracting pathogens from blood that has been used on the frontline to battle COVID-19 and sepsis. Ward is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and has over 170 technical publications and more than 60 patents.



1976



Wayne Braverman has been named managing editor of The Bedford Citizen in his hometown of Bedford, Massachusetts. He has had a long career in local journalism in both print and digital media, most recently for Gannett and GateHouse Media New England.

Continued on page 46



Ellen O'Leary Coughlin '65 returned to campus with her son, Hud Coughlin '98, to see the portrait of her late father, former Lowell Teachers College/Lowell State College President Daniel O'Leary, which hangs in the foyer of the library named in his honor.



IT WAS A LITTLE DIFFICULT BEING THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER, I HAVE TO ADMIT. THE PLACE WAS SMALL ENOUGH THAT EVERYONE KNEW WHO YOU WERE."

—ELLEN O'LEARY COUGHLIN '65



> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1965

THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER

There was never any doubt where Lowell native Ellen O'Leary Coughlin '65 would go to college. "When you're the president's daughter, it's just expected," says O'Leary Coughlin, whose father, Daniel O'Leary, was president of Lowell Teachers College/Lowell State College from 1950 to 1965. O'Leary Coughlin, who now lives in Seabrook Island, South Carolina, returned to campus in September with one of her two sons, criminal justice master's alumnus Hud Coughlin '98, to visit the library named after her late father and admire his portrait hanging in the first-floor lobby.

"It was a little difficult being the president's daughter, I have to admit. The place was small enough that everyone knew who you were," says O'Leary Coughlin, who went on to become an elementary school teacher, first in Lowell and then New Hampshire.

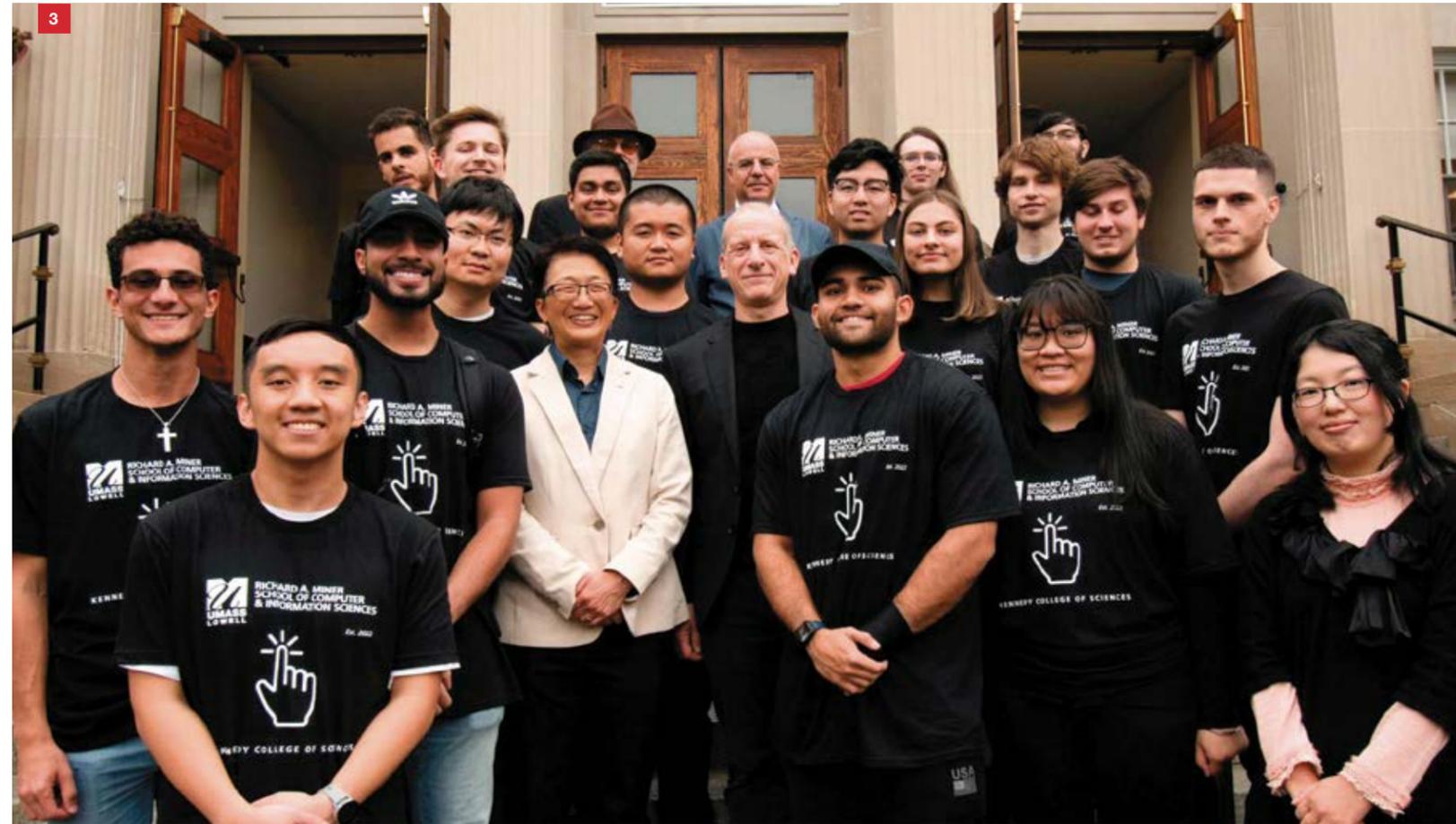
Her late husband, William Coughlin '67, became a professor and chair of the English Department. He also taught at Tewksbury High School, where he's credited with helping steer former Chancellor Jacquie Moloney '75, '92 to pursue a college education.

Ellen and William got married in 1967 at Concordia Hall—the new residence hall on what's now South Campus.

"We wanted a small wedding, and dad came up with the idea of Concordia," she says. "I think we're the only ones who ever married there."

O'Leary Coughlin was supposed to live in Concordia while attending Lowell State, but its construction was delayed, she recalls, because her father wanted to make sure the building was completely paid for before opening.

"He let me break the ground instead to keep me happy," she says with a smile. —EB



1. NANCY (QUILL) STEIN '81
2. JAMES COSTOS '85
3. RICH MINER '86, '89, '97
(See class notes on page 48)

Group picture, left to right: Jeff Pfeiffer, Frank Smith (on banjo), Frank McLaughlin, Rich Goldman, Jere Anderson, and Ron Hamel



> CLOSE-UP CLASSES OF 1973 AND 1974

Six Lowell Tech students who met as roommates or in student organizations formed a lifelong bond over folk music and rock 'n' roll. Four of them already played guitar when they started college, and the other two learned quickly. During the 1972-73 school year, three of them rented a cottage on Long Pond in Dracut, where they could make music together. A couple of weeknights and every weekend, all six jammed on the porch or in front of the fieldstone fireplace. And anyone else who came, friends and girlfriends, joined in, says Frank Smith '73, a retired Hewlett-Packard executive turned consultant.

"The rule was that if you were there, you had to play an instrument—even if you didn't play an instrument," Smith says. "So we had kazoos and tambourines. I sometimes played the spoons just to change it up."

Five decades later, the men still meet for a few days every year to play guitar, bass, banjo, ukulele, piano and harmonica together, minus Jeff Pfeiffer '74, who died last July.

During their first year at what was then Lowell Technological Institute, Pfeiffer taught his roommate, Ron Hamel '74, how to play guitar. Likewise, Smith—a sophomore—taught a few chords to roommate Frank McLaughlin '74, who practiced obsessively and learned fast. The "two Franks" met Rich Goldman '73, while working at The Text, the campus newspaper.

The whole crew came together through the Apple Corps, a student group that brought top musical acts to campus, helping to load and unload equipment and running errands for the visiting musicians. Jere Anderson '74 was a key member, Smith says.

"We had J. Geils, Livingston Taylor, Bob Dylan and The Rolling Thunder [Revue], the Byrds—the list goes on," says Smith. "We had the Steve Miller Band, Santana, Aerosmith, Judy Collins, Sha Na Na, Frank Zappa and even Cheech and Chong. Incredible for what was then a small New England college."

On campus, the six friends were instrumental in starting the Spring Carnival and opening a musical coffeehouse in the basement of Eames Hall, where Goldman and Anderson often played together. Ultimately, the six formed their own band. "We played in nursing homes and coffeehouses," Smith says. The first time someone asked "What's the band's name?", Smith said, "Jere and Friends," because Anderson was usually the lead vocalist.

After graduation, they stayed in touch, even as life and work pulled them in different directions. Anderson, a plastics engineer, is now working for a microbrewery. Hamel worked in software engineering, including for L. L. Bean. Goldman worked in strategic business processes and transformation, while McLaughlin worked in the commercial baking industry.

Pfeiffer was so serious about music that he apprenticed himself to a luthier in Concord, Massachusetts, after graduation and learned how to make classical guitars. Although later he worked in both engineering and general management, he used his luthier skills all his life to fix up and donate guitars to members of the military serving overseas as well as for music programs on the North Shore.

Pfeiffer and Smith remained especially close, thanks to Smith's wife, Jeannie. When Pfeiffer's college girlfriend broke up with him right after graduation, he told Jeannie, "I just want to meet a nice girl who wears denim skirts and peasant blouses," Smith recalls. Jeannie introduced him to her close friend, Nancy Dow. Pfeiffer and Dow married and raised three daughters together.

When the men had reached their mid-50s and most of their kids were grown, Smith took advantage of a perk that Hewlett-Packard offered—vacation time at a cabin campsite on Cape Cod—to organize a guitar reunion. "I said, 'Gee, it would be fun to get the guys together to play music again,'" he says. "That was 24 years ago."

The group met each fall, sometimes at a ski cabin in North Conway, New Hampshire, sometimes in rented beach houses in Maine. At first, everyone came except Goldman, who had settled in the Pittsburgh area. One year, though, Smith and Anderson drove out to a guitar workshop in Ohio and visited Goldman on the return trip. He's been coming to the reunions ever since.

In 2021, Pfeiffer asked the group to schedule their annual get-together in Woodstock, New York, where an international luthiers' convention is held every October. The Woodstock Invitational Luthiers Showcase was canceled because of a surge in COVID-19 cases, but the six men had a great time playing music together in the house they'd rented, which had a large fieldstone fireplace and a porch, just like the Long Pond cottage where they'd spent so many happy evenings as college students, Smith says.

It was their last full reunion; Pfeiffer died last July. He had amassed an impressive vintage guitar collection—and he willed one of his prize instruments each to his five friends, who all came to the memorial service. "His daughters had the guitars lined up, with our names on them," Smith says.

In October, the five went to Woodstock again in Pfeiffer's honor. "We all brought the vintage guitars that Jeff willed us, and each of us prepared a song to perform," Smith says.

With Pfeiffer gone, it was bittersweet, like playing a six-string guitar with a broken string. But they appreciated their time together all the more, and at the luthiers showcase, they all agreed:

"Jeff would have loved this." UML



“The rule was that if you were there, you had to play an instrument—even if you didn't play an instrument—so we had kazoos and tambourines. I sometimes played the spoons just to change it up.”

FRANK SMITH

Continued from page 41

1978

Jerry Colella '78, '19 (H), chairman of MKS Investments, who co-chaired UMass Lowell's recent chancellor search that resulted in the appointment of Julie Chen, joined the UMass system's Board of Trustees. ↗



Arthur Harding has had a 42-plus-year career as a Florida certified general contractor.

1980

Linda Marchi and **Susan Kattwinkel Navien** recently joined more than 60 students and alumni of the University Choir and Chamber Singers in an on-campus performance of Giuseppe Verdi's "Requiem," accompanied by the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra and Nashoba Valley Chorale. Other orchestra and choir alumni present included **Dick Liberty '77, Melody Tarbox '78** and **Carol Zingarelli '79**. ↗



Sean Moran retired after a long and successful career as an orthopedic surgeon in Damariscotta, Maine.

> BY BROOKE COUPAL

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1974

FROM PLAYER TO COACH

Peter Barrett '74 went from creating new businesses to helping fund the next generation's business ideas.

For the past 20 years, the chemistry alum has been a partner at Atlas Venture, a venture capital firm based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he has funded several startup biotech companies that focus on developing new therapies for diseases.

"I meet a lot of interesting people with really good ideas," says Barrett, who recalls one of his first investments with Atlas being in Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, an RNAi therapeutics company.

"To see when our companies are successful in creating a new therapy, and you meet the patients that it affects, it's really touching," he adds.

Barrett was initially hesitant about joining Atlas because of his lack of experience in venture capital. But after talking with investors, he found similarities between his past career experience with Connecticut-based Applera, formerly known as Perkin-Elmer, and being a venture capitalist.

"Being a venture capitalist is really like what I had been doing internally for Applera, where I was starting new business ventures all the time, except I'd be a coach versus a player," he says.

Barrett spent nearly 20 years at Applera, where he worked his way up to vice president of corporate planning and business development. In this role, he created new businesses in automation and PCR within the company.

"We were the company that commercialized PCR instruments for the research world," he says.

Barrett went on to co-found Celera Genomics, which announced the first successful sequencing of the human genome in 2000. Then-President Bill Clinton honored Celera Genomics at the White House, but Barrett had other plans that day.

"It was my parents' anniversary and we had already decided to take them on a cruise when we got a notice from the White House that they wanted us to come down for this big announcement about the genome sequencing," he says. "So, I told them, 'Can't go. Sorry.'"

Barrett says his career successes stem from his time at UML's predecessor Lowell Technological Institute. As a Peabody, Massachusetts, native who grew up with four siblings, Barrett chose to go to Lowell Tech for both its educational offerings and its affordability.

With an interest in science, Barrett pursued a chemistry major, interning in the lab of Professor Emeritus Eugene Barry, who introduced Barrett to analytical chemistry.

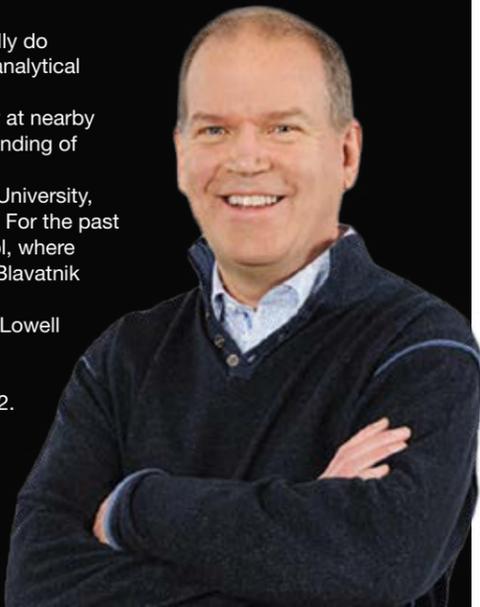
"The ability to go into a laboratory and actually do experiments is what got me really interested in analytical chemistry," he says.

Barrett went on to volunteer in the laboratory at nearby Lowell General Hospital to get a better understanding of analytical chemistry in the medical field.

He continued his education at Northeastern University, where he earned a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry. For the past five years, he taught at Harvard Business School, where he remains an executive fellow for the school's Blavatnik Fellowship in Life Science Entrepreneurship.

Barrett continues to give back to the UMass Lowell community, including with a recent donation to CatalyzeUML, a summer program for incoming, first-year chemistry majors that launched in 2022.

"CatalyzeUML is a great program; I love that it helps chemistry students get a head start in college," he says. [UML](#)



> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1981

Alum Helps Open Doors to Engineering Careers

From left, National Society of Black Engineers Lowell chapter co-founders **Greg Sydney '81** and **Rick Reese '81** spoke recently at the 40th anniversary celebration of the chapter.

Greg Sydney '81 struggled with the plastics engineering coursework during his first year at the University of Lowell. As a first-generation college student, he was balancing part-time work at a shipping plant and classes.

His family had moved from Trinidad and Tobago to Mattapan, Massachusetts, when Sydney was 12 years old. He earned good grades in high school, but didn't know what to expect in college.

Everything changed when he and his engineering classmate, Rick Reese '81, co-founded the Lowell chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers. Through the club, Sydney found friends, study partners and professors he could rely on.

He decided to come full circle at age 63, and has made it a priority to encourage students from backgrounds not historically represented in engineering to become engineers. Sydney donated \$30,000 and established the university's first endowed scholarship for members of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Sydney is now reaching out to classmates and colleagues to encourage them to support engineering students. "We need to get more role models in engineering from all communities," he says. —JB

1981

Nancy (Quill) Stein, a former WMJX Magic 106.7 DJ, was inducted into the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame in September after 38 years on the job. She has been called "the most listened to woman in the city of Boston," due to her nearly four decades on the air. She retired in 2020 and now keeps busy with voiceover work and maintains a small recording studio in her home. [1]

1982

Victor Sordillo has been appointed to the Corporate Advisory Board at Tevogen Bio, a late-stage clinical biotechnology company specializing in the development of cell and gene therapies in oncology, neurology and virology. He currently serves as an executive vice president at Somp International, leading a global team of experienced risk control professionals.

1983

Doug Reader was recognized by Titan 100 as a Titan of Industry, one of the Phoenix area's most accomplished business leaders. He is the president and CEO of Arizona Nutritional Supplements.

1984

Jerry Jannetti was promoted to the role of Southeast region president for WSP USA, a leading engineering and professional services consultancy, where he will provide leadership for the transportation, buildings, energy, environment, water and advisory markets.

1985

Judith Pistacchio Bessette recently published a memoir titled "Ma Belle France," describing the two years that she and her family lived in France in the late 1970s. She is the immediate past president of Lowell Celebrates Kerouac and a member of the committee working to establish the Kerouac Museum and Performing Arts Center in Lowell.

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> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1984

MARY BURNS IS FIRST WOMAN TO LEAD BUILDING AUTHORITY

A fourth-generation Lowell native and one of six siblings to graduate from UMass Lowell, Mary Burns '84 was elected chair of the 11-member UMass Building Authority (UMBA), which oversees the multibillion-dollar facility construction and renovation activities across the five campuses of the University of Massachusetts.

Burns is the first woman to lead the UMBA board, which builds and repairs academic buildings, laboratories, athletic facilities, heating plants, dormitories, campus dining commons, parking garages and other facilities.

"The 72,000-plus UMass students need and deserve world-class facilities that will prepare them for success in the global economy," says Burns, who owns and operates Splash Media, an out-of-home advertising company. "I look forward to the Building Authority playing a pivotal role in achieving that mission."

Burns, a UMass trustee, was also named vice chair of the 22-member University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees.

"I have witnessed firsthand Mary Burns' dedication to the UMass mission," says Jerry Colella '78, chairman of MKS Instruments. "The skill, energy and knowledge she will bring to her role as chair of the UMass Building Authority and vice chair of the Board of Trustees will benefit UMass students on all five campuses for generations to come."



Continued from page 47

James Costos, U.S. ambassador to Spain and Andorra from 2013 to 2017, was appointed to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, where he will oversee the prestigious academic program alongside 11 other representatives. "It's a great privilege to continue the work I did when I was at the embassy," he says. "I always wanted to spend a lot of my time with the next generation of folks who are coming up behind us, because they will be our future leaders, and we have to invest our time and our resources in them." [2]

Sean Sullivan is the executive director of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, where he worked to create the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition, the 16th initiative of its kind in the U.S. Today, 31 governments and over 90 private sector partners are working with Sullivan to address climate resiliency and extreme weather events throughout the Tampa Bay, Florida, region.

1986

Rich Miner '86, '89, '97 came to campus in the fall for the dedication of the new Richard A. Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences. Miner, an innovator in pioneering uses for computers and co-founder of both Android and Google's first venture fund, donated \$5 million and the state matched \$2 million to elevate the university's fast-growing computer and information sciences department to a school. [3]

1988

Kim Ann just published her 25th children's book, "Where Do Pirates Go on Vacation?" A best-selling author, Ann majored in business, but says she took several classes in creative writing, poetry and writing for children. When her son, Aidan, was born prematurely, she spent time reading to him while he was in a hospital neonatal intensive care unit—and now she runs every book draft by Aidan. "If he loves it, I know it's a winner!" says Ann, who grew up in Methuen, Massachusetts, but now lives in Huntington Beach, California. ↗



Continued on page 51

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1985

AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK AGAIN: THE EVOLUTION OF AN ENGINEER

As a first-generation college student and child of Chinese immigrants, Elena Yee '85 wasn't sure what to study at UMass Lowell, let alone what kind of career she wanted.

At her father's suggestion, she majored in industrial technology. She not only took a wide range of engineering classes, but learned how to analyze processes, write procedures and manage people—skills that have helped her through several career changes.

She credits the professors who ran the program, Donald Pottle and Jack Applebaum, who encouraged their students to take classes in the humanities and social sciences. Yee studied sociology, ceramics and writing. "They designed the major to have a very liberal arts feel because they sincerely believed we would be better engineers if we had a more holistic education," Yee says.

Now, Yee works as a college mental health counselor. So how did she get to here from there?

First, three engineering co-ops helped her to overcome the imposter syndrome she felt as one of a few women and the only student of color in most of her engineering classes. "They let me into that engineering world," she says.

She also learned to listen empathetically to skilled manufacturing workers, a talent she deployed when she entered the workforce, first with Raytheon's circuit boards division, then with GTE Government Systems and finally at Adams Russell, a small antennae and cable company in Amesbury, Massachusetts. "I met some of the best people on that production floor. They taught me so much," she says.

While still a UML student, Yee quietly "found God," and after seven years as an engineer, her growing faith led her to sign up to teach English for a year in China's Wuhan Province through the English Language Institute/China (ELIC), a Christian nonprofit. "I never had the intention to leave engineering; I thought it would just be a year, and then I'd go back."

But Yee discovered that she loved teaching. "I really cared about the people I worked with; I had such profound conversations," she says. When China canceled her visa to return for a



> BY KATHARINE WEBSTER

second year, she worked as a substitute teacher at a Christian elementary school in Alaska and then taught English one summer in Vietnam.

ELIC hired her to work at their headquarters in southern California, where she stayed for several years. But she wanted to get back into cross-cultural service, so she decided to pursue a master's degree in intercultural studies at Wheaton College in Illinois.

After working her way through school, she returned to Southern California to run the

international service-learning program at Westmont College, a small Christian school in Santa Barbara. Over several years, she evolved her role to become the college's first director of diversity and social justice, using the approach to processes and procedures she learned as an engineering student at UML.

"It's a way of learning, a way of analyzing things, allowing a little bit of distance to look at the most painful things going on, (including) racism and homophobia," she says. "It helped me to figure out, 'How do I grow the campus to be more diverse and less biased?'"

When Yee was in her late 40s, her mother got cancer and died, followed in rapid succession by her stepfather and father, so Yee moved back to the East Coast to support her sister and nieces. She found a job as diversity director at Providence College—and embarked on another career evolution. "I talked to a lot of student leaders and heard about some of their struggles, and I wanted to figure out what else I could do to support students in higher education."

She returned to graduate school once again, earning a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling at Rhode Island College. She got her first job as a counselor at Alfred University in New York while working towards full licensure, and now works at Ramapo College of New Jersey in Mahwah.

"Life is too short" not to grow and change—and UMass Lowell has kept pace, growing and changing into a world-class public research university while continuing to serve first-generation college students and children of immigrants like her, Yee says.

"I'm so proud of UMass Lowell," she says. "And I hope that from my story, students and alumni, especially Asian Americans, can see that the journey of a life can turn from the expected path, and yet you can still be a person who has respect." UML

“LIFE IS TOO SHORT NOT TO GROW AND CHANGE,” YEE SAYS—AND UMASS LOWELL HAS KEPT PACE, GROWING AND CHANGING INTO A WORLD-CLASS PUBLIC RESEARCH UNIVERSITY WHILE CONTINUING TO SERVE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS AND CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS LIKE HER.



> BY ED BRENNEN

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1997

ALL ACCORDING TO PLAN

Mike Carpenter '97 is working harder than ever in 'retirement'

In his 2018 book "Everything You've Never Tried: Breaking the Rules to Compete and Succeed as a Sales Leader," business alum Mike Carpenter '97 recounts interviewing with several of the top accounting firms in Boston after graduating from UML. Asked by one of the firm's partners where he saw himself when he was 40, the 20-year-old Carpenter, who had already started a web design business in college, confidently replied, "I want to be able to retire."

He wasn't far off: Carpenter recently retired at age 46 after a wildly successful two-decade career as a network security sales executive, including 13 years at McAfee and five at CrowdStrike, the cybersecurity company that revealed Russians hacked the Democratic National Committee's computer server to meddle in the 2016 U.S. elections.

Carpenter isn't the retiring type, however. The Peabody, Massachusetts, native has already founded a new company, XFactor.io, a platform that automates the go-to-market process for companies using real-time data. (The name comes from a strategy Carpenter developed during his career of identifying a new "X factor" every 90 days that would differentiate him from everyone else.) He's also writing a second book and has started two real estate projects: an 87-home development in Eagle, Idaho, and several mixed-use buildings in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he is raising his family.

"I thought retirement would be relaxed, but I think I'm working harder than I ever have," Carpenter says over Zoom after a morning workout. A football player and wrestler at St. John's Prep (and cornerback on the UML football team for one season), Carpenter found that his grades were always better when he was playing sports. He looks at retirement in a similar light.

"If I don't stay busy, then all the structure in my life starts to fall apart," he says.

Carpenter is getting back to work for another important reason: to fund a future charitable foundation. "I've been super fortunate, man, and I never take it for granted," he says. "I've been lucky with having incredible teams and people that were open to work with somebody that was different. They've allowed me to lead them all these years, and that's where the financial gains came from."

Carpenter recently married longtime partner Hope Jones (Snoop Dogg performed at the reception, see page 37). They are raising their 1-year-old and five kids from previous marriages in Alamo, California. (Carpenter has two kids with his first wife, nursing alum Kimberly Carpenter '99, whom he met at UML). After buying a five-bedroom contemporary for \$5.9 million in 2021, Carpenter and Jones spent \$2.5 million on renovations that include a pool table made from a 1959 Corvette and a teen's bedroom inside a \$125,000 Airstream trailer. The "arty funhouse" was featured on the website Mansion Global.

"It was certainly designed for fun. We are constantly entertaining," he says.

Originally a psychology major at UMass Amherst, Carpenter transferred to UML his sophomore year to be closer to his parents, the late Gerald and Bette Jean, and switched majors to accounting. "My dad had a small accounting business, and I grew up helping him with taxes, so it kind of came easy to me," he says.

After college, Carpenter moved to California and co-founded a company called Praetorian Group, a web portal that concentrated on safety services within the public sector. He enjoyed being an entrepreneur and his own boss, but realized he didn't understand how to scale a business. So at age 25, he sold his stake in Praetorian and joined McAfee.

"I was the youngest regional director they ever hired," says Carpenter, who climbed to president for the Americas in 2012.

Carpenter sees two common denominators in his success: the X factors and disciplined planning that he learned from his father and at UML. "All the planning I did every single year throughout my career came from my strong accounting background," he says.

To borrow an old job interview question, where does Carpenter see himself in another 20 years?

"I want to be doing a lot more foundation stuff, giving back," he says. "The world needs a lot more of that right now." [UML](#)

“ I WANT TO BE DOING A LOT MORE FOUNDATION STUFF, GIVING BACK. THE WORLD NEEDS A LOT MORE OF THAT RIGHT NOW.”

—MIKE CARPENTER '97



Continued from page 48

1992

Martha Mayo participated in a cooking class for alumni as part of the weeklong Homecoming festivities in the fall. We hear she cooked up a mean autumn chicken with roasted potatoes and sauteed haricot verts with rosemary butter. ↪



1993

Tiffany Appleton '93, '94 was named president of the board of directors at the Dakin Humane Society in Springfield, Massachusetts. "I joined Dakin initially as a volunteer to support that amazing human-animal bond," she says. "I quickly fell in love with Dakin and all the service offerings beyond adoption that further the mission of keeping people and their pets happy, healthy and together." She is also the associate director of employer relations at UMass Amherst.



Terri Pastori is pleased to announce that her firm, Pastori/Krans, in Concord, New Hampshire, has been named by Business NH Magazine as one of the "Best Companies to Work For" in 2022.

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> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2013

ROLLING UP HIS SLEEVES

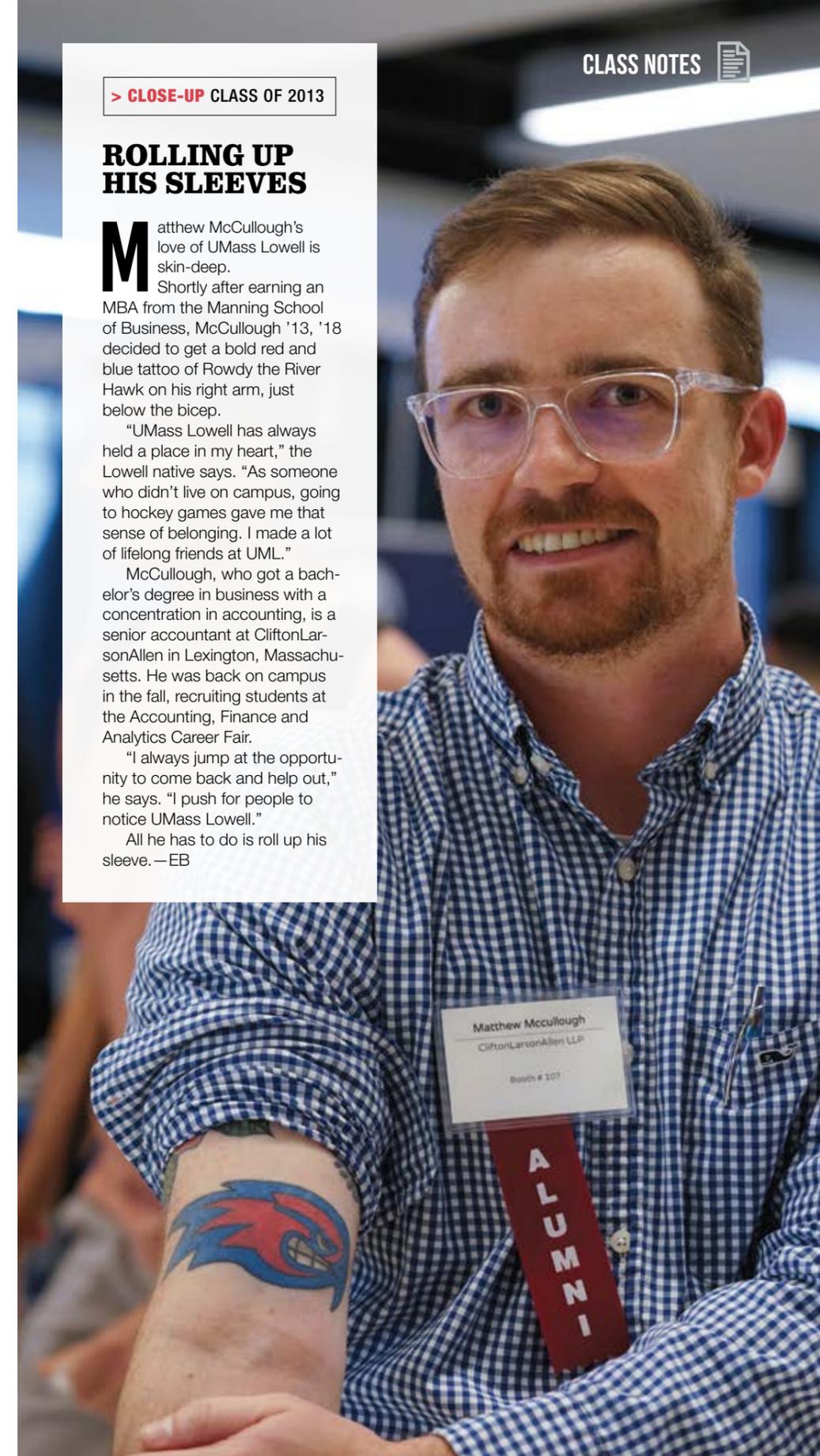
Matthew McCullough's love of UMass Lowell is skin-deep. Shortly after earning an MBA from the Manning School of Business, McCullough '13, '18 decided to get a bold red and blue tattoo of Rowdy the River Hawk on his right arm, just below the bicep.

"UMass Lowell has always held a place in my heart," the Lowell native says. "As someone who didn't live on campus, going to hockey games gave me that sense of belonging. I made a lot of lifelong friends at UML."

McCullough, who got a bachelor's degree in business with a concentration in accounting, is a senior accountant at CliftonLarsonAllen in Lexington, Massachusetts. He was back on campus in the fall, recruiting students at the Accounting, Finance and Analytics Career Fair.

"I always jump at the opportunity to come back and help out," he says. "I push for people to notice UMass Lowell."

All he has to do is roll up his sleeve. —EB



> BY BROOKE COUPAL

Continued from page 51

1994



Craig McAnough joined PACE-RI as chief financial officer and a member of the organization's executive committee. He brings 28 years of financial leadership to the nonprofit organization. PACE-RI is a health plan for adults

55 and older who have chronic health needs and wish to stay at home.

Matthew Connors joined Hancock Associates as regional engineering manager. He has nearly 30 years of experience in site and civil engineering, project management and construction administration.

1995

Maria Dickinson, economic development officer for the City of Lowell, was among a group of alumni who joined UML's Saab Center of Portuguese Studies in visiting on campus with José Manuel Bolieiro, president of the Government of the Autonomous Region of the Azores. Also present were **Analise Saab Brown '18** and **Elisia Saab '13 (H)**.



From left: Analise Saab Brown '18, Susana Mira Leal, state Rep. Vanna Howard, President José Manuel Bolieiro, Chancellor Julie Chen, Elisia Saab '13 (H) and Maria Dickinson '95 of the City of Lowell Economic Development Department.

1996

Sean Mullin joined Amentum, a technical and engineering services government contractor, as executive vice president of business development.

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2013

ROCKET WOMAN

Just over a third of the NASA workforce is female, but Evana Gizzi '13, '14 has high hopes that more women will join STEM fields.

"I have observed that women have an especially unique leadership capability," says Gizzi, a principal investigator at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. "I have had some of the greatest successes on projects that were led by women."

In the fall, Gizzi was invited to address incoming students at the university's Convocation ceremony. Two months later, she staffed a NASA booth at the university's Career Fair. Having interned at NASA while a doctoral student at Tufts (where she earned a Ph.D. in AI, after getting bachelor's and master's degrees in applied and computational mathematics at UML), Gizzi says she wants to help give UMass Lowell students more opportunities for career-connected work.

"Students can bring a cutting-edge perspective to help solve problems, especially in AI," says Gizzi, who works on a project called Research in Artificial Intelligence for Spacecraft Resilience, which she created in 2020 while a NASA intern. Her team focuses on using artificial intelligence to speed up the detection and repair of problems in spacecraft.

Gizzi says she didn't always aspire to work in artificial intelligence, but a required computing course she took during her junior year at UML changed her trajectory. Her professor, triple River Hawk Mark Sherman '08, '10, '17, who at the time was pursuing a Ph.D. in computer science, told Gizzi that she had a "knack for coding."

"That really empowered me," she says.

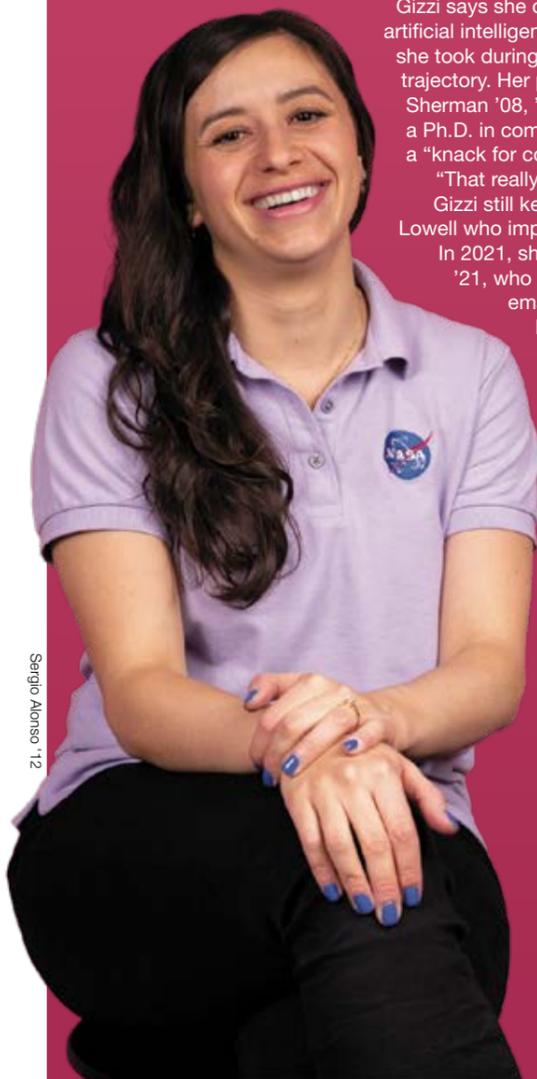
Gizzi still keeps in touch with people at UMass Lowell who impacted her life.

In 2021, she married Navy veteran Mitchell Conway '21, who also earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at UML. Computer Science Prof.

Fred Martin attended their wedding, and Gizzi's bridal party consisted of mostly UML alumni.

She says being surrounded by people who wanted her to succeed is what made UMass Lowell so special.

"Throughout my entire time at UMass Lowell, I had become so conditioned to exist among those who believed in me that I would go on in my career to exclusively seek out people where there was mutual encouragement of one another," she says. [UML](#)



Sergio Alonso '12

Tyler Valila '16 and his wedding party, which includes seven UML grads

1998

Field Hockey Coach **Shannon LeBlanc '98** met up with former River Hawk athletes during an annual Sunset Social at the university's Bellegarde Boathouse on the Merrimack River, including: **Stacey Pincus-Kraft '06**, **Taylor Pittsinger '07**, **Kelsey Federico '18** and **Kelly Mankowich '18**.



From left: Kelly Mankowich '18, Taylor Pittsinger '07, Field Hockey Coach Shannon LeBlanc '98, Stacey Pincus-Kraft '06 and Kelsey Federico '18

Joshua Romano '98, '22 was named principal at Leominster High School in Massachusetts. He is a longtime teacher and administrator who fought in the U.S. military in the Middle East and gained national headlines for his anti-cyberbullying efforts.

1999

Jim Bennett, owner of NGE, recently opened a new location for Next Generation Elite Sports Performance in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. NGE is a dynamic strength and conditioning and sports fundamental program for area athletes of all ages who want to see improvement in their games.

Julie Briere '99 and **Anne Perriello '99, '01**, both former student athletes, were among those who reunited in the River Hawks Nest Tent during Homecoming. Briere is an adjunct faculty member in UML's Solomont School of Nursing, and Perriello recently made history when she was named the first female police chief for the town of Pelham, New Hampshire. [\[4\]](#)

2000

Leslie Bonde Jr. has been appointed managing director of Raytheon Doha, a Raytheon subsidiary. Previously, he served as general manager of Raytheon in the Sultanate of Oman and as a senior executive for growth and relationships in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He also led Raytheon's Integrated Air & Missile Defense business for Qatar and served as program director for the Oman Ground Based Air Defense System.

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LASTING CONNECTIONS

When Tyler Valila '16 married his wife, Matia, last spring in Florida, several River Hawks flew to town to join in the festivities.

"It is not too often you see this: Eight UMass Lowell graduates in the same wedding," says Valila, whose groomsmen were all UML alumni except for his brother, the best man. "Even the officiant was a UMass Lowell grad!"

Valila is a transportation engineer at employee-owned consulting firm HDR in Orlando, Florida, where he works on a variety of projects in the surrounding communities—including shared-use paths, rotaries and bike facilities.

Outside of work, he serves as chair of the Orlando chapter of Young Professionals in Transportation.

"Between my passion for my career and my club activities, I have found a great medium to actively engage and understand other professions within transportation, such as planning and landscape architecture," he says, crediting his days at UML for launching him on his path.

"UMass Lowell is the bedrock for my work thus far, as the university provided a learning environment with world-class professors and acted as a launching pad for my graduate school work at the University of Florida and my career," he says. "For this, I am grateful."

NOTE: In the last issue of UML Magazine, we incorrectly stated that Tyler Valila '16 married Fabio Braz '15. The latter was instead a groomsman in the wedding of Valila and his new wife, Matia. We regret the error.



Sima Suon (front row, second from right) representing Cambodia at the Southeast Asian Games

the Southeast Asian Games in Hanoi, Vietnam. It was the first time a Cambodian women's basketball team had competed on the international stage since 1974, before the Khmer Rouge genocide.

"I was proud that we were able to take the floor and compete," says Suon, who joined the board of the Lowell-based USA-Cambodia Basketball Association in 2019 and started scouring the country for players to field a team for the biennial competition. She eventually found three players on the West Coast, and after just a few practices together in California, they headed to Vietnam for the Games, where they finished 0-6.

"It was challenging, but the bigger purpose here was laying the groundwork for the development of Cambodian women's basketball," says Suon, who is now working on recruiting a dozen players for a full 5-on-5 team for the 2024 Southeast Asian Games, which will be held in Cambodia in May 2024.

Taking part in the opening ceremonies at the Games in Vietnam, which were delayed a year because of the pandemic, is something Suon will never forget.

"We all watch the Olympics and see athletes marching out with their teams," she says. "There's a lot of pride that goes along with it when you're out there waving your country's flag. It lights a fire inside of you, but also gives you chills at the same time."

A state champion javelin thrower in high school, Suon won America East Conference championships in the event for the River Hawks in both her junior and senior years. She holds the UML record with a throw of 140 feet, 2 inches.

After graduating cum laude with a bachelor's degree in psychology, Suon earned a master's degree in sports administration from the University of Miami, where she worked as a graduate assistant with the women's basketball team. She returned home in 2018 and landed a job as an athletic academics and compliance assistant at UML.

Just as sports provided an important outlet in her youth, Suon is grateful to have found her calling through athletics.

"I'm not going to play forever, but a lot of finding my passion and purpose and identity in life has come with trying to figure out how I can still be part of that world—how to use my skills and knowledge and experience to better whatever I'm doing," she says. "If we can inspire the next round of Cambodian women basketball players to be proud of their heritage, and to aspire to be on a national team and go to college and play, that's all I can hope for." [UML](#)



6



7



4



5

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2017

> BY ED BRENNEN

Hoop Dreams

Sima Suon '17 Represents Cambodia at Southeast Asian Games

For a hyperactive only child like Sima Suon '17, sports were a great outlet as a kid growing up in Lowell—and, she says, "a blessing" for her Cambodia-born parents, who didn't know what else to do with all her energy.

But even though Lowell has the second largest Cambodian American population in the country (behind Long Beach, California), Suon noticed that not many girls looked like her on the soccer fields and basketball courts.

"That's very rooted in the tradition of our

culture," she says. "Women don't really play sports; they're doing house tasks, going to school, taking care of siblings, parents, grandparents. There's not much room for extracurricular activities."

Suon, a former javelin thrower on the UML women's track and field team who is now an athletic academic coordinator for the River Hawks, is working to change that. Last May, she organized and played on a 3-on-3 women's basketball team that represented Cambodia at

Continued from page 53

2004

Washington Alves was appointed vice president of biologics manufacturing at Tectonic Therapeutic Inc., a pre-clinical stage biotechnology company.

2006

Todd Brodie was named by Software Report to the Top 25 Software Leaders of Connecticut for 2022. He is the director of security at Collibra, which offers solutions such as risk mitigation and data analytics for industries including health care, retail and finance.

2008

Chris Kennedy was named superintendent of the Thomasville City Schools in North Carolina. He served as assistant superintendent of the school district since 2020.

2009

Ruben Sança '09, '11 (also featured on page 6) unofficially tops the Guinness World Record for "fastest mile pushing a pram." He finished in 4:32.2 while pushing his 5-year-old son at the High Street Mile road race in Newburyport this summer.

Scott Smith has joined Tighe & Bond as the director of safety and health. He has worked on a global scale facilitating hazard analysis and reducing costs, risks and recordable injuries for companies across North America, Canada and Asia.

2010

Francisco Urena was appointed as provisional manager at Lawrence Municipal Airport in North Andover. Urena most recently served as deputy director of military initiatives at MassDevelopment.



Francisco Urena with Lawrence Mayor Brian DePeña

> BY ED BRENNEN

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2021

Three-Dimensional Thinker

Jonathan Aguilar '21 grows CADSPARC at iHub

Opportunity knocked on Jonathan Aguilar's River Hawk Village door in the fall of 2020. While most of the campus was shut down because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Aguilar '21 was living in the East Campus residence hall with several fellow mechanical engineering majors—people with whom he shared interests in computer-aided design (CAD) and 3D printing.

Through his participation in the Rist DifferenceMaker program, Aguilar had already started his own company earlier that year called CADSPARC, which offers customized design services for 3D printing. When he learned that students on his floor needed to print 3D models for classes but couldn't use the Lawrence Lin MakerSpace because it was closed, he came to their rescue with VirtualPrint, a website he'd created where users could upload their design and have it printed on a networked 3D printer—in this case, the one in Aguilar's dorm room.

Aguilar and his friends were soon providing free 3D printing to dozens of students and

receiving orders from as far away as California. "That's when we saw a business opportunity," says Aguilar, who registered the VirtualPrint business that fall and moved it, as part of CADSPARC, to the UMass Lowell Innovation Hub in Haverhill, where it has been growing ever since.

"I never thought I was going to own my own company. I was just focusing on a project, and then the project turned into something real," says Aguilar, who has employed a half-dozen interns from UML and other local colleges at the Haverhill iHub.

Born in New York City and raised in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Aguilar discovered a passion for CAD while at Northern Essex Community College. A first-generation college student, he began taking dual-enrollment courses at UML through the Northeast Consortium of Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts partnership before transferring to UML in 2018. Meanwhile, Aguilar landed a full-time job as a research assistant with the MIT Mechanical Engineering Sloan Automotive Laboratory, where he spent four years working for professors and MIT-affiliated startups. In 2017, he became a published author with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

With CADSPARC, Aguilar's goal is to develop partnerships with local business accelerators and incubators that need help with prototyping for digital manufacturing.

"A lot of technologies are becoming digital and need 3D data," says Aguilar, whose company was named "Rising Star Supplier of the Year" at a statewide "Celebration of Manufacturing" in October. "We're trying to accelerate innovation by making 3D CAD models for these digital technologies."

He is also giving back. Last summer, CADSPARC hosted a two-week "Hacking for Design" summer camp for 14 Haverhill high school students interested in 3D printing.

The free program was funded by the city of Haverhill.

"It feels great to be able to apply what I learned in school in the real world," Aguilar says. "This is definitely my dream job."

UML

2011

Laura (Fickenwirth) Dyas and **Sam Dyas** welcomed a baby girl, Sybil, in July 2021.



Matthew Scanio reports that he is working as a private driver for the rapper Swae Lee in Miami Beach.



Daniel Serafin was named chief technology officer of MutualOne Bank, headquartered in Framingham, Massachusetts. He most recently served as chief information officer at Savers Bank.

2012

Sophie Hansen got married in June 2022, with her fellow Class of 2012 classmates Eddie Silva officiating and Ashley (Tello) Auston serving as her maid of honor.



Laura Dewhirst completed her doctoral program in 2020 and is now a doctoral-level psychologist specializing in the treatment of psychosis and schizophrenia. She is working as a licensed clinical psychologist at North Memorial Hospital in Minneapolis.

Continued on page 58

> CLOSE-UP CLASSES OF 2018 AND 2019

> BY KATHARINE WEBSTER

LOVE BIRDS

Study Abroad Trip Holds Special Meaning for River Hawk Couple

Cathryn Cook '18 and Arick Forsyth '19 met when they signed up for the first Honors College study abroad course in San Sebastian, Spain, in spring 2015.

"We had a meeting at O'Leary Library before we left, and I remember sitting there thinking, 'There aren't very many cute boys at this table,'" says Cook, a nursing major. "Then Arick came in with this girl I kind of knew through family friends and I thought, 'Never mind!'"

Students in the three-week summer program, led by Honors Visiting Prof. Julian Zabalbeascoa, study Spanish in the mornings and experience Basque history and culture in the afternoons. Cook and Forsyth were placed in the same Spanish class and sat together every day.

Their romance blossomed, and they started dating in September, with Cook driving from her home in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, to Acton to see Forsyth and meet some of his 11 brothers and sisters. (Seven of the eight oldest attended or are attending UML; the rest plan to apply. Cook's older brother, Michael '14, is also an alum.)

Cook graduated first and now works as a nurse at Lowell General Hospital. Forsyth, a chemical engineering major, graduated a year later after doing two co-ops. He went on for a master's degree in engineering management at Tufts University and works as a process engineer at Vor Biopharma.

Along the way, they traveled. "We went to Amsterdam, Paris and Italy after she graduated, and then after I graduated, we went to Ireland and England," Forsyth says. "San Sebastian was the first place I'd ever been to out of the country without my family, so it definitely sparked the travel bug."

San Sebastian remained their special place. So when FitzAnthony '19, Forsyth's next youngest brother and closest friend, spotted cheap tickets to Spain last spring, Forsyth and Cook decided to celebrate their seventh anniversary as a couple by going back. They were accompanied by Fitz, Steve Murphy '19, a good friend who had been on the original Honors College trip with them, and Murphy's girlfriend, Estee Lewis.

Forsyth had been planning to propose since they booked the trip, "but he was playing it so cool" that Cook was surprised, she says. As the group strolled along La Concha Beach boardwalk on the couple's anniversary, Forsyth dropped to one knee and popped the question. "Estee was blocking people from walking in front of us, Steve was taking the video, Fitz was carrying the ring—it was a group effort," Cook says.

Then they did as the Spanish do: They went out to an excellent restaurant and celebrated over a tasting menu and good wine.

Back in Lowell, where they live now, they sent a photo of the proposal to Zabalbeascoa to let him know the good news. They plan to get married this summer. "As soon as we got engaged, one of Arick's brothers said, 'We're having a pickleball competition to determine the best man,'" Cook laughs.



Continued from page 57

2013

Shannon Sullivan-Gillis was appointed public health director for the town of Tewksbury, Massachusetts. She works with the Board of Health to promote healthy living and food safety in the community.

2014

Josh Holmstrom was named director of hockey operations at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He was previously the head coach of the Eastern Hockey League's Walpole Express, after playing professional hockey for six seasons.

Michael Baldassarre was named interim superintendent of the Uxbridge Public Schools. He previously served as assistant superintendent for pupil services in Woburn Public Schools.

2015

Blake Bamford joined the Needham Bank Commercial & Industrial Lending group as senior vice president and structured finance relationship manager. He has over 13 years of experience in financial services, with expertise in C&I lending and customer relationship management.

Kathleen Oram recently graduated with a Ph.D. in imaging science from the Rochester Institute of Technology and is currently working at the MIT Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, Massachusetts.

2016

Nicholas "Nico" Quigley, a musician and music teacher in the Randolph Public Schools in Massachusetts, self-released his seventh studio album in August. Called "Why Is This Happening to Me?", the album features entirely original electronic music with singing, spoken word and soundscape recordings. Quigley says the album explores "climate change, capitalism, mental health and social non-conformity/exclusion from dominant groups." [5]

2017

Dustin DeJoy '17, '19 is the new Mansfield High School band director and music teacher. He previously taught the Methuen High School marching band, the Spartans Drum and Bugle Corps, the Norton High School band and the Boston University band.

G

GOING PLACES

Profiles of young alumni whose student experiences led to full-time jobs

> BY KATHARINE WEBSTER

Emily Saylor '22 Skipped an Economics Class—and Ended Up with a Job

EMILY SAYLER '22 HAD ALREADY been accepted at UMass Lowell as a transfer student in business when, during her final semester at Middlesex Community College, she took a class in microeconomics.

"It was phenomenal—I loved it," says Saylor, a native of Georgetown, Texas, whose family moved to Massachusetts right after she graduated from high school. "Before that, I had been interested in economics, but maybe I was selling myself short; I thought it would be too difficult."

Saylor, an Honors College student, switched majors before arriving on campus, but she was still too new to economics to know what kind of job would interest her. "I wasn't sure of my direction, so I decided I was going to try a bit of everything," she says.

She took a broad range of classes, did research with professors, including department Chair Monica Galizzi, and joined the Economics Society and the Federal Reserve Challenge student team. She also began applying for internships.

Saylor completed three internships—all of them paid—starting the summer after her junior year. She worked in market research at Nielsen IQ, which provides consumer research to businesses. She did a finance internship with investment management firm Loomis Sayles & Co. And she interned with international economic consulting firm Compass Lexecon's Boston office, which led to a full-time job as an airline industry analyst after graduation.

"I'm very much loving the job," she says. "Right away, I've been put into some very interesting projects and have had opportunities to do impactful work."

Saylor's interest in Compass Lexecon began while she was taking Galizzi's class in Labor Economics. Galizzi encouraged her students to skip class if they wanted to

attend an online information session with the firm. Saylor did—and then followed up, emailing one of the economists to ask how she could make an internship application stand out. The economist advised her to get as much research and economic data analysis experience as possible.

Saylor, who did three research projects in Galizzi's class, then worked with Galizzi and Criminology Prof. April Pattavina on research into the economics of domestic violence.

She also was accepted as an Emerging Scholar for her senior year, when she researched academic freedom in different countries around the world with Honors College Dean Jenifer Whitten-Woodring, a political scientist, and Education Prof. A.J. Angulo. Saylor co-authored a paper with the two professors and global studies Ph.D. student Emma Peterson, and Whitten-Woodring brought Saylor to the International Studies Association Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, to help present it.

Saylor says her research experiences gave her two "phenomenal" academic mentors, both women. That's important, Saylor says, because she's going into a field with very few women.

"Prof. Galizzi has brought me opportunity after opportunity and believed in me every step of the way. She's just been my biggest supporter," she says. "And Prof. Whitten-Woodring made graduate school seem realistic for me. I know that graduate school is somewhere in my future."

At UMass Lowell, Saylor discovered that "one opportunity begets another."

"Being able to talk about those Labor Economics research experiences led to the market research internship, which led to the economic consulting internship and the Emerging Scholarship," she says. "You get to the point where professors will think about you for opportunities."



She also joined a sorority with a strong service focus, Alpha Sigma Tau, and served as president of the Economics Society her senior year.

"At UMass Lowell, I was able to find a home, find friends and get leadership experience," she says. "I don't think my experience is unique; I think those opportunities are there for anyone who seeks them out and is willing to work for them."

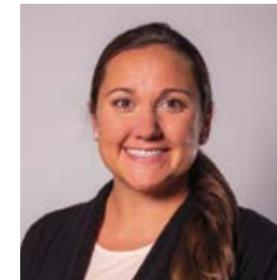
UML



Being able to talk about those Labor Economics research experiences led to the market research internship, which led to the economic consulting internship and the Emerging Scholarship. You get to the point where professors will think about you for opportunities."

— EMILY SAYLER

Elizabeth Plume was named development director at Breaktime, a Boston-based nonprofit that supports youth experiencing homelessness. She has worked in the nonprofit sector for more than eight years, most recently as the development manager at the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. ↪



2018

Courtney Graffeo was named head coach of the Tewksbury Memorial High School girls cross country team, becoming just the fourth coach since 1978.

Ralph St. Louis '18, '20 was named one of Time's Innovative Teachers for 2022, which recognizes teachers across the country who are improving their field and making a difference for their students in unique ways. St. Louis was one of 10 teachers selected among hundreds of nominees. A biology teacher at Lowell High School, he was honored for his advocacy for equity in schools. He has pushed for the Educator Diversity Act in the state legislature and worked with his school to enact programming and curriculum to help students and educators of color feel comfortable and succeed. ↪



Tiffany Sammy is the bassist of the Somerville-based "bubblegrunge" band Mint Green. The band debuted its first full-length LP this summer, "All Girls Go to Heaven." She is also a member of various other bands, including her own, called "Tiffany." Sammy also teaches music. [6]

Dana Sheridan is a member of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, a Boston-based choir that performs with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops. She had the opportunity to sing on stage during the July 4th

Pops Fireworks Spectacular this year. Sheridan has made a career of performing and teaching music; during the pandemic, she started a YouTube channel called Sheridan Studio Music to teach music to students stuck at home. ↪



2019

Nick Lampson '19, '20 is the new school resource office for Hudson High School. He previously worked as a patrol officer for the Hudson Police Department. ↪



Christy Whittlesey, coordinator of K-12 Fine and Performing Arts at the Chelmsford Public Schools, was named publications editor at the Massachusetts Music Educators Association. She is also the author of "It's OK to Say They" and "The Beginner's Guide to Being a Trans Ally" and is a sought-after speaker on transgender issues. [7]

2021

Christianto Putra, who earned a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences, is now a scientist at SeqWell in Beverly, Massachusetts. He was the lead author (with four UML faculty) on a July 2022 published paper about titanium dioxide levels in the human body. According to Assoc. Prof. Kelsey Mangano, Putra was the reason that she pursued the funding from the USDA, which awarded the team a nearly \$500,000 grant. "Chris is the reason my lab moved in this direction," she says. "He saw a research gap in this area and wanted to quantify titanium dioxide exposure in humans using stool, something that hasn't been done before."

Events Calendar

For the latest information on locations and other details, go to alumni.uml.edu.

MARCH 2023

3 HONORS COLLEGE ALUMNI APPRECIATION HOCKEY NIGHT
Pre-game Gathering, 6-7 p.m.
Game, Tsongas Center, 7:15 p.m.



9 ON THE ROAD: NEW YORK CITY,
Victor's Cafe, 5:30 p.m.



ON THE ROAD: FLORIDA
11 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE,
Naples, 10 a.m.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON,
Bistro 821, Naples, 12:30 p.m.

12 UMASS ALUMNI & FRIENDS GAME WATCH

RED SOX VS. YANKEES
Jet Blue Park, Fort Myers, Time TBD

14 NAPLES SPEAKER EVENT
Jenifer Whitten-Woodring, Dean,
Honors College
Naples Grand Resort, 5:30 p.m.

16 PALM BEACH SPEAKER EVENT
Jenifer Whitten-Woodring, Dean,
Honors College
EAU Palm Beach Resort and Spa,
Manalapan, 5:30 p.m.

15 MULTICULTURAL STUDENT AND ALUMNI NETWORKING AND CAREER NIGHT
Coburn Hall, 6 p.m.

16 YOUNG ALUMNI AND CLASS OF 2023 NIGHT AT THE UMASS CLUB
UMass Club, Boston, 6 p.m.

APRIL 2023

1 UML DAY OF SERVICE

11-13 DAYS OF GIVING
Begins April 11 at noon and ends
April 13 at noon



12 CELEBRATION OF CHANCELLOR CHEN AND TASTE OF LOWELL
University Crossing

13 INAUGURATION OF CHANCELLOR CHEN
Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell

18 BFA SHOW
South Campus, 5:30 p.m.

23 CHRIS SULLIVAN VETERANS MEMORIAL 5K
Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell
8:30 a.m. registration
10 a.m. race

MAY 2023

11-13 50TH REUNION
All over campus



JUNE 2023

2 SOUNDS OF PORTUGAL: AN EVENING OF FADO
Reception, Coburn Hall, 5 p.m.
Concert, Durgin Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.



21 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center



When it comes to dancing, generations of River Hawks have followed Fred Astaire's lead to "Do it big, do it right and do it with style." These students donned their finest for the 1959 Senior Prom: formal dinner jackets and black ties, crinoline skirts, pearls and corsages. The photo is from the Florence (Zaheer) Lacouture Collection in the university's archives at the Center for Lowell History. Lacouture, who graduated from Lowell State Teachers College in 1959, took thousands of photos during her student years, as an alumna and as an employee of the university. It was her mission to preserve the history of the institution she loved. Lacouture donated her collection of photos and archival materials to the university shortly before her death in 2006.

NOW...



More than 60 years later, River Hawks still like to dress up and get down, this time for the Fall Ball. While there is far more variety in formal attire nowadays, these students share with their predecessors the desire to do it big and do it right. They, too, are guided by an abiding sense of style and an enduring study hard/have fun ethos that is part of the campus DNA.



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IT'S ME, HI!

Hey alumni, be like Tyler and check in once in a while and let us know how you're doing! New job? Newly married? Some other fabulous accomplishment? Send us a class note at: alumni.uml.edu/classnotes.

Tyler Lagasse '19 won a gold medal for golf in the Special Olympics National Games last summer. This was his first gold medal after taking home silver in 2010, 2014 and 2018. Says Tyler: "To all the people living with autism or a disability: I hope you know that you are capable of anything you set your mind to."

