UML

UMASS LOWELL MAGAZINE

SPRING 2025

FASHION FORWARD

Innovation never goes out of style at UMass Lowell

Got LINC?
Read how it's a game-changer for UML and Lowell!

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Fashion Forward
P. 24

UMass Lowell researchers are pushing the boundaries of fashion with fabrics of the future. Coming soon: power-generating jackets (cover) and self-healing sneakers (above).

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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,

Welcome to the "Fashion Issue" of the UMass Lowell alumni magazine!

Fashion may seem like a surprising theme for a university publication, but here in Lowell—where the Industrial Revolution took root—it's woven into the very fabric of our history. From the historic mills that once powered the textile industry to today's cutting-edge research in smart fabrics and sustainable materials, UMass Lowell continues to innovate at the intersection of textiles, technology and creativity.

In this issue, you'll explore the future of fashion, including groundbreaking work in advanced textiles happening right here on campus. You'll also dive into thought-provoking discussions on the cost of fast fashion, meet alumni who are making waves in the fashion industry and discover the stories of our own stylish students and faculty.

Be sure to check out our special insert on the Lowell Innovation Network Corridor, or LINC, which outlines eight transformative ways UMass Lowell and the city are working together to shape an exciting future.

Enjoy the issue—and thank you for staying connected to UMass Lowell!

Warmly,

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ONE SMART OUTFIT

English Senior Adjunct Prof. Bernadette Stockwell '19 literally wore her dissertation on her sleeve with this homemade outfit. She also authored a piece for Psychology Today on how what we wear can make us feel. "The feeling of belonging in a group often stems from wearing the costume of that group," she wrote. "And, in belonging, we attain a sense of acceptance, calm and, maybe, happiness." Read more on page 17.

On the shortlist

TWO RECENT UML GRADS were named to the Boston Business Journal's annual BostInno 25 Under 25 list, which spotlights rising innovators age 25 and younger in Greater Boston who are "making big moves."

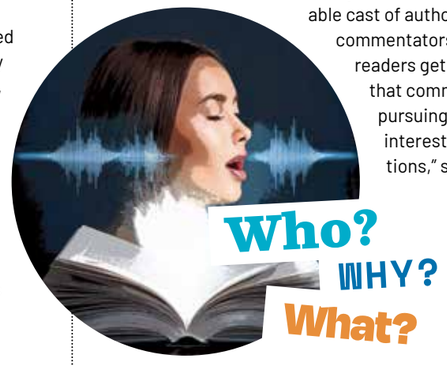
Business alum Jeurys Santiago '23 (above left) founded Minds With Purpose, a marketing and networking agency dedicated to fostering growth, collaboration and impact, particularly within the multicultural communities of Lawrence, Massachusetts, where he lives.

Computer science grad Nuno Mestre '24 developed Rent Scoop, a website designed to make the process of renting an apartment more transparent by providing access to community-driven data on current and past prices.

"I was super-excited to hear that I made the list," says Mestre, who is currently pursuing a graduate degree in computer science at UML.

Invention of the Year?

JOHN KAAG IS A philosophy professor, a noted author and, now a celebrated inventor. Kaag's new venture, Rebind, which he co-launched with University of Missouri-Kansas City philosophy Prof. Clancy Martin, was named a top invention of 2024 by Time Magazine. Rebind uses AI to transform classic literature into an interactive experience with expert guides such as Lena Dunham, Deepak Chopra and Margaret Atwood answering readers' questions. "I've heard a lot of fears from people about how AI is going to destroy the arts and humanities. But this project is headed by creatives and scholars, and it has full buy-in from a remarkable cast of authors and commentators. And readers get to explore that commentary by pursuing their own interests and questions," says Kaag.



COMING IN HOT

The men's basketball and ice hockey teams got off to hot starts this winter. The men's hoopsters won their first 10 games at home and were ranked in the top 25 nationally in several team categories as of late January. Meanwhile, the men's ice hockey squad won the inaugural Coachella Valley Cactus Cup in Palm Desert, California, in early January. At press time, the team was ranked No. 8 in the country.

Forward Max Brooks is on fire. He became the program's all-time leader in blocked shots this season and is among the NCAA leaders in blocks and field goal percentage..

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

Scary Good: UML Alt-Rock Band the Ghouls on a Roll after Rumble Win

The Ghouls perform at Rock& Roll Rumble.

Just one year after four UML musicians got together to perform at a senior recital, they won the most storied music contest in Boston.

The alt-rock band the Ghouls burst onto the Greater Boston music scene last May by winning the Rock & Roll Rumble, believed to be the longest-running "battle of the bands" in the U.S.

As winners, the band scooped up more than $23,000 worth of prizes, including recording time and mixing and mastering services from five different studios.

"We just went out and did our thing," says guitarist Peter Trainor, a 2024 sound recording technology (SRT) graduate from Westford, Massachusetts.

The Ghouls haven't been doing their thing for long. They got together when George Danahy '24, who majored in composition for new media, began looking for other students to play in his senior recital in April 2023. He was soon joined by Trainor, bassist and fellow SRT major Jacob Babcock '24 and drummer Bryce Maher, who is currently a senior music studies major.

The band, whose music is inspired by groups such as the Cure and the Strokes, makes regular appearances at the Taffeta and the Worthen in Lowell. Crowds are drawn to their high-energy performances, which include Danahy, the lead vocalist and guitarist, hurling himself onto the floor while continuing to sing and play.

With the studio time and mixing and mastering services that they won through the Rumble, the Ghouls are cutting an album, one song at a time.

They are still a little incredulous about their success at the Rumble.

"It was very surreal that we went all the way," says Trainor.

EPA GRANTS WILL TARGET SAFER ALTERNATIVES TO TOXIC SOLVENTS

In 1989, identification and eradication of trichloroethylene, or TCE, a toxic chemical linked to a cluster of childhood cancers and other horrific incidents, was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell.

So prevalent was the use of TCE that 35 years later, TURI's mission of reducing the use of carcinogens and other toxic substances continues. To advance its efforts, TURI recently received two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grants totaling $759,250 to implement new technology and expand industry-based outreach.

The first grant, funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will establish a Vacuum Degreasing Hub dedicated to identifying, optimizing and validating safer alternatives to TCE and other toxic solvents. Vacuum vapor degreasing is a cleaning process that operates in a closed system, not open to the air, allowing fresh solvent vapors to clean contaminated units.

The second grant will support outreach and education efforts so TURI can demonstrate how vacuum degreasing systems have successfully been implemented, replacing the use of hazardous solvents. The demonstration events will be open to companies interested in purchasing vacuum degreasing systems in Massachusetts and the surrounding states.

Say Hello to Two New Faces in High Places

When the academic year kicked off, it was with the help of two new campus leaders

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR LYNN COUTTS joined UMass Lowell from the University of Denver, where she was associate vice chancellor and deputy director of athletics. UML's first female AD, Coutts brings decades of experience as a player, coach and administrator. At the University of Maine, she was a Northeast All-American softball pitcher and two-year captain. After running a sports training business with her husband, Mike, for nearly 14 years, she was head softball coach at her alma mater from 2011 to 2015—earning America East Coach of the Year honors in 2015—before becoming an administrator there.

"Denver's not a place you want to leave," she says, "but there's a certain time in your career when you think, 'What do you want as the next step?' What I found in talking to Chancellor Chen and learning about her vision, her energy and her enthusiasm is that I need to be part of this team."

DEAN SUE KIM WAS PROMOTED to lead the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences when longtime dean Luis Falcón stepped down. A professor in the English Department, Kim had served as associate dean of undergraduate studies in the college since 2018. Under her guidance, the six-year graduation rates in FAHSS increased from 53% in 2018 to 67% in 2022.

Kim co-led the effort to have UMass Lowell federally designated as an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI), which resulted in over $4 million in grants for community-engaged research and student engagement.

"I'm thrilled to continue working with my talented colleagues to conduct world-class research and create high-caliber creative work, while also providing a top-tier education for FAHSS students," she says. "FAHSS has transformed and flourished in the last decade, and as dean, I look forward to continuing our progress."

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Novelist Advises Students to Listen—and Persevere

Elizabeth Strout, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the Olive Kitteridge and Lucy Barton novels, doesn't waste words.

Yet, everything she said in a recent campus conversation with author and English Prof. Andre Dubus III spoke volumes to the writing students in attendance, many of whom had submitted questions in advance. Her advice: Listen to ordinary people, think of your reader and persevere in your writing.

Strout's appearance, which drew more than 250 students, faculty, staff and community members, was the latest in the Writers on Campus series organized by the English Department's creative writing faculty. Prof. Maureen Stanton said that the events give students "the opportunity to engage with a diverse group of memoirists, poets and fiction writers."

After the talk, many attendees lined up so that Strout, whose books routinely top the bestseller lists, could sign copies of her newest work, "Tell Me Everything."

MEET THE NEWEST LINC PARTNERS!

The Lowell Innovation Network Corridor, or LINC, is a public-private venture that plans to add over 1 million square feet of new lab and office space, hundreds of units of housing, new retail and entertainment venues and thousands of jobs to the city. The ambitious plan promises to propel downtown Lowell into a bustling center of cutting-edge businesses and updated amenities for an expanded workforce.

The $800 million-plus project is being spearheaded by UMass Lowell,the UMass Building Authority and the city of Lowell, with significant support from Gov. Maura Healey's administration and the state's federal delegation. Private developers GMH Communities and Wexford are partnering with the university on the development and have committed to investing about $600 million.

A cornerstone of the LINC development will be two new commercial buildings on East Campus. Though they aren't projected to open until 2026-27, the development is already attracting a lot of attention from industry. Draper Laboratory and Mass General Brigham were early partners and have established locations on East Campus, with each planning to grow once the new buildings open.

Newer partners include organizations like Bioversity and Headlamp, both of which provide training and pathways to careers in the life sciences. Both companies have also opened office or lab space in campus, as part of LINC's "phase 0," and Headlamp is teaming with UML and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to create Vets-RISE to train veterans.

Another organization supporting veterans, Home Base, has also signed on to locate a division within LINC, where it will offer free mental health and wellness support. Home Base will also collaborate with UML on research.

At a kickoff event on campus in November, Retired Brig. Gen. Jack Hammond, executive director of Home Base, said that his team is particular when considering partners for the organization, which was founded by the Boston Red Sox organization and Massachusetts General Hospital in 2009.

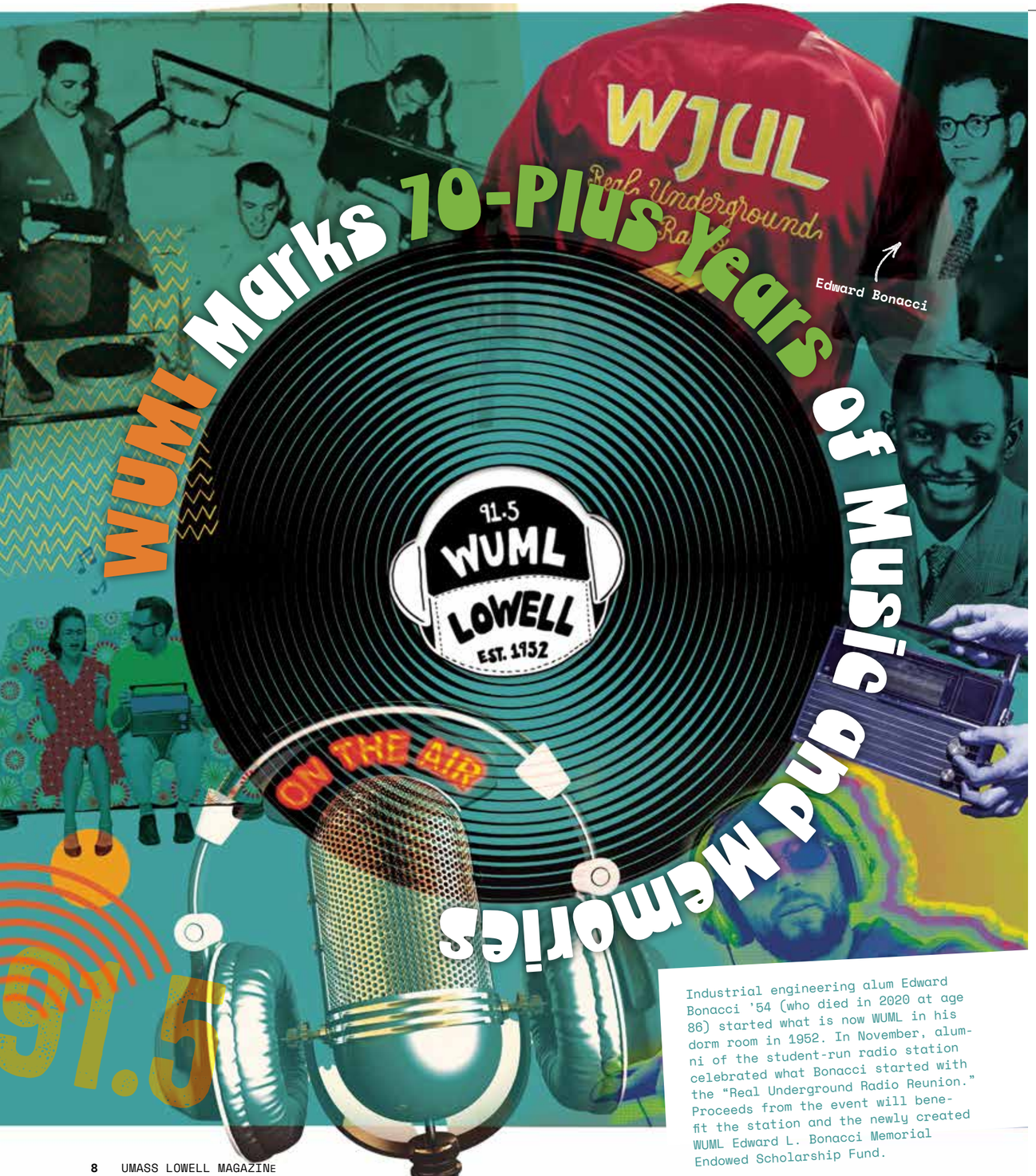
"We've kissed some frogs," he told the crowd. "We look for a 'hell yeah,' and when the chancellor came and visited, it was an immediate 'hell yeah.'"

Chancellor Julie Chen, UMass President Marty Meehan and retired Brig. Gen. Jack Hammond, executive director of Home Base, signed signed a memorandum of agreement welcoming Home Base as the latest Lowell Innovation Network Corridor partner.

Check out the insert in this issue for a sneak peek into how LINC will change the game for the city and the university!

WUML Marks 10-Plus Years of Music and Memories

BY ED BRENNEN



Industrial engineering alum Edward Bonacci '54 (who died in 2020 at age 86) started what is now WUML in his dorm room in 1952. In November, alumni of the student-run radio station celebrated what Bonacci started with the "Real Underground Radio Reunion." Proceeds from the event will benefit the station and the newly created WUML Edward L. Bonacci Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund.

In 1952, Percy Faith, Jo Stafford and Eddie Boyd were topping the music charts, and an industrial engineering student named Ed Bonacci '54 was living in the former Eames Hall on North Campus, where the Pulichino Tong Business Center now stands.

Bonacci liked to play records in his dorm room, and he built his own amplifier to boost the sound coming from his speakers. One day, he was walking down the hall when he heard the record that he was playing coming from another room. Bonacci poked his head in the door and realized that some classmates had picked up the signal from his amplifier on their AM radio.

"We like your music," they told Bonacci.

Inspired by this serendipity, the students decided to create an actual AM radio station at what was then the Lowell Textile Institute. They scavenged for equipment, set up a studio in the basement of Kitson (now Shah) Hall and, on Jan. 15, 1953, began broadcasting as WLTI.

More than 70 years later, the station lives on as WUML (91.5 FM).

Broadcasting on the FM dial and online, WUML has operated from the basement of Lydon Library on North Campus since 1971. Over the years, it has hosted live performances by artists such as Pixies, Jethro Tull and Frank Zappa at its sound studio, The Fallout Shelter. The station broadcasts UML hockey games and recently hosted its annual Rock for Tots charity concert at Moloney Hall.

"It's fantastic to see how the university has maintained and modernized the station. It's very gratifying," says Tony Janeczek '76, '86, who spent four years at the station while earning an electrical engineering degree and then served as an informal advisor for nearly two decades.

Radio is not 'over and out'

Despite the popularity of streaming music services, satellite radio and podcasts, terrestrial radio remains strong, with 82% of Americans age 12 and older listening in a given week, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Currently, WUML has 110 student broadcasters working as DJs, co-hosts and guests on 38 shows.

Carolina Tavares, a senior English major with a concentration in journalism, joined WUML as a first-year student and is now the general manager and genre director. She also hosts the show "Flowers in the Rain" on Fridays from 8 to 10 p.m. She says it's "such a gift" to continue the station's legacy.

"I've met some of my best friends through WUML and have learned so much—not just about radio, but also about communication, leadership and working with others," says the Milford, Massachusetts, native .

Freddy McWilliams, a sophomore chemical engineering major from Concord, Massachusetts, was part of a student radio station in high school. When he saw that UML had a station, he wanted to get involved.

"Streaming services and podcasts are taking over, but a lot of people still listen to the radio in their car to and from work," says McWilliams, who hosts two shows this year, "Hub Premium" on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. and "The Haters Union" on Fridays from 7 to 9 a.m.

McWilliams also serves as the station's chief engineer, working with Operations Manager Tom Tiger to "make sure that everything is running smoothly and everyone is able to do their shows."

Tiger, who has worked as operations manager for two decades, says the popularity of podcasts has led to more students wanting to get on air in recent years.

Rich Gingras '79, left, John Guregian, center, and Tony Janeczek '76, '86 reminisce in WUML's Fallout Shelter studio.

"We used to have one or two DJs in our main broadcast room, and all of a sudden I'd find dozens of chairs in there because everyone is huddled around the microphones," he says.

Students aren't the only ones playing music and expressing their views on the WUML airwaves: There are currently six shows hosted by nine UML alumni and seven shows hosted by 19 members of the Lowell community.

Rich Gingras '79 and John Guregian both joined the station as business students in the 1970s. In 1980, they started a show called "Blues Deluxe," which Guregian still hosts every Saturday from 3 to 6 p.m. He was recognized by the Blues Foundation with a 2023 "Keeping Blues Alive Award" in Memphis, Tennessee.

"It's been great. I started out in college, and the show's been on forever. It never stops," says Guregian, a Chelmsford, Massachusetts, native who works as a senior contract analyst for Constellation Energy Solutions in Lowell.

Gingras remembers seeing an ad to join the station (then under the call sign WJUL) in The Connector student newspaper. He dropped by the studio, and the first person he met was Janeczek.

"And I never left," says Gingras, who ended up serving as the station's music director and on the broadcast crew for hockey games. After graduating, the Methuen, Massachusetts, native hosted a regular show until 1988. Today, he is a senior program manager for information technology services provider Avaya.

"The friends you meet in college are really the ones that stick with you for the rest of your life," says Gingras.

‘Lowell Eats Local’ Project Transforms University Dining

Senior Residential Chef Stanley Szymczak, District Executive Chef Jeffrey Stone and Sustainability Coordinator Annie Conway carry bags of parsley picked from the University Crossing rooftop garden.

Chefs at Fox Dining Commons spooned creamy mashed potatoes onto plates before placing seared Statler chicken on top. Roasted squash with maple glaze accompanied the dish, which was rounded out with a savory mushroom sauce.

The prior day, Aramark Sustainability Coordinator Annie Conway had made the 10-minute drive from UMass Lowell to Fat Moon Farm in North Chelmsford, Massachusetts, to pick up 10 pounds of mushrooms for the entrée. The squash featured in the meal had been harvested from Plainville Farm in Hadley, Massachusetts.

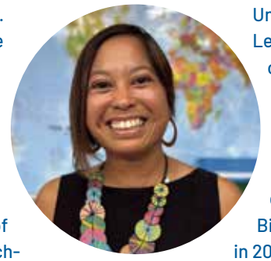
“My goal is to bring more local food into the dining halls,” says Conway, who started working for Aramark, UMass Lowell’s dining partner, in August. Her position was made possible after UML and its partners (Aramark, Mill City Grows, Lowell Public Schools and the Asian American Center for Excellence & Engagement) won a New England Food Vision Prize worth $199,500 from the Henry P. Kendall Foundation.

The prize is funding the Lowell Eats Local project, which aims to increase local food consumption at UMass Lowell and change the Greater Lowell food aggregation and distribution systems by coordinating citywide food purchases. In October alone, nearly 3,500 pounds of local produce entered the university’s kitchens.

UMass Lowell is already the highest-rated campus in Massachusetts for sustainability, according to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. This local food initiative is taking things to another level.

By purchasing locally, Conway says, UMass Lowell is decreasing its carbon footprint, because the produce does not have to travel as far to get to campus. The university is also stimulating the area’s economy by supporting local farmers.

Education Professor Awarded $3.4 Million for Bilingual Teacher Training



Education Asst. Prof. Christine Montecillo Leider has been awarded a five-year, $3.4 million grant by the U.S. Department of Education to increase the number of certified bilingual teachers in southeastern Massachusetts—and in the Merrimack Valley cities of Lowell and Lawrence.

The grant will train 90 multilingual people who are currently teachers, education paraprofessionals, community members or high school students to be certified bilingual educators, and it will move another 35-plus along the pathway to earning both a teaching degree and the state’s bilingual education certification.

“We have, in general, a shortage of teachers,” Leider says. “In particular, we have a shortage of teachers who are multilingual to teach the growing population of multilingual learners in our schools.”

Under the grant, Leider will lead a team of experienced bilingual education professionals to study and expand the existing Southeast Regional Bilingual Hub, formed in 2019 under a state grant by the city of Brockton and Bridgewater State University, which in 2018 became the first school to offer the four-course graduate program leading to state certification as a bilingual teacher.

The School of Education will next build out a similar Merrimack Valley Regional Bilingual Hub to serve Lowell and Lawrence, she says.

Leider, who is president of the Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages and a member of the National Committee for Effective Literacy for Multilingual Learners, says the pipeline of potential bilingual teachers needs to be expanded to meet the needs of multilingual schoolchildren.

New Center Taps into Community to Develop Climate Resilience Model

UMass Lowell is teaming up with the city of Lowell to address climate change. The U.S. Department of Energy announced $10 million in funding for climate resilience centers in 10 states, including the Massachusetts Gateway Cities Climate Resilience Center, led by UMass Lowell.

The commonwealth’s CRC seeks to develop a community-driven model on how to prepare for, adapt to and recover from the effects of climate change in Lowell, with the intention that the model can be replicated in similar cities across the U.S.

Juliette Rooney-Varga, a professor in the Department of Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and the principal investigator for the Massachusetts Gateway CRC, sees Lowell as the perfect city in which to create such a model.

“UMass Lowell is embedded throughout Lowell with its strong existing community partnerships,” says Rooney-Varga. “This offers us the opportunity to create a scalable climate resilience model that is centered on a university and a city working together.”

In partnership with the DOE and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington, the CRC will provide locally focused projections to better prepare the Lowell community for extreme weather events like heat waves. It will also assess the impact of climate change on Lowell’s infrastructure, how tree cover and green spaces can mitigate climate change and how transitioning to renewable energy affects the city.

Lowell, as seen in this drone image, will be the initial focus of the Massachusetts Gateway Cities Climate Resilience Center.

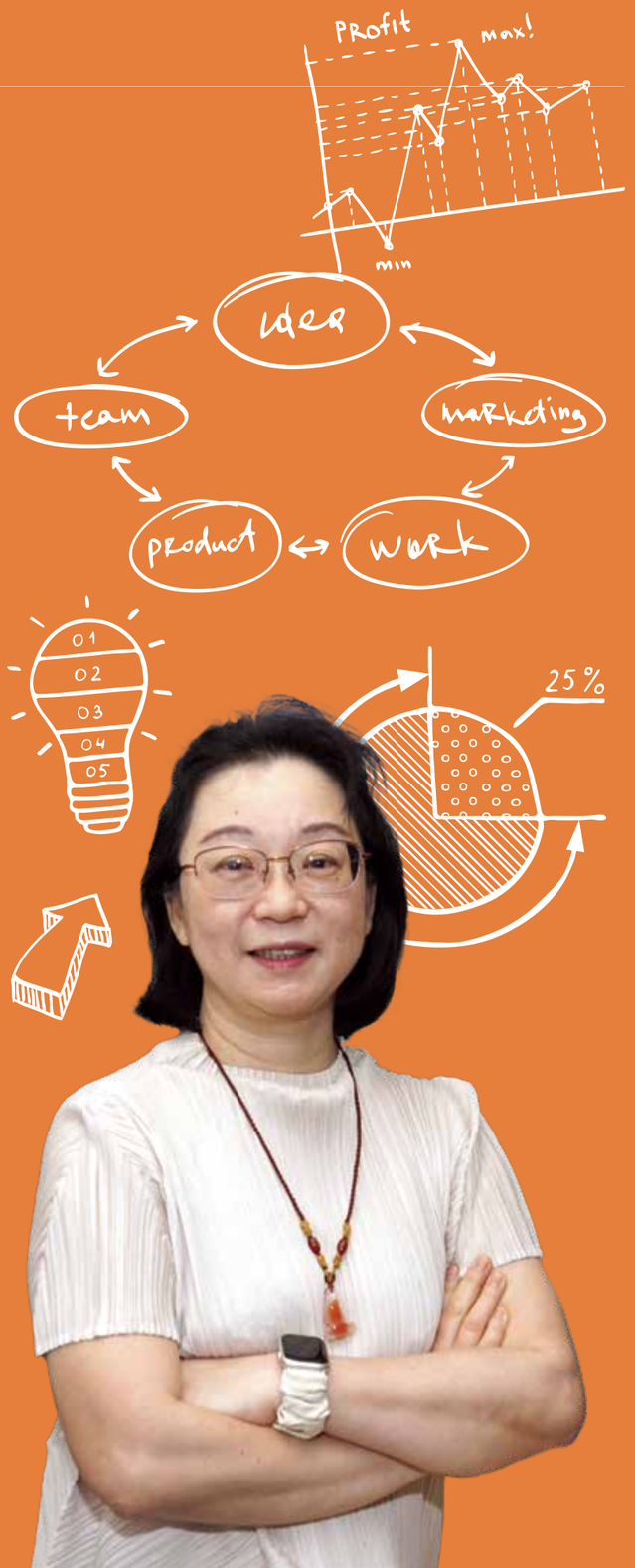
Big Bird on Campus

Newsflash: Suiting up as a college mascot is a sweaty business. That was one of the takeaways for WBZ meteorologist Jason Mikell, who spent a day on campus in November dressed as Rowdy the River Hawk as part of the station’s “Do Your Job” series. Mikell learned the ropes from UML Senior Web Producer Michael Pueschel (who moonlights as Rowdy), then hit the streets. “That was a workout!” Mikell exclaimed, after a day of high-fiving students and posing for photos across campus. “But what an honor… just to be able to make people happy.”

5 Q's

with Prof. Ying Huang on the business of fashion

When it comes to the fashion business, Marketing Prof. Ying Huang has seen it all. Before she joined the Manning School of Business faculty, Huang worked in the textile and apparel industry in China and consulted for the National Retail Federation. She has witnessed the impact of technology, the rise of fast fashion and the explosive growth of knockoff goods, which cost the global economy an estimated $500 billion annually, according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Huang, who teaches global marketing and retailing, shared her insights into the state of the fashion industry, from the evolution of supply chains to how 3D technology will make it easier to buy clothes online that actually fit.



How are global supply chain trends affecting the fashion industry?

For geopolitical reasons, like the trade war between China and the U.S., fashion companies don't want to rely on a single source for their goods, so they pursue a diversification strategy. Even before the pandemic, a lot of companies were looking for potential suppliers in Southeast Asian countries like Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and Indonesia. But the labor cost has been increasing in those countries, especially in China, and the lead time is very long. So we are now seeing more nearshoring, where a company moves operations closer to home. The fast-fashion company Zara, which is based in Spain, now has suppliers in Spain and Portugal, and it can get clothing into stores in 14 days, compared with the typical six-month lead time.

How does technology like AI and blockchain improve the supply chain?

Excess inventory is a big issue in retail. In the past, you just looked at your historical data to decide how many pieces to make. But AI can help you make better forecasts. Blockchain [a decentralized digital ledger for recording transactions among multiple parties] makes the supply chain more accountable and transparent, which helps companies meet their corporate social responsibility and sustainability goals. Not only does a company like Walmart have to be socially responsible, but so do all of its suppliers in the supply chain. With blockchain, a company can monitor the whole production process from end to end.

How are fashion companies addressing sustainability concerns?

A lot of companies are embracing the circular economy, which aims to reduce waste and extend the life of products. Patagonia has its Worn Wear program, where it will buy back an item, wash it or repair it, and then resell it. The North Face has a similar program; even H&M, a fast-fashion company, has one. There are also second-hand platforms like Poshmark and The RealReal that resell used designer pieces. Before, you would just donate it or throw it in the garbage, but now you can resell it, and people can buy it and reuse it. That idea of "recycle, reuse, repurpose" is on the rise in the fashion industry.

What's being done to prevent counterfeiting?

Counterfeiting is a huge problem for luxury brands like Gucci and Hermès. Some of them are tackling the issue with technology. For example, Louis Vuitton has microchips built into its handbags, which you can scan to check the authenticity. In the secondhand market, Poshmark has a policy that if an item's price is over $500, it will send it to their authentication center in California before it is sold.

How is technology changing the shopping experience for consumers?

We know that Gen Z follows social media influencers and wants to buy clothes instantly. But measurements are a challenge, especially because there are no standards in the apparel industry. I could be a size 2 for Ann Taylor and a size 8 for another designer like Burberry. So fashion companies are developing 3D technology that can take pictures and give you a size recommendation. Once that is tackled, online buying is going to be even more popular.

At the CELT announcement at the UMass Club in Boston were, from left: Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll; Rebecca Tepper, secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs; Elizabeth Mahony, commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources; Boston University Provost Gloria Waters; Chancellor Julie Chen; and UMass President Marty Meehan.

Clean Energy Partnership Will Create a More Sustainable and Equitable Massachusetts

In November, the Massachusetts governor's office, UMass Lowell and Boston University launched the Clean Energy and Environment Legacy Transition Initiative, or CELT.

Inspired by Gov. Maura Healey's 2023 trip to Ireland, where she witnessed successful energy-related university-industry partnerships supported by the Irish government, CELT is a first-of-its-kind collaboration aimed at advancing clean energy solutions, building a skilled geothermal workforce and driving environmental equity across Massachusetts.

Led by UMass Lowell, which received $5.7 million in funding from the commonwealth's Department of Energy Resources, the program will leverage the expertise of universities, private industry, the state and community partners.

CELT will offer opportunities for student experiential learning, including placements with the Massachusetts Office of Energy Transformation and fellowships with municipalities to assist with decarbonization and geothermal energy transition projects.

UMass Lowell and Boston University will collaborate on data analysis and research to further the adoption of networked geothermal systems. CELT will also expand collaboration with Irish universities as part of the existing U.S.-Ireland Research and Development Partnership, a unique initiative involving funding agencies across the U.S., Ireland and Northern Ireland.

THE LANGUAGE OF FASHION

Italian Studies Professor Tailors Lessons to Her Country's Stylish History

Growing up in Modena, Italy, a city known for its rich balsamic vinegar and Maserati and Ferrari sports cars, Giulia Po DeLisle remembers strolling past the storefronts of some of the world's most luxurious Italian fashion houses: Armani, Gucci, Prada, Versace.

"I was surrounded by beauty and fashion," says Po DeLisle, an associate professor of Italian studies in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences since 2010. "The fashion names were unattainable, but it's there for you to see in the windows—to dream and to see yourself dressed in a certain way."

In 2022, Po DeLisle received a small grant from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to create new content for her Advanced Italian Grammar course, which promotes the country's language and culture. Since that year was also the 70th anniversary of Italy's first fashion show (held in the Sala Bianca at Palazzo Pitti in Florence in 1952), she tailored the syllabus to examine fashion and design, through Italian film and literature, from the postwar period to the 21st century.

"You may think grammar has nothing to do with fashion, but the way we teach languages, it's really to connect and put the grammar in certain contexts," she says. "Fashion is something that we always see, and I try to find ways to connect it in every level that we teach. I think the students enjoy it. Fashion speaks to them."

Besides reading short stories by Clara Sereni and watching documentaries like Michelangelo Antonioni's "Seven Reeds, One Suit" and Ottavio Rosati's "The Forbidden Fashion," Po DeLisle's students learn about contemporary topics such as women's labor and sustainability.

"I try to find connections with society, and I think the students respond to that. They learn what is good and what is bad about this industry of fashion," she says.

Fashion became an academic pursuit for Po DeLisle while she was getting a Ph.D. in comparative literature from City University of New York. Studying under renowned fashion scholar Eugenia Paulicelli, Po DeLisle helped translate a book that Paulicelli wrote on Rosa Genoni, who is considered Italy's first lady of fashion. Po DeLisle and Paulicelli have since organized conferences on fashion, film and sustainability in Rome and Bologna and recently curated a special issue on "Film, Fashion, Costume in Italy and Beyond," for the Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies.

"She opened up this world to me from a theoretical perspective," Po DeLisle says of Paulicelli. "You see the world that is behind what you see in a window display or on a catwalk."

FASHION SCHOOL

BY ED BRENNEN

From launching their own labels and making their own threads to weaving what we wear into their course material, check out these fashion-forward UML students and faculty members.

THREADS OF THOUGHT

Philosophy Major Wrestles with Ethics of Fashion

Senior philosophy major Barnard Krouch feels like a hypocrite, and he's not sure what to do about it.

On the one hand, he knows that keeping up with the latest fashion trends is bad for the planet and likely contributes to the exploitation of garment workers in the Global South. On the other hand, he wants to feel good about what he's wearing when he steps out of the house.

"There is a pretty good justification for wanting to participate in the current fashion trends," the Lowell native says. "Like, if I have a pair of skinny jeans that still fit, that doesn't mean I want to wear them, because I'm not going to feel the same way I felt in them a few years ago."

Krouch is not the only person to wrestle with this dilemma, but he is among the select few to turn it into a senior capstone, specifically on "bridging the gap between aesthetic judgments in clothing and ethical decisions."

"It's an extremely complicated process that is driving me absolutely insane," says Krouch, who plans to study aesthetic philosophy in grad school. "Fashion has a lot of interesting implications for how the human being understands their identity as a physical body in relation to other people, and I really want to study that."

Krouch got into acting at an early age and became interested in fashion through theater costume design.

"In the process of creating historical garments, I became intrigued by the metaphorical idea of fashion," says Krouch, who is president of the Philosophy Club and a member of the Fashion Club.

While Krouch sees a lot of people identifying exclusively with specific fashion subcultures—athleisure, business casual, hypebeast (a specific style of streetwear)—his own personal style is more all-encompassing.

"It's tied to how I understand myself, so I like to have small amounts of clothing that participate in all different kinds of fashion subcultures," he says. "But if I had to choose what my personal style leans toward, I would say 18th-century light academia."

So, no skinny jeans.

POETIC LICENSE

Digital Media Major Rose Ngatchou's Clothing Label Aims to Uplift

Sometimes you have to restart your computer.

For senior digital media major Rose Ngatchou, a self-described "tech enthusiast" with passions for poetry and acting, that meant taking a semester off during a difficult sophomore year. During her reboot, she started her own poetry-inspired clothing label, Where Flowers Bloom.

"When I was growing up, all the sweatshirts and T-shirts that I saw were really tacky. There were just too many graphics and weird sayings like 'Rainbow Superpower,'" the Washington, D.C., native says. "I wanted this brand to inspire people in a more poetic and creative way, and also to be super-minimalistic."

Ngatchou began designing hats, tote bags and hoodie sweatshirts with sayings like "Never lose sight of your dreams" and "Faith: Navigating with principles of the unseen in a seeing world." She sells the items on Etsy and TikTok Shop (and soon Shopify) and has orders printed on demand by a manufacturer.

"One of the biggest things I've learned from my journey is to just start," she says. "I didn't have the capital to buy 500 pieces of product from a manufacturer, so print on demand has helped at least get the brand out there."

During her reboot, Ngatchou also started getting into NFTs, or nonfungible tokens—a unique digital asset, stored on a digital ledger of cryptocurrency transactions called a blockchain, that represents ownership of a specific item such as art or music. She created and sold a spoken-word poetry NFT and is creating a second one for her senior capstone project.

"There's so much creativity that goes into tech," says Ngatchou, who plans to work in the tech industry while taking her clothing line as far as she can. "Everything feeds off each other."

If she could, Ngatchou would live in sweatshirts and sweatpants. But she knows there's a time for corporate attire, such as during her technical applications and development analyst internship with Accenture last summer.

"I do love classic, timeless pieces," she says. "Just simple."

HER RESEARCH IS IN FASHION

Adjunct Prof. Bernadette Stockwell '19 wore her scholarship on her sleeve

The outfit that Bernadette Stockwell '19 wore when defending her dissertation for a Ph.D. in literacy studies from the School of Education said a lot about her. Literally.

The outside of her velour blazer, which she made herself, featured a collage print of black and white family photos and newspaper clippings representing her past. The inside was lined with colorful graphics and key findings from her dissertation, "The Journey of Hero Writers: A Study of Creative Writing Practices."

Stockwell also had excerpts of her dissertation printed (in a 12-point Times New Roman font) on fabric that she used to make her blouse. Colorful handmade earrings and loud eyeglasses put exclamation points on the ensemble.

"If you can't impress them with what you're saying, distract them and wow them with what you're wearing," jokes Stockwell, a senior adjunct professor of English at UML since 2007.

A self-taught seamstress, Stockwell has been making her own clothes since she was an English major at UMass Amherst in the late 1970s—partly as a pastime, but also to save money.

"I could make myself a turtleneck in about half an hour for $3," says Stockwell, who estimates that 75% of her wardrobe is homemade. The rest comes from the Salvation Army.

Stockwell describes her personal style as "artsy professor." She eschews labels and blue jeans, owns a half dozen pairs of eyeglasses and loves to watch "Project Runway" to see how young designers "push the envelope while still being practical." She also enjoys seeing how fashion trends come and go for students: baggy jeans, hoodies, ripped knees, athleisure wear—it's ever-evolving.

"They just want to fit in. They want to be accepted and demonstrate that they're part of the club, too," says Stockwell, who took a course on the history of costume in college. "Many students wear the costume of students, and many faculty wear the costume of a professor. And I know that it matters, because if I wore a wedding gown into the classroom, students would notice."

Still, Stockwell admires those who are willing to make a fashion statement. Author of a Psychology Today blog, she wrote a post in 2022 about how what we wear makes us feel. She recalled seeing 500 River Hawk Scholars Academy students in an auditorium, almost all of them in matching blue T-shirts, and one young man in "wide, black leather cuffs studded with metal spikes ... a baggy black T-shirt with the logo of some metal band and long black pants, also baggy."

"Of all the kids in the room that day, he was the one I wanted to get to know," Stockwell wrote. "He was already making a statement to the world."

> "Of all the kids in the room that day, he was the one I wanted to get to know."
>
> —BERNADETTE STOCKWELL

STARS ALIGN

MBA student Anthony Blunt ’24 mixes basketball, music and fashion

One night after helping the UMass Lowell men’s basketball team to an early-season win at home over Saint Peter’s University, graduate student Anthony Blunt ’24 found himself on stage at the Strand Ballroom & Theatre in Providence, Rhode Island, opening for multiplatinum rapper Polo G.

Performing under his rap name, Ant Blunt, he wore a light gray T-shirt with a matching knit cap. “BlunTIC,” the name of his family’s budding clothing line, was on the front of his shirt. On the back was an alien-looking cartoon character that Blunt once sketched called a “TIC,” which now serves as the brand logo.

Standing before a constellation of camera phone lights, Blunt experienced the ultimate distillation of his passions for music, art and fashion.

“When I get on stage, I’m excited to showcase what I can do,” says Blunt, who began focusing on music when a knee injury forced him to miss his junior year of basketball with the River Hawks.

Blunt’s first big musical break came in January 2023 when he opened for Trippie Redd at the Tsongas Center. This past September, he opened for one of his favorite rappers, Sheff G, at Roadrunner in Boston. As fans swarmed Blunt for selfies after the show, he wore a black tracksuit that had just dropped on bluntic.com.

“It’s crazy to think about the shows that I’ve done in this short amount of time. People I’ve met have been doing music their entire life, and they look at me and I’m doing the most extravagant stuff,” he says.

Blunt has been painting and drawing since he was “wee small” in Glenn Dale, Maryland. He chose to major in digital media at UML, where he joined his older brother, Allin Blount ’23, on the men’s basketball team. Blunt earned his spot (and eventual scholarship) as a walk-on and was named to the America East all-rookie team.

Meanwhile, Blunt started customizing shoes with paint and sharing his creations on social media (see top left). When the likes and shares started to pile up, he realized he could help his father, Alvin, promote the family fashion business that he’d launched in 2015. He started by sketching the TIC, which was Allin’s family nickname as a child.

“We always knew that he could succeed in whatever he decided to do,” says Alvin, who joined his son on stage for a song in Providence—and who personally embroiders the BlunTIC logo on all of their garments.

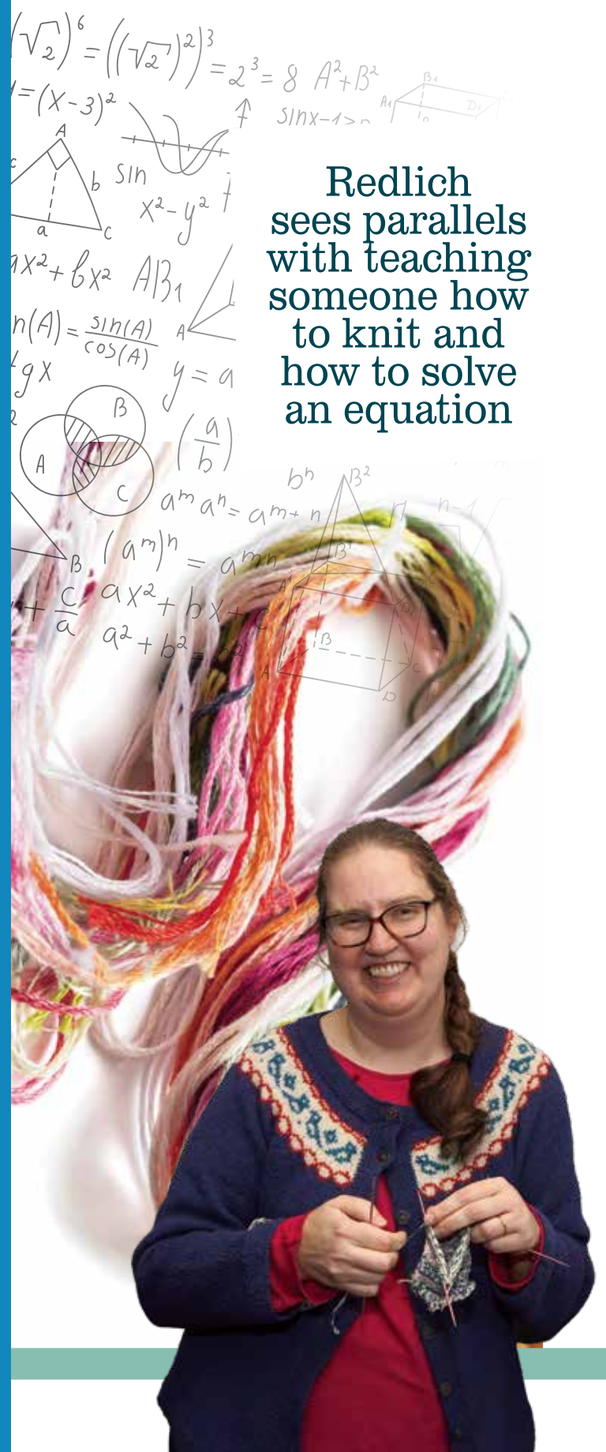
As an MBA student in the Manning School of Business, Blunt tries to connect everything that he’s learning in the classroom to the brand. Being able to model BlunTIC on stage and in his music videos has been a boon.

“It’s cool seeing people wear it, or even just friends of mine having it in their wardrobe,” he says.

While Allin, now playing basketball professionally in Germany, has always been considered the more fashionable one, Blunt feels like he’s coming into his own.

“I’ve struggled with my style for a while. Freshman year all the way to last year, everything I put on, my brother told me to change. He was like, ‘What are you doing?’ But I’m getting to a point where I’m finding my own style and I like how I dress myself,” says Blunt, who enjoys painting designs on his shirts.

“I like having my own touch and making things unique,” he says. “It’s just an expression of yourself.”



Redlich sees parallels with teaching someone how to knit and how to solve an equation

FOR AMANDA REDLICH, KNITTING AND MATH GO HAND IN HAND

It was really just a coincidence, but the cardigan sweater that Amanda Redlich knitted for herself in 2018, around the time that she was hired as an assistant professor of mathematics at UML, was in the school’s blue, white and red colors, with a row of birds that could pass for small River Hawks.

“That’s probably what they are; I just didn’t know it,” Redlich says with a laugh. “That’s probably how I got the job.”

Redlich has been knitting for nearly 30 years, since she picked up her first set of needles as a young girl in central Illinois. These days, she enjoys knitting sweaters with pictures of trucks for her two young sons.

“I think it’s because I’ve always liked math,” says Redlich, who earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “A lot of math is about finding algorithms to solve problems, which is really the same as how knitting uses patterns.”

Redlich doesn’t consider herself a fashionista, but says, “I am very interested in, ‘Could I make this thing that has a nice mathematical property? If I wanted something specific, could I do it?’”

She sees parallels with teaching someone how to knit and how to solve an equation.

“It’s a concept that everyone already knows—we all wear clothes. It’s just that the language that you use is different,” says Redlich, who will talk about “the slope and the rise over the run” when teaching a “mathy” person how to knit.

“That’s what I really like about the classes I teach,” she says. “There’s a lot of applications to stuff out in the world, and a lot of the time it’s a concept you’re already familiar with, but there’s actual math language for it.”

Algorithms aside, Redlich appreciates the tangible result of a knitting project.

“It’s relaxing to make something with your hands, because in math, a lot of the time, you’re just doing airy-fairy stuff in your head,” she says. “With knitting, it’s like, ‘Look, not only did I develop a theorem today, but I also made a truck.’”

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

Advances in Breast Cancer Imaging Could Lead to Better Survival Rates

ASST. PROF. ZEINAB HAJJARIAN of the Department of Biomedical Engineering is using an innovative optical imaging technique to improve breast cancer imaging technology.

In a research project supported by a three-year, $400,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, Hajjarian is using a technique called laser speckle rheological microscopy that aims to allow for rapid, noncontact, high-resolution mapping of specific properties within the malignant tissue. She says this approach could help differentiate the tumor from the surrounding healthy tissues.

She hopes her efforts will help improve patient outcomes and survival rates.

"Our goal is to optimize the resolution of our laser technique to reduce imaging time and identify specific mechanical features that indicate invasive behavior," says Hajjarian, who joined UMass Lowell from the Massachusetts General Hospital's Wellman Center for Photomedicine in 2023.

Biomedical Engineering Asst. Prof. Zeinab Hajjarian

RESEARCHERS DISCOVER POTENTIAL BIOMARKERS OF ALZHEIMER'S

NEARLY 7 MILLION AMERICANS live with Alzheimer's disease, and while there are treatments available to slow the disease's progression, there is no cure.

Kennedy College of Sciences Dean Noureddine Melikechi is looking to change that.

Working with the dementia care unit at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Bedford, Massachusetts, Melikechi and his research team discovered potential biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease: combinations of metals that differentiated the plasma samples of Alzheimer's patients from healthy individuals. Their findings were published in the Journal of Analytical Atomic Spectrometry.

The researchers collected blood samples from both Alzheimer's patients and healthy individuals and measured the concentration of metals such as iron and zinc in the plasma.

Using machine learning algorithms, the researchers found the potential biomarker combinations of metals. Through additional testing, the researchers validated that most plasma samples could be identified as either Alzheimer's or healthy based on the metal ratios of sodium and potassium; iron and sodium; and phosphorus and zinc. Melikechi says the discovery may pave the way for advances in treatment.

"If you understand the disease at the fundamental level, then scientists may be able to come up with better treatments—or even a cure," he says.

Farm Aid: Biodegradable Mulch May Limit Weeds and Improve Crops

FOR MANY FARMERS, WEEDS ARE THE BANE of their growing season—crowding out crops, reducing yield and driving up production costs. But things may get easier for growers, and their crops may get more lush and productive, thanks to research being conducted by Plastics Engineering Prof. Meg Sobkowicz Kline and Lehigh University Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Assoc. Prof. Jonas Baltrusaitis.

The two researchers received a U.S. Department of Agriculture four-year, $744,000 grant to develop new mulch films for agricultural crops that are not only sustainable and biodegradable but will also help nourish and improve the health of soils and reduce plastic pollution.

Baltrusaitis and Sobkowicz Kline are collaborating to create polymers that stop weeds and other invasive plants from taking hold in farms while providing nutrients to crops, retaining soil moisture and regulating soil temperature, thereby increasing crop yield.

"Our goal is to create mulch films that will completely biodegrade while also slowly releasing fertilizer, such as urea, to the soil and plants," says Sobkowicz Kline, who is the team's co-principal investigator.

Baltrusaitis is the project's lead investigator, with the biopolymer manufacturing company CJ Biomaterials, based in Woburn, Massachusetts, as industry partner.

Plastics Engineering Prof. Meg Sobkowicz Kline is developing new biodegradable mulch films for agriculture than can prevent weeds, fertilize crops, regulate soil temperature and conserve water.

Can Yoga Help Manage Type 2 Diabetes?

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, people have turned to yoga for its spiritual, mental and health benefits.

Now, a group of researchers, including Public Health Assoc. Prof. Herpreet Thind of the Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences, is investigating whether yoga can be used to help manage Type 2 diabetes. Specifically, the researchers are trying to determine whether practicing yoga can help regulate stress hormones and thereby control blood sugar levels.

The study, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health, is also being conducted at The Miriam Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island, and at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Diabetes now affects 38 million Americans, and approximately 90% to 95% of those people have Type 2 diabetes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. People with the disease have high blood sugar levels due to the body's inability to use the hormone insulin effectively. If not managed, the disease can increase the risk of heart disease, neuropathy, kidney damage, eye disease and dental problems.

Philosophy, Criminal Justice Faculty Awarded Defense Grants to Study AI in Warfare and Policy

PHILOSOPHY CHAIR NICHOLAS EVANS and Criminology Assoc. Prof. Neil Shortland, director of UML's Center for Terrorism and Security Studies, were awarded a pair of Minerva Research Initiative grants totaling $4.2 million from the U.S. Army Research Office for research on the ethics and psychology of decision-making involving artificial intelligence.

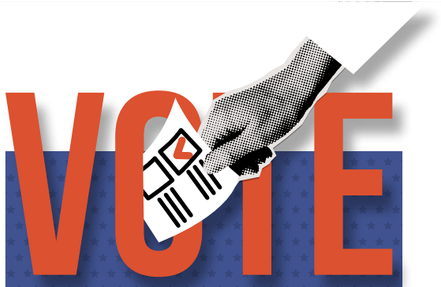
Together, they will study the future uses of AI in warfare, its psychological effects on humans, and how people from different countries and backgrounds use social science predictions about the future of AI to make defense and other policies.

"Everything the Department of Defense is worried about when it comes to AI is really about the future," Evans says. "Some people think that AI is going to make war less common, reduce the number of targets and reduce the number of civilian casualties, while some people think the opposite."

Shortland's grant, for $1.5 million over three years, will look at the effect on service members of turning an increasing number of life-and-death decisions over to AI.

Evans' grant, for $2.7 million over three years, examines social science research into AI that results in predictions about its future effects and how influential decision-makers use those predictions to make policy.

Philosophy Chair Nicholas Evans, left, and Criminology Assoc. Prof. Neil Shortland have been awarded $4.2 million in defense grants for research on AI.



SHORTER VOTING LINES, STRONGER DEMOCRACY

WHY DO VOTERS at some polling locations have to wait in long lines to cast their ballots, while voters in other locations do not?

A multidisciplinary team of faculty from across the university is working on a way to address such disparities, while reducing wait times for all voters.

Belleh Fontem, an assistant professor of operations and information systems in the Manning School of Business, is the principal investigator on a project that is developing a mathematical model to improve poll worker assignment and voting machine allocation across electoral precincts.

The two-year project, which includes faculty from the Political Science and Mathematics & Statistics departments as well as an undergraduate student, received an Internal Seed Grant of nearly $11,000 from UML's Office of Research Development.

"There is documented evidence to show that waiting times are quite high in traditionally minority-dominated areas," Fontem says. "We are looking for ways to have a more equitable allocation of voting resources."

FUNCTIONS OF FASHION

Innovation never goes out of style at UMass Lowell. Since its earliest days as the Lowell Textile School, the university has been a trendsetter in the material world. Today, faculty researchers and students are creating fabrics of the future, including garments that can turn light into electricity and shoes that can repair themselves. Read more on page 24. They're also working to combat the considerable environmental and social costs of the "fast fashion" industry. More on that on page 34.

FEATURES

BY BROOKE COUPAL

FASHION FORWARD

Innovation never goes out of style at UMass Lowell

You're running late for work.

As you scramble to throw together a lunch, stuff everything you need into your bag and find your left shoe, you realize your cellphone battery is at 2%. You don't have time to wait for a wall charge, so you pull on a power-generating sweatshirt, stick your phone in the pocket and rush out the door.

You're relieved when a beep signals that your sweatshirt is charging your phone. But it's one of those days, so as you hustle to your car, you don't see the broken glass next to your driveway. A jagged piece tears a chunk of the sole from your shoe; luckily, you're wearing your self-healing boots, and soon, the chemical binding agents are doing their thing.

By now, you're wishing you had just stayed in bed, but you were up late creating slides for a 9 a.m. meeting, and you're not going to miss the chance to show off your animation skills. You glance at the clock as you jump in the car and realize it's going to be tight. You start to panic, and your smart socks waste no time letting you know. An alert has you glancing at your watch, which displays the socks' reading of your rising heart rate and blood pressure. After a few calming, deep breaths, you see the numbers start to normalize and put the car in drive. Is it Friday yet?

*****

Although they're not yet in every closet, the innovations above are already under development—and researchers at UMass Lowell are working on many of them.

"People want more from their clothes than just protection," says Ramaswamy Nagarajan '98, '00, a distinguished university professor in the Department of Plastics Engineering. "Fabrics are continuously evolving."

Innovations in fashion are nothing new to UMass Lowell. In 1895, UMass Lowell's predecessor institution, the Lowell Textile School, was established to develop a skilled workforce for the textile industry and help direct its future. Roughly 130 years later, UMass Lowell is still leading the way in functional fabrics.

"The university has always been on the cutting edge of textiles and growing with its evolutions," Nagarajan says.

UMass Lowell is home to the Fabric Discovery Center, where startups, small businesses and large companies partner with the university to drive innovation in functional textiles. The center, which opened in 2018, is the only site in the United States that integrates discoveries from three Manufacturing USA Institutes.

In the Fabric Discovery Center and labs across campus, dozens of faculty researchers are pushing the boundaries of fashion by creating the fabrics of the future. Their innovations go beyond the initial intent of garments, further improving lives.

POWER-GENERATING CLOTHES

Researchers in HEROES (Harnessing Emerging Research Opportunities to Empower Soldiers) are working on an invention that could one day make it possible to power electronics with our clothing.

A partnership with UMass Lowell and the U.S. Army DEVCOM Soldier Center in Natick, Massachusetts, HEROES develops advanced technologies to help improve soldiers' combat protection, sustainment and effectiveness. While the work of HEROES researchers focuses on the military, their innovations have the potential to be integrated into everyday life, just like previous military inventions, including the internet, duct tape and cargo pants.

"Our work not only helps the soldier, but also the civilian market," says Claire Lepont, senior technical program manager for HEROES and the Fabric Discovery Center.

Lepont and Nagarajan are part of a HEROES research team that is creating power-generating fabric. They work alongside Physics Prof. Jayant Kumar, DEVCOM Research Chemist and HEROES Co-Director Ravi Mosurkal and several students and postdoctoral researchers.

The fabric created by the research team generates electricity by converting energy from light, which can come from the sun or artificial sources such as light bulbs. The generated electricity can charge small devices that require

"OUR RESEARCH IS SPECIFICALLY BEING APPLIED TO COMBAT BOOTS, BUT BECAUSE OF THE WAY WE DESIGNED THIS CHEMISTRY, IT CAN BE BROADLY APPLIED TO ALL FOOTWEAR AND BEYOND."

—JAMES REUTHER

Clockwise from top center: Fabric generates electricity by converting energy from light. Polymer science Ph.D. student Shayesteh Tafazoli analyzes the breakdown of polyurethane for self-healing shoes. Researchers produced shoe outsoles using self-healing polyurethane.

low amounts of power, like sensors. Many everyday devices, including cellphones and smartwatches, require large amounts of power to recharge.

"At present, the power conversion efficiencies (of the fabric) are still low," says Nagarajan, co-director of HEROES and the Fabric Discovery Center.

Through grants totaling nearly $1 million, the researchers intend to increase the energy efficiency of the fabric's solar yarn, also called organic photovoltaic fiber. Among other improvements, the team is exploring new methods for connecting the fibers in collaboration with Mechanical Engineering Assoc. Prof. Scott Stapleton and investigating ways of integrating the fabric with flexible batteries with Mechanical Engineering Assoc. Prof. Ertan Agar.

For Lepont, the possibilities of the power-generating fabric are abundant and wide-reaching.

"In the future, we can see anyone using it," she says.

WORN-OUT SNEAKERS, HEAL THYSELF

The cushion and support provided by new shoes are ideal for overall comfort and preventing joint pain and other health problems. However, new shoes wear out, and those benefits disappear.

According to RunRepeat, a company that has tested and reviewed more than 800 shoes, casually worn sneakers should be replaced every six to 12 months, running shoes after 300 to 500 miles and walking shoes every three months for those who walk an hour a day.

Chemistry Assoc. Prof. James Reuther and his lab group are developing a way to keep shoes in commission longer. HEROES awarded Reuther and industry partners two grants totaling more than $1.1 million for their work, with roughly $265,000 going to UMass Lowell.

"Our research is specifically being applied to combat boots, but because of the way we designed this chemistry, it can be broadly applied to all footwear and beyond," Reuther says.

The bottoms of combat boots, known as the outsole, are traditionally made of rubber. In collaboration with Maine-based Polymer Laboratories and Solutions and Germany-based BASF, Reuther is looking to replace rubber outsoles with polyurethane, a synthetic resin that is lighter than rubber and easier to break in, making the boots more comfortable.

Traditional Kimono Painting Inspires Professor's Artwork

In the art world, fabrics of the future are often informed by those of the past. Art and Design Assoc. Prof. Yuko Oda knows that better than many.

On a recent day in her studio in Boston's Roslindale neighborhood, Oda used her index finger to mix crushed coral, glue and water in a small ceramic bowl. She dipped a brush into the vibrant red mixture before gliding it along a piece of Japanese paper.

The traditional Japanese style of painting, known as Nihonga, is second nature to Oda, who grew up in Japan watching designers mix natural mineral pigments to paint elaborate designs on silk kimonos.

"My grandmother started a kimono business after World War II, and my family is still running the business after all these years," Oda says.

The business has since split into two companies—Oda Sho, " which sells more contemporary kimonos using graphic design, and Kobusaya, which still uses Nihonga to hand-paint the silk fabric.

Tabata Kihachi, a fifth-generation Japanese kimono painter, has worked with Oda's family business for decades. During the summer of 2023, four UML undergraduate art majors met Kihachi as part of a two-week summer abroad trip to Japan.

"When you see print fabric, you assume that a machine made the design, but to know it was done by hand is mind-blowing," says Lily McCusker '24, who bought special paints in Japan to practice Nihonga. "It was so inspirational and really amazing to see."

Oda incorporates Nihonga in her art, which explores the beauty and fragility of nature through mediums including animation, drawing and sculpture.

"I strive to keep alive the ancient methods of traditional artmaking, while simultaneously defying tradition and rules with unexpected material choices and methods, connecting the past to the present and future," she says. —BC

"EXOSKELETONS GIVE PEOPLE THE ABILITY TO DO THINGS THAT THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO ANYMORE, LIKE THE STROKE POPULATION, WHO MIGHT HAVE A SMALL AMOUNT OF MUSCLE ACTIVATION, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO COMPLETE A TASK."

—HANNAH ALLGOOD '23

Pei-Chun Kao adjusts an exoskeleton on the arm of Yi-Ning Wu at the NERVE Center.

Reuther and his lab group created dynamic chemical bonds that they incorporated into the polyurethane to provide a self-healing property to boot outsoles, in which a tear would mend itself.

"That's our secret sauce," Reuther says. "Because of this dynamic bond exchange, the outsole can heal itself spontaneously when we apply heat or pressure."

Partnering with Acton, Massachusetts-based Haartz Corp., Reuther intends to incorporate the same self-healing property into synthetic leather. They envision this leather replacing cowhide leather in the upper part of combat boots, such as the tongue. As with polyurethane, synthetic leather is lightweight compared with cowhide and easier to break in.

When a person is ready to retire their self-healing shoes or boots, Reuther has a way to keep them out of landfills: By integrating specific chemical bonds, the researchers can break down the material into byproducts that can be upcycled into medical devices and other items.

"Our goal is that you can introduce these chemical bonds to applications that pose the biggest sustainability problems, preventing them from entering landfills," he says. "We're seeing how commercially viable this could be."

EXOSKELETONS ENHANCE MOVEMENT

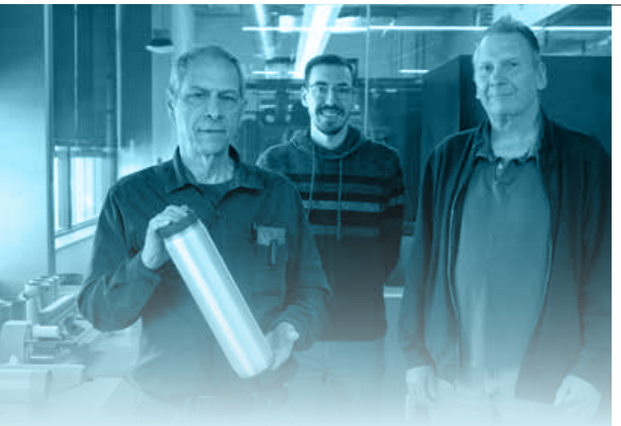
Yi-Ning Wu doesn't have to put much thought into grabbing a cup to take a sip of water, but she understands that a task considered simple to many is an impossible feat for some.

The associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and Kinesiology is on a mission to help people who have difficulty moving their arms by advancing the design of exoskeletons—wearable devices that enhance human capabilities.

"Exoskeleton design does not just require engineering and computer science," she says. "Health sciences play a very important role as well."

At the UMass Lowell New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation (NERVE) Center, Wu and her research team are investigating how the body reacts to an exoskeleton—a brace composed of sensors and motors—on the arm. Insights into the body's muscle movements can lead to better exoskeleton designs.

"Exoskeletons give people the ability to do things that they might not be able to do anymore, like the stroke population, who might have a small amount of muscle activation,



From left, Z-Polymers employees Keith Smith '94, Matt Guy '15 and Andy Teoli '93.

Startup Develops Stronger-than-Steel Fiber at UMass Lowell Innovation Hub

UMass Lowell may look different from when Keith Smith graduated in 1994, but he says it still feels like home.

Smith is a mechanical technician with Z-Polymers, a materials science startup based at the UMass Lowell Innovation Hub. A business incubator, the iHub connects startups with research and development, business mentoring and financial resources.

"It's very humbling and satisfying to be a part of this," says Smith, a mechanical engineering alum. "I'm back with my friends in a familiar atmosphere." (One of those friends: Co-worker Andy Teoli, an alum from the Class of 1993.)

The Z-Polymers team invented a polymer fiber and filament called Tullomer, which is eco-friendly, lightweight and stronger than steel. The company envisions the product being used to create prosthetics, functional fabrics, automotive parts and more.

They (along with dozens of other companies) use the high-tech equipment available at the UMass Lowell Fabric Discovery Center and Core Research Facilities to collaborate with students and faculty on their work.

"Leveraging the expertise, resources and collaboration opportunities available through UMass Lowell and the Fabric Discovery Center has enabled Z-Polymers to accelerate its commercialization efforts and overcome the typical hurdles faced by materials science companies during product scale-up," says Z-Polymers founder Mike Zimmerman.

Matt Guy '15, who joined Z-Polymers in 2023 as a 3D printing applications engineer, predicts the company will make a lasting impact on the textile industry.

"Z-Polymers is on the cutting edge of material development," the mechanical engineering alum says. "It's great that UML is supporting startup companies." —BC

but not enough to complete a task," says Hannah Allgood '23, a physical therapy doctoral student working with Wu. "As we learn more about these assistive devices, we can apply them to different populations so they can be used more in everyday life."

Holly Yanco, chair of the Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences and the director of the NERVE Center, is collaborating with Wu and Physical Therapy and Kinesiology Assoc. Prof. Pei-Chun Kao to develop an arm-worn exoskeleton that adapts over time to a person's changing capabilities. Yanco and Kao are also developing comfortable sensors for exoskeletons that can measure a person's fatigue in real time, allowing the exoskeleton to provide as-needed assistance on demand.

The National Science Foundation is funding both projects through grants totaling more than $1.3 million. The researchers are using exoskeletons created by Dephy, a Maynard, Massachusetts-based company, and Myomo, a Cambridge, Massachusetts-based company, to conduct their studies.

"We live in such a fantastic area to be doing robotics," Yanco says. "There are all these companies that we can work with."

ALTERNATIVES TO TOXIC CHEMICALS

When it comes to the protective gear that firefighters wear to keep them safe on the job, there are dangers lurking. PFAS, or "forever chemicals," which are used in the manufacturing of firefighters' garments, are highly toxic and may lead to cancer and other serious health issues.

Awareness of these harmful effects has been growing. Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey signed a bill last summer to phase out the use of PFAS in firefighters' protective gear. Starting Jan. 1, 2027, manufacturers and sellers will be prohibited from knowingly selling firefighter gear containing intentionally added PFAS.

"This bill is an important part of our efforts to protect the health, safety and well-being of our firefighters in Massachusetts," Healey said when she signed the bill.

Since the 1940s, PFAS, or poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances, have been used in a wide variety of products, from nonstick cookware to water-repellent clothing, due to their appealing ability to resist grease, oil, water and heat. The discovery of PFAS's harmful effects has prompted a need

"IF WE BORROW COMPONENTS FROM EXISTING COOLING VESTS AND LEVERAGE APPROACHES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROVEN IN THE FIELD, IT INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS."

—HUNTER MACK

Plastics engineering Ph.D. student Florence Acha (top) tests the water repellency of a PFAS-free coating. Water is dripped onto the coating (inset). Joshua Landis '22, '24 (bottom) tries on a cooling vest.

for alternative protective coatings for textiles and other products, a challenge that UMass Lowell researchers have taken on.

About 10 years ago, Plastics Engineering Prof. Joey Mead developed a coating in collaboration with researchers at Shenkar College in Israel that could repel water. The only problem was that this coating contained PFAS. As more information about the toxic chemicals came to light, Mead realized the importance of removing PFAS from the coating. The researchers successfully modified the coating's chemical composition, so it kept the same water-repelling property without using PFAS.

Now, Mead is seeking to make the coating oil-repellent, with the goal of scaling the coating production so it can be used in the manufacturing of textiles. Mead envisions textiles being sprayed or dipped in the coating, giving them water- and oil-resistant properties.

"Bigger applications of the coating would be for military and firefighting garments, but everyday people might very well want to wear the coated garments too," she says. "Say we dribble some salad dressing on our clothes. With the coating, we could wipe it right off."

Clothing can protect against fire through the incorporation of flame retardants, a diverse group of chemicals that are added to manufactured materials. However, flame retardants often contain halogenated compounds, which, like PFAS, are toxic and persist in the environment.

Nagarajan's work on halogen-free flame retardants has led to multiple patents and the creation of a new company, Raksha Innovations Inc., which is being incubated at the UMass Lowell Innovation Hub. Through Raksha, Nagarajan plans to scale up the process of making the patented coatings.

"By spinning out this company from our research, it allows us to bring our inventions to scale, so they benefit society," says Nagarajan, Raksha's founder. "Eventually, when we grow enough, we will be hiring UMass Lowell students."

FROM COOLING VESTS TO HEATED CLOTHING

Whether you're hiking Mount Washington on a hot summer day or trekking to the grocery store during a blizzard, the elements play a role in your safety and well-being.

To keep people comfortable, researchers from the Francis College of Engineering and the Kennedy College of Sciences are developing garments that cool off people in the heat and warm up people in the cold.

Funded by a $450,000 grant from HEROES, Mechanical Engineering Assoc. Prof. Hunter Mack is enhancing the effectiveness of cooling vests in collaboration with Plastic Engineering Profs. Meg Sobkowicz Kline and Stephen Johnston '05, '07. The team is focusing on the materials used in the vest, rather than developing a dramatically different cooling system.

"If we borrow components from existing cooling vests and leverage approaches that have already been proven in the field, it increases the likelihood of success," Mack says.

The researchers collaborated with the Fabric Discovery Center to create prototypes of the vest, which consists of a small, battery-powered pump that circulates water through a closed-loop system. The cooling tubes are made of special formulations of polymeric materials, which resulted in a 10% increase in the system's cooling performance compared with previous benchmarks, Mack says.

While this work is being done to enhance the performance of military members, the researchers see their vest also being used in sports, aerospace, medicine and high-heat jobs such as firefighting and construction.

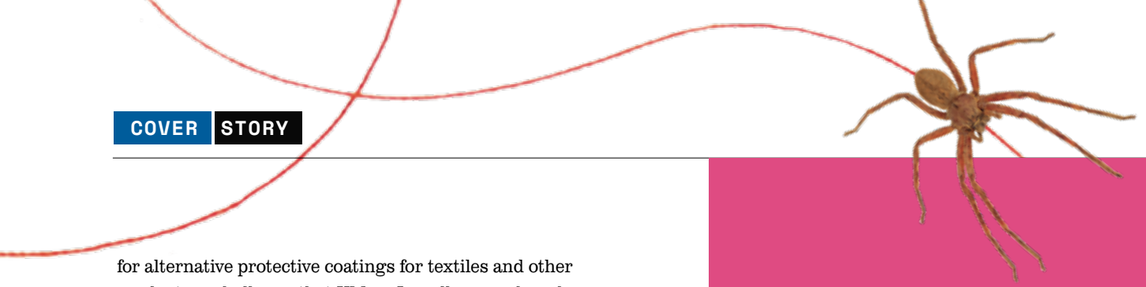
Over in the Department of Chemistry, Asst. Prof. Michael Ross is working with Reuther to make heated clothing. Their goal is to integrate nanomaterials into textiles that generate heat by absorbing light.

"The primary challenge is to identify materials that generate sufficient heating through light absorption and to durably incorporate them into an array of coatings and textiles," Ross says.

Their research, which is funded by a $250,000 HEROES grant, is aimed at keeping soldiers warm in the Arctic; however, it can also be applied to civilian applications, similar to Mack's cooling vest.

Elsewhere on campus, researchers are developing sensors to improve helmets. They're creating more durable and protective eyewear. Others are printing metal inks on fabric to boost Wi-Fi signals. Some are combining nanoparticles with peptides, or short chains of amino acids, to design sensors that, when integrated into clothing, alert people of elevated pH levels. These early-stage innovations have the potential to redefine fabrics and fashion, impacting not only what we wear, but also our performance and comfort in our jobs and daily activities.

"Just like the university did 130 years ago," says Nagarajan, "UMass Lowell is developing the next generation of textiles—textiles that have the potential to revolutionize our daily lives." UML



Spider Silk: Nature's Wonder Fiber Could Revolutionize the Textile Industry

A spider web may look delicate, but its fiber, or silk, is actually five times stronger than steel, 10 times tougher than the Kevlar used in bullet-proof vests, and can be stretched up to three times its length without breaking.

Spiders have been producing silk—a natural super-fiber made of special polymer-like proteins—for more than 400 million years.

Biology Assoc. Prof. Jessica Garb has been been awarded grants totaling more than $1 million by the National Science Foundation to study the molecular evolution and genomic history of spider silk proteins. "We are trying to understand what proteins are being used in each silk type, and how the features of the protein sequences enable such remarkable biomechanical properties," she says.

Several startup companies have successfully used genetic engineering techniques to produce synthetic spider silk to make consumer products such as jackets and sneakers. Garb says researchers are also exploring how the material could be used to improve protective equipment like helmets and body armor; medical devices like prosthetics, bandages and sutures; sports gear; and even automotive parts.

So, why is spider silk not being produced on an industrial scale like traditional silk made by silkworms?

Unlike silkworm larvae, which make a large amount of silk to build their cocoon in one continuous fiber and can live side by side in silk farms, spiders are aggressive and often cannibalistic, so they cannot be together in high density, Garb explains. In addition, It is also technically challenging and expensive to produce artificial spider silk protein in large quantities.

But with advances in technology, that is changing. Garb expects spider-silk-derived products to become cheaper and more widely available in the near future. —EA

The Cost of Fast Fashion

UML students and faculty tackle the industry's toll on people and the planet

BY KATHARINE WEBSTER

Gloria Donkor worked in the secondhand clothing industry in Accra, Ghana, for three years, going to the market early in the morning to pick through bales of clothing bought by wholesalers and find items she could resell.

"I grew up wearing secondhand clothing; it's normal in Ghana for everyday wear," says Donkor, now a Ph.D. student in global studies at UMass Lowell.

Most of that clothing comes from the United States and Europe, Donkor says. But with the rise of "fast fashion"—inexpensive, trendy, mass-produced garments—the quality of secondhand clothing has declined. While some of it can be cut up to make and stuff pillows, 40% or more goes straight to landfills.

Concerned about the effects of fast fashion on the environment and society, Donkor is now on a mission to blunt its negative impacts. She is one of many students and faculty members who are studying the environmental, economic and social effects of fast fashion, taking action and raising the alarm—especially among students, many of whom are in the Gen Z target demographic for today's fast-fashion firms.

THE FAST-FASHION SCRAP HEAP

Because most fast fashion is made from cheap synthetic fabrics and blends, it does not biodegrade—but it does shed microplastics as the fibers break down, Donkor says. Microplastics from the laundering and deterioration of synthetic textiles account for 16% to 35% of the microplastics found in the world's oceans, according to the European Environment Agency.

"You see small hills of clothing in landfills," Donkor says of the pileups of fast fashion castoffs in Ghana. "Sometimes you find clothing mixed into the sand on the beach near the big market. Sanitation does try to deal with it, but there's so much that sometimes it clogs the storm drains and gutters."

Donkor is trying to make a difference, one stitch at a time. She won a $4,000 grant from the university's Rist Institute for Sustainability and Energy to run pop-up "Seamingly Sustainable" workshops around campus, where she teaches students how to repair and "upcycle" their clothing by adding sequins, embroidery, lace and patches. Her plan is to start a student club that can pass on those skills. She is also researching the impact of Massachusetts' 2022 textile disposal ban on the secondhand clothing market in Ghana.

Economics Prof. Monica Galizzi says that early fast-fashion firms such as Zara, H&M and Forever 21 took off because they responded quickly to the latest high-fashion trends, mass-producing inexpensive knockoffs and targeting teens and young adults.

"A piece of clothing wasn't supposed to last forever," she says. "Young people wanted to buy clothing that was relatively cheap, and they didn't care so much if it was high-quality."

Now, nearly all clothing that Americans buy is fast fashion, Galizzi says. And in the past few years, online-only companies such as Shein—which charges as little as $3 for T-shirts and $7 for pants, while offering free shipping and returns—have updated and perfected that business model, harnessing the power of the internet to create "on-demand fashion."

Shein, a Chinese firm, accounts for about half of U.S. sales among the biggest fast fashion firms, up from 11% in 2020, according to Bloomberg Second Measure. The company's in-house designers and its network of thousands of small garment factories churn out an average of 6,000 new clothing designs each week.

The factories make only 100 to 200 of a single item to start, Galizzi says. Shein sells directly to consumers on its website and through its app, so it can quickly analyze which items are getting the most clicks and buys and then make more, she says. It also ships directly to consumers, which allows it to evade U.S. tariffs on shipments valued at $800 or more, a gap the government is trying to close.

Meanwhile, the apparel factories and textile manufacturers that supply Shein use the cheapest possible materials and labor, says Galizzi, a labor economist.

> "You see small hills of clothing in landfills."
>
> —GLORIA DONKOR

FEATURE STORY

"It's a history that repeats itself," she says. "We had Lowell and the textile mills, and when companies realized they could pay workers less in the South, they moved the factories to the South. And then when they realized they could pay workers less in East Asia, they moved their factories to China and India and Bangladesh."

Workers can be paid much less in developing countries not just because of widespread underemployment and a lower cost of living, Galizzi says: "They are using child labor, women's labor, forced labor in some factories in China, and workers in unsafe conditions. We hear often of factory fires and workers dying because they were locked inside."

That's the human cost of fast fashion, she says.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS

In 2017, the average American bought 53 new pieces of new clothing each year, according to market research firm Euromonitor International, with women accounting for the largest share of consumers.

Many of those consumers are teenagers and young adults, says Ellie Bancroft, a senior majoring in finance and minoring in sustainability who supervises a team of student "eco-reps" at the Rist Institute.

Young people often turn to companies like Shein because they're on a tight budget, Bancroft says. But the environmental costs are high: For starters, the textile industry accounts for up to 10% of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, according to the United Nations Environment Programme, and 85% of all textiles are either incinerated or end up in landfills, she says.

Those numbers keep rising as purchases of new, cheap clothing increase, driven by videos on TikTok and Instagram of fashion influencers opening and modeling their latest "Shein hauls" and similar online shopping sprees, Bancroft says.

"The real problem is people who will buy $500 or $800 worth of fast fashion, wear everything once and then throw it away," she says.

Bancroft, who also serves as president of the Student Society for Sustainability, got involved on campus after doing research as an Immersive Scholar with Mechanical Engineering Asst. Prof. Jasmina Burek.

Together with another Immersive Scholar, Alyssa Puglisi, they analyzed the lifecycle and carbon footprint of garments donated to a nonprofit in Worcester, Massachusetts, that aids refugees and immigrants from Southeast Asia. That cycle starts with growing cotton with lots of water and pesticides and making polyester out of petroleum, and then moves to manufacturing the fabric and the garments, through sale, donation and eventual disposal—plus transportation between each stage.

"Much of the donated clothing is garbage," Bancroft says. "Even though people think donating is a good thing, it's worse for the environment to donate clothes that can't be reused than it is to throw them away or recycle them. Most of it ends up in huge garbage piles in poorer countries, especially in Africa, Indonesia and Southeast Asia."

The research team also found that the clothing with the lowest carbon footprint used by the immigrants was their traditional garments, which are made from natural fibers, washed by hand, air-dried and carefully preserved to hand down through their families.

"The longer you use your clothes, the lower the impact," says Burek, who grew up in a town in Croatia with a once-thriving wool fabric and clothing industry that has been decimated by fast fashion.

Under a $7,000 Rist Institute grant, Burek and Ph.D. student Alana Smith '22 are developing a tool for evaluating the positive impacts of sustainable practices on campus. Burek is also working with Political Science Asst. Prof. Aaron Smith-Walter and several undergraduate research assistants to examine ways in which people can reduce their carbon footprint by changing their clothing consumption habits.

REFUSE, REUSE, REPAIR AND RECYCLE

Even though young people are among the biggest consumers of on-demand fashion, there's good news, too: Gen Z and millennials are more likely than older consumers to buy sustainably grown and biodegradable natural fibers, purchase secondhand clothing, use clothing rental services and recycle worn-out clothes, according to Bloomberg.

Clothing recycling is a relatively new option in Massachusetts, says senior honors student Anthony Amatucci, who did paid research through the Emerging Scholars Program with Burek and Smith-Walter on the effects of the state's two-year-old textile disposal ban.

Textiles account for one-third of all landfill waste in the state, yet 85% of all discarded textiles could be donated, repurposed as wiping cloths or recycled into fibers for industrial use, according to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Because of the ban, most cities and towns have bins and drop-off locations for used clothing, footwear, bedding, towels, curtains and even stuffed animals—and UMass Lowell is getting one, too.

But many people are still unaware of the ban and recycling options, says Amatucci, who is double-majoring in economics and political science. He and psychology major Katrina Smith looked at the most effective ways of getting the recycling message out to people in different groups.

Amatucci says the research also made him take a hard look at his own consumption habits. Now, he's buying fewer new clothes and occasionally going to thrift shops in search of "new-to-me" items. He likes saving money while reducing his carbon footprint.

"When you take a step back, you realize how many clothes you're going through," he says. "Once you realize all that's not necessary, you feel mentally cleaner, too."

Not surprisingly, the most popular event hosted by the Student Society for Sustainability is Thrift Day, when UMass Lowell students can "shop" piles and racks of donated clothing for free, Bancroft says. First, club members sort through the clothing, sending anything too worn to display to a textile recycler. After the event, clothing that students don't "buy" is donated to a nearby thrift store. Donkor partners with Thrift Day by running a Seamingly Sustainable workshop at the same location.

In fall 2023, Burek's lab calculated that Thrift Day helped to avoid 1,117 pounds in carbon dioxide emissions compared with making the same amount of new polyester and cotton clothing, while about 70 students left with an average of four pieces of clothing each.

Of course, UMass Lowell students don't have to wait until Thrift Day to buy low-cost clothing. Bancroft often goes "thrifting" at local secondhand shops with friends fromthe sustainability club.

"Pretty much everyone in the group loves to do that," she says.

Donkor says that if you're willing to spend time hunting through consignment shops and thrift stores, you can find bargains and higher-quality items made of natural fibers. But even if you buy lightly used fast fashion, you're still keeping clothing out of the waste stream for a while longer, she says.

"You can find some unique pieces," she says. "It's a job of patience and sorting and finding gems." UML

Sources: UML Office of Sustainability, Business Insider, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Labor, U.N. Environment Programme, European Environment Agency, International Union for Conservation of Nature

WHAT UML IS DOING

UML's Office of Sustainability collects about 1 ton of clothing each year during "Sustainable Move Out" and sends it to Bay State Textiles for reuse and recycling.

Bay State Textiles is installing a **collection bin** on East Campus for reusable and recyclable textiles.

The Office of Sustainability works with **Grad Bag, which sanitizes and packages donations of bedding, towels and more** to create dorm starter kits for about 80 new students each year.

Global studies Ph.D. student Elizabeth Aliu threads a needle while Gloria Donkor, center, and Alana Smith '22 look on during a "Seamingly Sustainable" workshop at University Crossing.

BY ED BRENNEN

Giving Back Suits Them Well

Alumni Power Couple Wendy and John Geraci Help Shape the Next Generation

For all the ways in which Wendy and John Geraci support UMass Lowell—their service on advisory boards, their endowed scholarship, their mentoring of students—perhaps nothing epitomizes their connection to the university more than the fact that both of their children are River Hawks.

"Sending our two kids is evidence of our belief in the school and the value of the education," says John, a Manning School of Business accounting alum from the Class of 1997. He is managing partner at LGA, LLP, an accounting and business advisory firm in Woburn, Massachusetts.

Both Geraci children followed in their father's Manning School footsteps: Gianna earned a business degree in 2023 (and now works as an associate at LGA), and Rocco is a sophomore business major.

"I couldn't get them on my side," shrugs Wendy, who earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in photography and graphic design in 1997, and is now co-owner of All Sports Heroes, a Lowell-based distributor of uniforms and corporate promotional products.

But she can take credit for her husband attending UML.

The Geracis met as high schoolers in Littleton, Massachusetts. John, a year older, was classmates with Wendy's brother, whom he convinced to join him on the football team "as a way to get closer" to her. "Her brother was not an athlete, and he got the living crap kicked out of him for 12 months for me," recalls John, whose ploy worked: He asked Wendy to her junior prom, and they've been together ever since.

Admittedly "a terrible high school student with horrible SAT scores," John eschewed college after graduating and worked at a grocery store. When Wendy decided to follow her passion for art at UMass Lowell a year later, John joined her.

"I had some amazing professors like Linda Kistler and John Collins who challenged you but also wanted to see you succeed," says John, a first-generation college student.

After graduating, John landed a job at the accounting firm Caturano and Co. in Boston, where he worked for more than 12 years. While there, he found a mentor in chief operating officer Chris McKenzie '84, a fellow UML alum. In 2009, McKenzie was invited to join the Manning School Advisory Board; he accepted on the condition that John could join too. (McKenzie recently joined LGA as an advisor after retiring from the accounting firm RSM.)

"Being on the board has provided opportunities for more engagement on campus and giving back to the students, and I just enjoy the hell out of mentoring and guiding," John says.

Indeed, since joining LGA 15 years ago, John has built a steady internship pipeline with his alma mater, and he estimates that half of his new hires each year are UML grads.

"I'm so proud of the school," says John, who received a University Alumni Award in 2022. "As much as the campus has been enhanced and the programming is stronger, when you compare the student body today to when we were there, it's still a bunch of hungry, blue-collar go-getters."

Wendy hopes to offer design and marketing internships to UML students at All Sports Heroes, which she has co-owned with friends Tom and Sharon Delmore since 2023.

"Coming in here on the creative side has been so fulfilling. It brings me back to that part of my passion," says Wendy, who knew that her B.F.A. degree would give her a chance to try different things throughout her career.

Coming out of UML, she worked at a photography studio in Boston and a graphic design firm in Woburn, Massachusetts. After Rocco was born, she shifted gears and opened a day care center that she ran out of the family home in Dracut, Massachusetts, for more than a decade.

As the kids got older, Wendy "got back into the working world" and landed a job with a craft beer distributor in Boston, where she led a graphic design team for five years. In 2022, she joined LGA as a graphic design specialist, a role she continues while running All Sports Heroes.

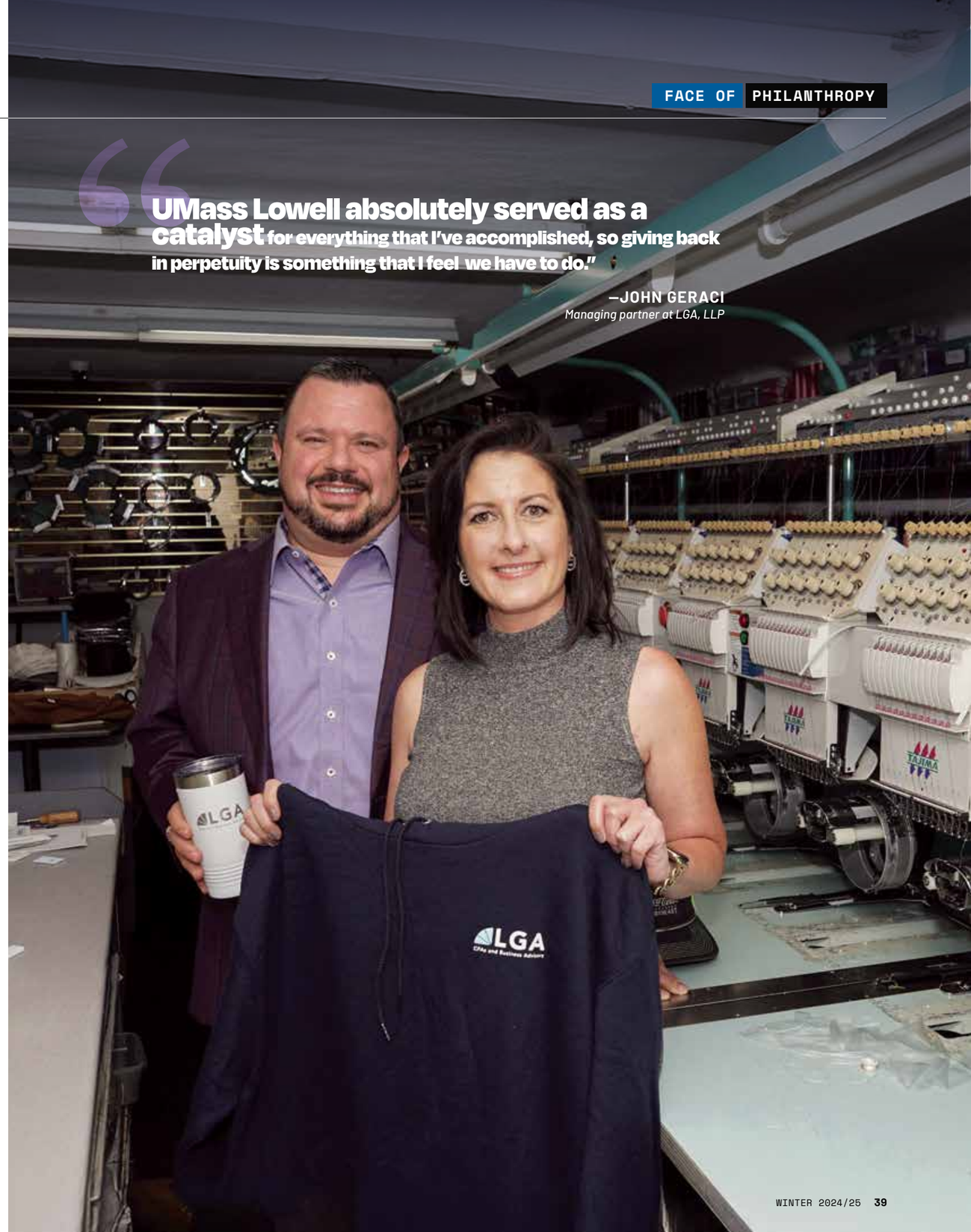
"My journey has evolved, and I got a lot of that through the journey that I had at UMass Lowell," says Wendy, who recently joined the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Advisory Board. "I'm really excited about the new dean, Sue Kim. She has so much passion and energy."

LGA and All Sports Heroes are both corporate sponsors of UML Athletics, and LGA will have a sign (designed by Wendy) on a hockey dasher board at the Tsongas Center this year.

About five years ago, Wendy and John established the Geraci Family Endowed Scholarship, which supports undergraduate Manning School students who have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and are active in the Joy Tong Women in Business student organization.

"UMass Lowell absolutely served as a catalyst for everything that I've accomplished, so giving back in perpetuity is something that I feel we have to do," John says. "There are so many alumni who have achieved so much success coming from such a value-based institution. How do you not attribute so much of your success to UMass Lowell?"

"And how can you not give back to the university and the next generation of students?" Wendy adds. "It would be a shame not to support that." UML



BY EDWIN L. AGUIRRE

UML + Draper:

Driving Innovation Together

"My work experience at Draper gave me many opportunities to grow out of my comfort zone and learn from technical experts on how to produce world-class research and develop collaboration skills."

PAUL JOHNSON '25
Draper Scholars at UML

Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, a nonprofit research and development company based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has been a leader in solving some of the world's most complex problems since it was founded in 1932 by its namesake, who was an MIT engineering professor.

Although it initially focused on developing precision instruments for the military and aerospace industries, the lab has diversified its research portfolio over the decades into the fields of biotechnology, health care and autonomous systems. With 12 locations in the U.S. and more than 2,000 employees, Draper continues to push the boundaries of engineering and technology, from space exploration to medical diagnostics.

Today, Draper is one of the cornerstone partners of the Lowell Innovation Network Corridor, or LINC, an $800 million-plus public-private economic development venture on East Campus that will add more than 1 million square feet of new lab and office space, hundreds of units of housing, new retail and entertainment venues and thousands of jobs over the next decade.

"Our expansion to Lowell marks a significant milestone in our mission to drive innovation in Massachusetts and across the U.S.," said Draper CEO and President Jerry Wohletz at the LINC announcement on campus in March. "Universities are engines of innovation, with powerful ideas that the world needs, but making those ideas real is no small task. Draper is here to help with mentorships, prototype testing and development, and opportunities for customer collaborations that result in fielded and deployed solutions."

Draper's Electronic Systems division plans to set up a brand-new lab facility in the LINC space.

"Our LINC partnership will enable the growth and development of a microelectronics workforce for national security," says Sarah Leeper, vice president and general manager of the division.

Draper aims to conduct research and development on campus, including designing, prototyping and testing of new microelectronic components, performing materials science research and systems analysis, and bringing R&D projects into production.

"When you combine the expertise of UMass Lowell faculty and the engineering capabilities within Draper, and then you mesh that with UML students who are highly motivated to learn and are ambitious, that's a recipe for success in developing an innovative, next-generation workforce," says Leeper.

Unique Student and Alumni Experiences

In addition to career-connected experiences such as capstone learning projects, internships, co-ops and mentoring, Draper will award up to 10 scholarships per year to UMass Lowell graduate students over the next decade, says Draper Scholars Program Director Chris Yu. Each scholarship is valued at as much as $100,000 per year—up to two years of funding and tuition support for a master's degree, and up to five years for a Ph.D.

"Education is incredibly important to help us uphold the Draper mission," Yu says.

Chancellor Julie Chen says the collaboration is built on a foundation of common goals and shared missions.

"Partnerships like this one with Draper provide unparalleled experiences, from hands-on internships to collaborative research. By aligning with organizations that share our goals, we can amplify our impact—bringing inventions to market, shaping policy and preparing the next generation of leaders," she says.

Paul Johnson '25, one of two current Draper Scholars at UML, is pursuing a doctorate in energy engineering with a concentration in nuclear engineering.

"My research at Draper focuses on microelectronics systems exposed to harsh space environments and the characterization of radiation transport tools to understand the systems' response to solar and cosmic radiation," says Johnson, who is an Army veteran.

Undergraduate students are also gaining invaluable skills and work experience thanks to the UMass Lowell-Draper partnership. Electrical engineering major John Moore '25 has a microprocess engineering internship at Draper's Microfabrication Lab, which designs and creates microelectrical mechanical systems for high-precision sensors.

Moore, who plans to pursue a master's degree in the same field at UML, says the environment at Draper is supportive.

Bob Breton '90 is one of the many UMass Lowell alumni currently working at Draper. "In one engineering division alone, Draper has 39 employees who are UML alums," says Breton, director of the Systems Engineering Concepts and Design division.

Jim Moran, a principal member of the company's technical staff, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering in 1983 and 1986. Moran joined Draper in 2008 and works on developing integrated circuits for embedded systems. He has also been teaching as an adjunct professor at UML's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering for 38 years.

"LINC is a great opportunity for our students to assimilate into industry sooner, as well as for Draper to recruit young talent that meets its technical needs," says Moran.

And that's just the beginning, says Leeper.

"We're very excited with our partnership with UML," she says. "It'll be wonderful to be on campus and have direct access to the student population. It'll be mutually beneficial." UML

DRAPER

< As a Draper Scholar, energy engineering doctoral student Paul Johnson '21, left, researches the effects of solar and cosmic radiation.

IN THE MIX

Musical performance alumna Julia James '24 seized the national spotlight as a semifinalist in the CBS Mornings Mixtape Music Competition. Her cover of the Johnny Nash classic "I Can See Clearly Now" was broadcast to millions of viewers, and she performed live on WBZ, the Boston CBS affiliate. The Southborough, Massachusetts, native credits UML's vibrant music scene for helping her develop as a performer and songwriter. Read more on page 55.

CLASS NOTES

1965

Dennis Serpone is the founder of The National Restaurant Exchange in Wakefield, Massachusetts. He celebrated 43 years in serving the hospitality industry.

1967

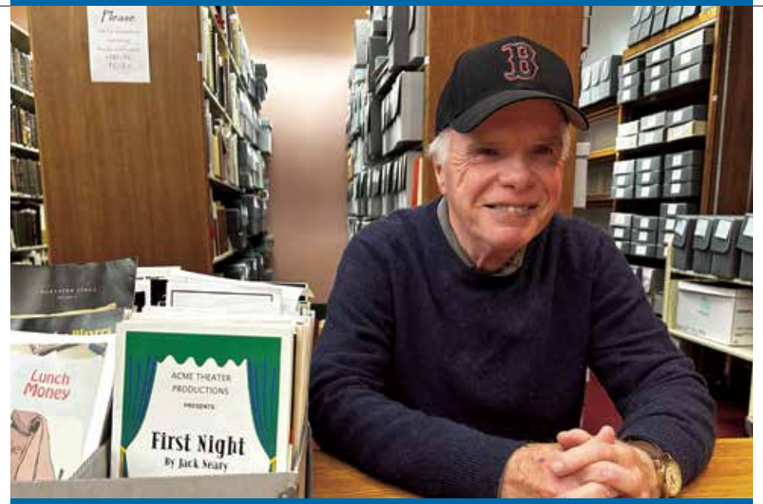
Jean (Gurecki) Jacoppi '67, '92 continues to lead Bone Builders exercise classes at the Tyngsboro Senior Center and Crystal Lake Resort in Naples, Florida. She is also the coordinator of the Stitchers knitting group at Tyngsboro Senior Center. They offer knitwear to the Lowell General Cancer Center, Adopt A Family at Tyngsboro High School, Tyngsboro Elementary School and needy families in Lowell through Able to Serve. Jacoppi is also the event coordinator for the Friends of the Tyngsboro Elderly Inc. and a member of the Tyngsboro Garden Club and Anytime Fitness, which keeps her in shape for ballroom dancing.

1972

John Kovac is enjoying retirement and spending time with his grandchildren Avalon and Brennan, after careers in the military and transportation/logistics. Kovac is a dedicated ocean and river cruiser and collects British cars such as the Jaguar S Type, Aston Martin Vantage and Bentley Turbo RL. He is on the board of directors and volunteers at Tidewater Wooden Boat Workshop, a Norfolk, Virginia-based nonprofit using STEM to teach inner-city youth the skills to build wooden rowboats and sailboats.

1974

Nursing alumnae from the Class of 1974 visited campus this fall to see firsthand what has changed in the 50 years since they graduated. Among other stops, they toured the nursing labs, led by a student, and viewed a behavioral health simulation. Pictured, from left: **Helen (Sinclair) Gault, Jane (Ross) Stankiewicz, Phyllis (McHugh) Leocha and Florence Calore '74, '78.** ↓



> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1973

'The Neil Simon of Lowell' Donates His Papers to UMass Lowell

Writer, director and performer Jack Neary, whose plays have been staged around the world and who has appeared in films such as "Black Mass" and "The Town," recently donated his professional papers to UMass Lowell.

"You do something, you create a certain amount of work over the course of an artistic life, and if you're lucky, you'll have material out there like plays and acting appearances that will withstand the course of time," Neary says. "It's here because I did the work, and I wanted to let somebody know."

Much of Neary's creative life is informed by his upbringing in Lowell's Sacred Heart neighborhood. In 1973, he earned an English degree from Lowell State College, one of UMass Lowell's predecessor institutions, and pursued a career as an actor before turning to playwriting.

His initial effort, "First Night," originally conceived as a one-act play, became a full-length production staged around the country, including off-Broadway, at the Westside Theater in New York City. The play "Trick or Treat," which he wrote for Emmy winner Gordon Clapp of "NYPD Blue," also played off-Broadway in 2019 after a highly successful run at Northern Stage in White River Junction, Vermont.

From baseball to religion, to the common day-to-day of modern lives, subjects explored in Neary's works are often anchored in American culture, and he has mined his hometown experience for gems on stage.

Writer, colleague and fellow UMass Lowell graduate Paul Marion '76, '05, founder of Loom Press, praised Neary as "the Neil Simon of Lowell, for the way audiences connect with the humanity in his characters and stories."

James Grand announces the release of his novel, "Then Came Morning," after more than a decade of work on the manuscript. The historical fiction novel, set in Buenos Aires in the late 1970s, is a story about two high-school boys from very different backgrounds growing up in the "time of the generals," otherwise known as "The Dirty War." Grand has lived mostly in New York City and Southern California. Winning a national creative writing competition while in law school encouraged him to consider an idea for a novel—"a form of writing far from the legal briefs and formalities" of his profession, he says. Grand and his husband, Stephen, now enjoy life in Rancho Mirage, California.

Angelos Kokkinos was selected by The Elon Musk Foundation to serve as a judge for the XPrize Carbon Removal competition, a $100 million competition aimed at advancing solutions for removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and oceans to help fight climate change. Kokkinos is a consultant in fuels, emissions controls, carbon emissions capture and controls, critical minerals and energy systems. He recently retired following a 44-year career in the energy industry.

1975

1976

Sheila (Anderson) Kirschbaum '76, '15, director of the Tsongas Industrial History Center, received the Patrick J. Mogan Learning City Award, an annual honor presented to an individual, group or organization that best embodies and promotes Dr. Mogan's values and beliefs about learning. Kirschbaum was selected for her work in experiential learning, museum education, literacy studies, curriculum development, professional teacher development—and for her many contributions to community life in Lowell. ↓

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1979

MAKING THE JUMP

Tom Miller '79 Engineered a Career as a Health Care Executive

BY MADELINE BODIN

When Tom Miller '79 helped develop a radiation therapy for retinal melanoma as a research fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital soon after graduating from UMass Lowell, he might have found it difficult to keep achieving at that level.

"We were able to cure 90% of the patients, while preserving their eyesight," Miller says.

Instead, he made the jump to a corporate executive suite, finding an entirely new path to continue achieving and advancing his career.

Miller worked his way up the organizational chart at several global technology companies. He became the first non-German CEO of a German factory and business unit for Siemens Medical Systems. He turned around the troubled global medical operations of Carl Zeiss as its CEO, and then, as Analogic Corporation's CEO, he doubled that company's stock price. He helped to found LightLab Imaging, serving as its CEO. Later, he became responsible for 26,000 employees in more than 130 countries as the CEO of Siemens Healthcare.

In 2013 Miller and two partners founded GreyBird Ventures, a Concord, Massachusetts-based investment firm that focuses on diagnostic technologies. In addition to his role at GreyBird, Miller now serves as chairman or director on the boards of 12 medical technology companies.

While Miller has a master's degree in medical physics from a joint Harvard/MIT program, he says the influence of his UMass Lowell education, where he earned a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering, cannot be underestimated. "It changed everything," he says.

Miller grew up in Lowell and now lives in Concord. In his spare time, he competes in motocross racing, a hobby he took up as a teenager. The lessons he has learned on the racetrack have helped him in his career, especially in how to manage risk, he says.

"I can hit a 30-foot jump ... but I train for it and practice it," he says. "Aggression without detailed preparation is simply folly."

1978

John Panny retired after 45 years of reading contractual documents. He is working on two startup companies: LegalEyes, where he continues to review contract documents, and Chance to Change Life, helping people via mentoring and accountability to get past life's traumatic events.

1984

Jerry Jannetti has been appointed by WSP, a leading engineering, environment and professional services firm, as the leader of its U.S. Transportation and Infrastructure business, responsible for project delivery and operating performance. Jannetti has three decades of experience and has held numerous leadership positions with WSP and across the transportation industry.

1985

Michael Kiklis is pleased to announce the launch of his boutique patent law firm, Kiklis Law Firm PLLC. The firm, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, offers a comprehensive range of legal services related to patent disputes, including trials at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), federal circuit appeals and patent litigation.

Steven Larochelle has been appointed by the board of directors of Enterprise Bank as the new chief executive officer of both the company and the bank. He has been serving as the chief banking officer of the bank since 2009. Prior to that time, Larochelle served as chief commercial real estate lender of the company and the bank since 2003. He began his career in the banking industry and has specialized in commercial lending for various community banks since 1985. ↓

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1997

Kemi Olugemo, M.D., Named Chief Medical Officer at Korro Bio

When Nigerian American Kemi Olugemo '97 moved across the world 20 years ago, the mentors she found at UMass Lowell launched her on a path to success in this country. "As a teenager, I moved across continents to UMass Lowell to pursue the American Dream," says Olugemo, a physician-scientist and philanthropist. "Several faculty members inspired and believed in me through the years, and Profs. Ted Namm, Mary Kramer and Kay Doyle all left an indelible mark on me."

Olugemo, who was recently appointed chief medical officer at Korro Bio, has over a decade of industry experience focused on clinical development and regulatory strategy. She previously served as vice president and therapeutic head of neurology global clinical development at Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical, where she led teams in developing life-changing medicines for patients with rare neurological diseases.

In 2022, she launched the nonprofit Zebulon Foundation Inc. to identify and close critical health care gaps in Nigeria and other West African countries. An American Academy of Neurology fellow, she also serves on several boards, including Women of Color in Pharma; Clinics IV Life; the Physician Research Council for Circuit Clinical; and Leadership Council of CNS Summit.

Olugemo, who received a UMass Lowell University Alumni Award in 2023, completed her medical training and neurology residency at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and an additional fellowship in neuroimmunology and multiple sclerosis at the Maryland Center for MS Excellence. She and her husband, Michael Olugemo, live in Wayland, Massachusetts, with their two children.

Her biggest lesson since first stepping on campus in 1994?

"Learn from failure and recognize that you truly have the power to shape your future," she says. "Find both mentors and sponsors and always send the elevator back down to help as many people as you can."

1986

Dean Snell has been inducted into the New Bedford All Sports Hall of Fame for being a successful two-sport athlete (ice hockey and baseball) during his three years at New Bedford High School.

Ed Madigan has been appointed to the Monadnock Community Hospital board of trustees. Madigan is a program manager at MilliporeSigma, where he leads capital improvement projects. He serves on the board of the Gilmore Pond Association and lives in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, with his wife Debbie.

1987

Joseph Peznola hhas been promoted to vice president of engineering at Hancock Associates. Penzola has nearly 35 years of industry experience and has been an engineer at Hancock Associates for over 20 years. He has extensive experience with complex, high-density commercial and residential developments throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire for private sector clients, nonprofit organizations and municipalities.

1989

Ted Rigney is now the head football coach at Medway High School in Medway, Massachusetts. He has previously coached in Bellingham, Hopkinton and Uxbridge.

Dennis Gallagher has been appointed by Fortifi Food Processing Solutions as president of Frontmatec, a leading global supplier of automated pork and beef processing equipment, operating within Fortifi's integrated platform of premier brands in food processing and automation solutions.

1991

Luis Colon was awarded the 2024 Lifetime Mentor Award by the American Association for the Advancement in Sciences. The award recognizes scientists, engineers, innovators and public servants for their contributions to science and society. Colon was honored for his longstanding commitment to advancing diversity in the chemical sciences through recruitment and mentoring of students from groups traditionally underrepresented in science.

1993

Shawn MacInnes has been named president and CEO of Columbia Association, a nonprofit community services corporation in Columbia, Maryland. MacInnes has worked in high-level leadership positions in municipal government for more than 20 years, most recently as a town administrator on the south coast of Massachusetts. MacInnes started his career as an engineer with the Maryland State Highway Administration.

1994

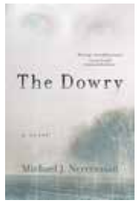
Jinwen Zhang '94, '97 has been honored as a senior member of the National Academy of Inventors. The Academy recognizes senior members for their success in patents, licensing and commercialization, as well as for having produced technology that has or will have a significant impact on society. A professor in the School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering at Washington State University, Zhang has been advancing in the field of polymer sustainability through focused research efforts, particularly in development of biobased polymers, design for recyclability, and innovative approaches to plastic waste recycling.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Beloved Former UML Staffer Ellen Duggan Named Commonwealth Heroine

Former Dean of Students Ellen Duggan (below, at right) was honored as a 2024 Commonwealth Heroine by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. Nominated by State Rep. Kate Hogan, Duggan was recognized for her efforts in making her town of Maynard, Massachusetts, a better place to live.

Duggan is a tireless volunteer in Maynard, having served in such groups as the Community Preservation Committee, Maynard Historic Commission and Sesquicentennial Committee. She is a vocal advocate for the growing senior population in town, lobbying for the creation of a senior center and working with Meals on Wheels for food delivery.



Michael Nercessian
Michael Nercessian recently released his second book, "The Dowry," a literary/speculative novel. His first book, "My Name Was Susan O'Malley," was published in 2022. He splits his time between Plum Island, Massachusetts, and Long Island, New York.

Kathleen DiPerna has been named a 2024-25 Rey Fellow by Boston public media producer GBH for her excellence, potential, creativity and overall outstanding producer skill set. DiPerna is a producer for MASTERPIECE; she develops programs for the series and provides editorial feedback on scripts and cuts of episodes. She also produces MASTERPIECE Mystery! host segments featuring Alan Cumming and works with production partners to manage the series' awards strategy. For nearly 10 years, DiPerna has worked on several award-winning programs, including "Downton Abbey," "Sherlock," "Victoria," "Wolf Hall" and "All Creatures Great and Small."

1995

Paul Haughey, superintendent of Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, has been appointed to the board of directors of Venture Community Services, one of the commonwealth's leading providers of innovative human services, committed to providing compassionate, person-centered services to nearly 600 people with developmental disabilities and autism across Massachusetts.

1996

Tammie (Brooks) Robie, a two-time ECAC champion and NCAA Division II qualifier on the women's cross country and track and field teams while at UML, published a memoir titled "Misdiagnosed for Miles," which chronicles her 16-plus-year struggle with a misdiagnosed medical condition and the eventual diagnosis of primary hyperaldosteronism. After nearly two decades of suffering with debilitating symptoms, Robie says she finally discovered that the root cause was a tumor growing on her adrenal gland. "Thanks to surgery to remove the tumor in 2023, I was finally cured, and my symptoms dissipated for the first time in my adult life," she writes.

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1993 IN BRIEF

UMass Lowell professor of legal studies **Michelle Veilleux** was sworn in to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court. Two major opinions were released while she was present in court (Lindke v. Freed and Pulsifer v. United States). "I've examined these cases with my students since the court agreed to review them," she writes. "In addition to my own regular travel to the Supreme Court, I'm planning a Seminar in the Law course that will examine cases on the docket in future Supreme Court sessions, with plans to travel to D.C. with students so that they may witness oral arguments before the Supreme Court.""

Lisa Schurga started "Multiple Talking Women," a satirical sketch comedy half-hour podcast inspired by the consistently sold-out live theater improv show "Happy Hour." Schurga and her fellow creators host the podcast, on which they play characters of three unlikely friends with completely different social views and interview real celebrity guests. ↓

1997

Kemi Olugemo has been appointed as the chief medical officer at Korro Bio. She brings more than 10 years of industry experience focused on clinical development and regulatory strategy. Olugemo previously served as vice president and therapeutic head of neurology global clinical development at Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical (see close-up on page 46).

Monica (Omorodion) Swaida's documentary, "Tales of Our Legends," is currently streaming on Amazon Prime Video. The first of three seasons, the documentary shares the stories of African legends. Swaida, a Westford resident and filmmaker, says she got the idea for the series in 2018 after reconnecting with a once well-known artist friend of hers who had seemingly been forgotten by their society. ↓

1998

Heather Costello '98, '00 and Jeff Kierman '99 got married on June 1. They met as students at UMass Lowell, parted ways for two decades and reunited in 2017.

Rachel (Costello) Lentine has been named as the new administrator of the Mt. Carmel Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Manchester, New Hampshire. Lentine has 25 years of experience in senior care, most recently as Mt. Carmel's director of nursing.

Chojaa Josef Ghosn was inaugurated as the third president and CEO of AdventHealth University (AHU). "Today is a special day for me and for my family, but most importantly, this is an important moment for our students, who are at the heart of all we do," Ghosn told more than 500 guests at Forest Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church in Apopka, Florida. "AHU is a very special place, where we have a unique opportunity to develop highly skilled health professionals who will practice health care as a ministry and make a tremendous impact on the lives of patients and their families." ↓

1999

Tony Ferrao as been appointed director of franchise support for FIT Franchise Brands, the parent company of THE MAX Challenge and Farrell's eXtreme Bodyshaping. Ferrao has worked in the fitness space for more than 16 years.

2000

Greg Capolino and fellow UML alum **Eric Casimiro '96,** along with their team at CBS News, won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Promotional Announcement: News (See Close-up on page 50).

2002

Dwayne Eidens '02, '07 has been promoted to sergeant by the Billerica Police Department. Eidens is a U.S. Army Reserve veteran and a recipient of the Bronze Star for his service overseas. ↓

2003

Jessica O'Neil '03, '15, '18 was recently appointed as vice president of neurosciences service line for Tufts Medicine. She also received Fellow status in the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) and Fellow status in Cohort 3.0, LEADS-MA.

Kimberly (Zande) Gardner '03, '06, '07 earned her second master's degree, M.S.W., from Simmons University. Gardner is starting two new jobs as a crisis clinician and therapist, while also working towards her independent licensure. She hopes to eventually combine her M.S.W. with her M.A. in criminal justice from UML to work as a forensic social worker and with social justice policy in the criminal justice system.

2004

Emmanuel N. Yogo writes, "I'm still at Waynesburg University, and also just got promoted to full professor."

Washington Alves has been promoted to vice president, biologics manufacturing at Tectonic Therapeutic Inc., a preclinical-stage biotechnology company transforming the discovery of novel GPCR-targeted therapies (G-Protein Coupled Receptors).

2005

Nancy Charron and **Marilyn Fenton** published a second edition of their book "Reading with Writing in Mind: A Guide for All Middle and High School Educators." Charron has worked in different capacities at the elementary, middle school and high school levels, as a general education teacher, a special education teacher, a reading specialist and a principal designee. She is currently teaching graduate education courses for Southern New Hampshire University. Fenton taught English in several high schools and oversaw curriculum and instruction as a high school administrator. She recently retired as associate professor of education at Southern New Hampshire University.

Donica Hadley has been named the inaugural executive director of the Lab School for Innovation and Career Exploration in the College of Education at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She is an assistant professor of early, elementary and reading education with over two decades of experience in the education field.

Lisa McCauley writes, "Moved to Sandown, New Hampshire, with my better half. Currently working for an assisted living facility here in town."

2006

Elise Loiselle has achieved remarkable success in the field of medical aesthetics and has been a driving force behind Elevate Academy for Aesthetics' mission to educate and inspire future leaders in the industry.

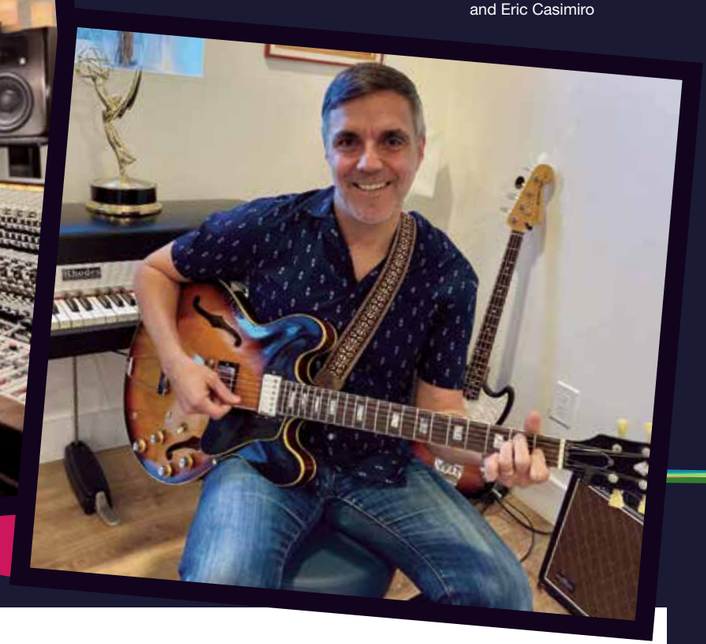
David Rice '06, '08 was appointed chief of police of Winchester, Massachusetts in March 2024. David was pinned by his wife Amy.

Continued on page 54

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1996 & 2000

AND THE EMMY GOES TO ...

Eric Casimiro '96 and Greg Capolino '00 Win for '60 Minutes' Highlight Reel



Greg Capolino (left) and Eric Casimiro

Two music and sound recording technology alumni won an Emmy award this year for a "60 Minutes" highlight reel they helped to create for CBS News.

More impressive, Eric Casimiro '96 and Greg Capolino '00 were responsible for the audio on three of the five "sizzle reels" nominated this year for the Outstanding Promotional Announcement: News award.

Casimiro, who has been full time at CBS for 12 years, has worked on 14 videos that have received Emmy nominations and won twice, with his first coming for another "60 Minutes" highlight reel. Capolino has worked on four Emmy-nominated videos; this year's award was his first.

Both men, now good friends as well as audio mixers and sound designers in CBS News's marketing department, credit UMass Lowell's Music Department and its Sound Recording Technology Program with giving them the musical chops, studio skills and connections they needed to embark on successful careers.

"The job I have right now that just got me an Emmy, I got it because of someone I met freshman year," Capolino says, referring to Casimiro, whom he met at a party. "And having gone through the SRT program was what got me callbacks to get internships. It gave me the connections, the internship and the self-confidence to go out into the world and give it a shot."

The Road to Emmy

Casimiro moved to New York City after graduating and took any job he could find, including work as an audio engineer for various bands in the music studio of Donald Fagen, the Steely Dan singer, songwriter and keyboard player. He eventually landed a position as an audio engineer at the brand-new MSNBC, and although he enjoyed the work, he left after winning a contest to whistle on the Boston-area band Guster's first major album.

In the recording studio, the band learned he was a trained musician and sound engineer, and they invited him to spend the next year touring with them, including at Woodstock '99.

Afterward, Casimiro returned to television sound work in New York, where he freelanced for MTV, Comedy Central, NBC, VH1, BET, Sony Music and Oprah Winfrey. When a group of his former co-workers at MSNBC moved over to CBS News, they persuaded the network to hire Casimiro as the division's first-ever audio engineer. That gig became permanent after five years. And in 2021, as news coverage ramped up during the COVID-19 pandemic, he persuaded CBS to hire Capolino.

Not long after graduating, Capolino had moved to Los Angeles, where he worked as a runner and assistant at a couple of major recording studios, working alongside such famed producers as Rick Rubin and Michael Beinhorn. He learned a lot, but new digital audio software, including Pro Tools, began putting a lot of music studios out of business.

Capolino decided to pursue jobs in mastering and post-production instead, and his Hollywood cred got him an offer from a major post-production studio in Boston. Over the next five years, he learned mixing and sound design.

That experience came in handy when Harmonix Music Systems, the company that invented the Guitar Hero and Rock Band series of video games, came knocking.

"That was a dream job," he says. "I worked there for almost five years, remixing hundreds, if not thousands, of major label songs that went into Rock Band."

When Rock Band's popularity began to fade, Capolino jumped back into post-production work—including freelancing for Casimiro, whom he'd always admired.

"Whenever CBS called, it was like getting called up to the major leagues," he says.

Casimiro and CBS called him up permanently in 2021. Now, the two work in tandem on all of the promotional videos for CBS's news division, from "60 Minutes" to "CBS Mornings" and news specials.

"You don't have to go to school to be an engineer, but for me, it just connected the dots and put me on the path," Capolino says. "And now it's two decades later, and I'm still on that path."

CLASS NOTES

Wear Are They Now?

Five Design Alumni Make Their Marks in Fashion and Footwear

BY ED BRENNEN

Marcello Lewis '20
graphic designer, Nike, Beaverton, Oregon

Adam Gill '19
associate designer, J.Crew, New York

Reggie Blanchard '19
graphic designer, Overtime, New York

Eli Portuhondo '18
graphic designer, Puma, Boston

Jennifer Vivier '18
channel marketing manager, Saucony, Boston

To follow the crisscrossing paths of five UML alumni friends working in the apparel and footwear industries, it would help to have an evidence board—the kind you see in detective movies with strings connecting various photos.

At the center of the board would be the Graphic Design Department in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences—the place where Jennifer Vivier '18, Eli Portuhondo '18, Reggie Blanchard '19, Adam Gill '19 and Marcello Lewis '20 all met.

"We spent time together in classes and studio spaces. We did homework together and learned from each other," says Vivier, a Lowell native who is now a channel marketing manager for Saucony shoes in Boston. "We were different ages and from different backgrounds, but connecting with each other was so valuable. It made me feel part of this community."

Portuhondo started the industry connections when he landed a design apprenticeship at Reebok in Boston after graduating. A year later, Blanchard, his former college roommate, got the same postgrad apprenticeship.

"That's how everything clicked for me and led me to the path I'm on now," says Blanchard, a native of Bedford, Massachusetts, who then joined Portuhondo at Puma in Boston as a graphic designer for basketball apparel. Portuhondo is still at Puma, and Lewis also was there during his senior year as an intern and freelancer.

In 2021, Lewis, Blanchard and Gill all moved to New York City. Lewis became a designer at Overtime, a sports media company and lifestyle brand, while Blanchard and Gill took jobs at American Eagle.

Blanchard joined Lewis at Overtime a year later and is still there as an apparel graphic designer; Lewis is now a graphic designer of women's lifestyle apparel at Nike in Oregon; and Gill recently became an associate designer at J.Crew in New York.

"There are just so many overlaps," says Vivier, who met up with Blanchard and Gill when she was in New York last summer to run a Saucony pop-up event for a collaboration with rapper/designer Jae Tips and the Billionaire Boys Club, a fashion label owned by musician Pharrell Williams.

Vivier credits Portuhondo for teaching her about streetwear culture while at UML.

"We had these creative conversations in school about brands and artists and musicians, which helped shape me into being able to hold my own in this industry," she says.

Blanchard and Gill both love living in fashion-rich New York, where they'll occasionally see someone on the subway or walking down the street wearing something they designed.

"It's cool to see stuff that I've been part of in the wild," says Gill, who peruses the city's myriad clothing stores in his free time—not so much to buy stuff, but for design inspiration.

"My personal style has definitely evolved much more quickly than it would have if I'd stayed in Massachusetts," says Gill, who grew up in Marlborough. "The second you step out of your house in New York, you know if it's a good fit or if it's kind of mediocre—not because other people are wearing good stuff, which they are, but it's just something in the air."

While he's always enjoyed expressing himself with the clothes he wears, Gill didn't consider working in the fashion industry until his senior year at UML, when that circle of friends in graphic design "showed me how to do it in a way that I didn't even realize was possible."

During the pandemic, Gill learned how to screen-print and set up a shop in his dad's basement. For his senior capstone project, he developed a clothing brand, complete with a logo, graphics and Instagram page—work that helped him land the job at American Eagle.

Blanchard would eventually like to start his own business and is pursuing an associate degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York. After having a "Marie Kondo moment" last summer and donating five bags of clothes, he wrote his FIT application essay on letting go of a Stüssy shirt that was "the first expensive thing I bought, when I was 16 years old."

"I'm very much of the Carrie Bradshaw, 'Sex in the City' energy, where I find a true emotional attachment to garments. It's really weird," he says.

One reason Blanchard is "obsessed" with the fashion industry is because it evolves while remaining referential to the past.

"The ability to reference something that happened 50 years ago, and make it contemporary with a cultural impact, makes it so attractive," he says. "It allows you to be a designer as much as an artist."

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2024

Couture Counter-Strike

Designer/DJ Lance Rego '24 Revels in Underground Fashion

Some high school sports teams fundraise by holding car washes. When business alum Lance Rego '24 and his esports teammates at Somerville High School needed to raise money so they could travel to Counter-Strike video game tournaments around the country, they launched a clothing brand called Big Chillin.

It was pretty basic gear: hoodies, T-shirts and hats featuring a picture of a frog. But by leveraging the livestreaming platform Twitch, it went viral with the Counter-Strike gaming community. Rego says they would announce a live sale to thousands of people in the chat and sell over $30,000 in merch on Shopify in a day.

"This is what made me obsessed with clothing," Rego says. "It was just a hat with a little frog on it, and it sold out in two minutes every single time. It had an intangible aura that people were just attracted to. I learned how this perceptive thing happens to people that makes them loyal, even addicted, to a movement."

Rego continued with Big Chillin until his sophomore year in the Manning School of Business before pivoting to start a new streetwear label of his own, Masquerade Lance Rego.

"Everyone is part of the masquerade, the fronts that you have to put up in life to create your character in different environments," he says of the brand name, which represents "pulling that mask off on purpose and changing people's perception of you."

As the brand has caught on—boosted by his other creative endeavor as a "minimal tech house" DJ in the Boston area—he has scaled the business and outsourced production to manufacturers.

"A lot of different DJs are wearing it, and sometimes I'll see people in the club wearing it, which is pretty cool," says Rego, whose fall/winter 2025 collection includes new short-sleeve button-downs ("Those have been some of my bestsellers, especially down in Miami"), hoodies, a long-sleeve soccer jersey and an acid-washed corduroy work jacket.

Rego hopes to grow the label to the point where he could throw runway events, but he doesn't want to see it become mainstream.

"Brands actually die very quickly after they are mainstreamed. You always want to stay slightly underground," he says. "I'm not Procter & Gamble; I'm not selling soap, you know what I mean?"

In other words, don't expect to see Masquerade Lance Rego T-shirts or pants at Target anytime soon.

"Oh, please no. Riccardi first," he says with a laugh, referring to the luxury streetwear boutique on Newbury Street in Boston.

Designer/DJ Lance Rego '24, bottom left, runs the Masquerade Lance Rego label, as seen modeled in the two photos at top left.

Minds With Purpose founder Jeurys Santiago '23, bottom right, has organized fashion shows across Massachusetts, including the one seen at top right.

BY ED BRENNEN

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2023

Dressed for Success

Jeurys Santiago '23 Turns Passion for Fashion into a Platform for Community and Creativity

Jeurys Santiago '23 wasn't named to the Boston Business Journal's annual BostInno 25 Under 25 list this fall for how he dresses. But fashion does factor in.

"I love fashion because it's how people view you. It's your image; it's your brand," says Santiago, founder of Minds With Purpose (MWP), a multicultural-focused marketing and networking agency that he developed through UML's Rist DifferenceMaker program. "How I dress is how I want to communicate with people. If I'm wearing a Minds With Purpose hoodie and slacks, I'm chilling. But if I'm in a suit, just know I'm coming with that 'let's do business' energy."

Santiago was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New York City, "which is big on fashion, drip and staying fly." When he moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts, before his senior year of high school, he noticed there were "a lot of amazing designers, fashionistas and fashion enthusiasts," but there wasn't a way for them to get together and showcase their talents, like at the fashion weeks in New York or Boston.

So, Santiago decided to create one. Working with MassDevelopment's Transformative Development Initiative, he organized the MWP Massachusetts Fashion Week Tour. Held over five days in November 2023, the whirlwind tour made stops in the Gateway Cities of New Bedford, Revere, Worcester, Lowell and Lawrence, drawing more than 1,200 people.

"We chose those cities because there's not enough media exposure there highlighting their communities' creativity and entrepreneurship," says Santiago, who followed up the tour with a three-day MWP Fest this fall in Lawrence.

He has also created a MWP curriculum that he is teaching to young adults at UTEC in Lowell.

"I'm looking for Minds With Purpose to become a household name statewide," Santiago says. "I want our movement, our sense of style and sense of expression, to be communicated within our culture and communities."

Continued from page 48

2007

Colin O'Hearn is co-owner of Kinetic Demolition & Engineering LLC, a heavy civil demolition contractor specializing in bridge demolition. He got his start in the demolition industry working for Testa Corp., and went on to work in a variety of roles at several large demolition contractors in Massachusetts. Most recently, O'Hearn was asked to provide expertise in support of the emergency cleanup efforts following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland.

2012

Kaitlyn Clarke '12, '13, '15 has earned the title of full professor at St. Anselm College. Clarke is the youngest professor at the college to earn the designation.

Diannely Antigua was bestowed the Excellence in Artistry Award at the inaugural Black Lives Matter New Hampshire Excellence Awards Ceremony. Antigua is a Dominican American poet and educator, born and raised in Massachusetts. Her debut collection, "Ugly Music" (YesYes Books, 2019), won the Pamet River Prize and a 2020 Whiting Award. Her second poetry collection, "Good Monster," was released by Copper Canyon Press in 2024.

Melbourne R. Moran was named the 2024 Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers' New Hampshire chapter. In his role at Wanderlust, Moran applies his trade working with children, families and adults involved in the court system, where he has been qualified as an expert in mental health, addiction, social services and LGBTQ+ issues. He currently serves as alderman-at-large for the city of Nashua and as chairman of its Planning & Economic Development Committee. He also served as a state representative for Hillsborough District 34 and Nashua Ward 7 from 2020-2022.

2013

Douglas Munro has been appointed vice president and chief accounting officer at Mercury Systems Inc., a technology company that delivers mission-critical processing power to the edge. Munro joined Mercury in 2012 and has held several accounting leadership roles, most recently serving as the company's corporate controller.

2014

Kola Akindele '14, '15 started a new position as associate vice president of external relationships & strategic partnership at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Akindele's job is to nurture relationships with funders, such as private foundations, government organizations or corporate sponsors, to support research and operations, as well as to strengthen community connections.

Matt Lawson writes, "Recently started a business! I'm almost one year into owning a digital marketing agency, bybdgtl.com."

2016

Alex Lambert '16, '18 writes, "I am in my ninth year at Wellesley Theatre Project as the resident stage manager and office manager. I also design props and hair and makeup. Outside of WTP, I work as the social media manager for Lucozzi Portraits. I also started my own small business called ArtsyQT Crafts and Crochet, where I make and sell a variety of crafts including custom crochet stuffies."

2017

U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan's office announced the promotion to senior-level positions of two Lowell natives and UMass Lowell graduates who worked on Trahan's 2018 campaign. Senior Adviser **Sarah Keene** is stepping into a newly created position as Trahan's deputy district director in Lowell. Mewanwhile, Staff Assistant **Alexandra Karabatsos '18** is now Trahan's legislative director in Washington. "Sarah and Alex represent some of the best that Lowell has to offer—two incredibly strong and intelligent women who work hard every day to deliver for our hometown and our district," Trahan says. "I've been fortunate to have them on my team for the past seven years, and I'm excited to see them thrive in their new leadership roles."

2018

Russell Perkins '18, '20 witnessed the devastating effect of criminal scams targeting seniors when his elderly aunt passed away and it was discovered that she had been defrauded of a large sum of money through a variety of schemes. That inspired Perkins to create SafeGuardian AI, an artificial intelligence-driven, in-home robot that can alert the elderly to scams by monitoring their emails and phone calls.

Victoria Calcagno has joined the law firm of Rubin and Rudman as an associate. Calcagno concentrates her trusts and estates practice on estate administration, tax planning and special needs planning.

Dominic Antonangeli '18, '19 has been selected by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as the new resident inspector at Millstone Power Station in Waterford, Connecticut.

2019

Lucas DeLisle, a graduate of the Sound Recording Technology program, writes, "Since I graduated, I've been working as a record producer, recording artist and studio engineer in the Boston music scene. I am currently preparing a rollout for my debut 10-song album, titled 'How Am I Supposed to Feel?' The album is a look back on my years battling anxiety, dealing with complicated relationships and coping with loss. The last song even features fellow 2019 graduate **Olutimileyin Ogunjobi (Timi O).**"

Kaleigh McMahon and her husband, Greg Jumpp, welcomed their first child together, Rory Jumpp, on May 5. The two are enjoying parenthood while they renovate their new home in Lowell.

2020

Steve Rogers, UMass Lowell senior director of development, married Colleen Brennan on Sept. 6 at the Lighthouse Inn in West Dennis, Massachusetts. A group of UML staffers and alumni was there to celebrate the couple. ↓

Brianna Sorensen was recently hired as the coordinator of career development and coaching at Rivier University. She writes, "I am incredibly grateful for the range of academic and co-curricular experiences I had at UMass Lowell, and would not be where I am today without the excellent education and opportunities presented to me. Go River Hawks!"

2021

Cecilia Idika-Kalu '21, '22 recently traveled to Ethiopia to present at a United Nations event, The Validation Workshop for the Regional Leadership Program. The program theme was reimagining leadership in a fast-changing world. ↓

2022

Jillian Pare has gotten married, moved across the country twice and went full time with her photography business, parephoto.com. She now fills her time with friends, family and work, following her husband wherever the military takes them.

Yeselys Niebla Rufin and her brother established a health care organization called Home Care AFC, specializing in services for families caring for loved ones at home. Their mission is rooted in community and family values, dedicated to enhancing quality of life both at home and within the broader community. They aim to empower families with the knowledge and resources needed to navigate the health care system and caregiving journey confidently, ensuring a high standard of living and fulfillment.

Political science alum **Tara Hong** unseated five-term incumbent state Rep. Rady Mom in the Massachusetts Democratic primary in September. With no Republican challenger,

> CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2024

Emerging singer-songwriter Julia James draws national attention

BY JILL GAMBON

Julia James' fledgling music career got a boost last summer when she was selected as a semifinalist in the CBS Mornings Mixtape Music Competition, a contest that drew hundreds of submissions from singers around the country vying for a chance to be featured on the popular morning show.

James '24 had submitted a video of herself playing acoustic guitar and singing the Johnny Nash classic "I Can See Clearly Now." She was one of 14 musicians picked to advance to the semifinals.

As a result, clips of James and the other contestants were broadcast on the show, which draws 3 million viewers. She was interviewed and performed live on WBZ, the Boston CBS affiliate. A Nashville-based performer ultimately won the competition, but James says the experience was a thrill.

"There were so many beautiful singers in the semifinals. I was honored to be in a group with them," says the Southborough, Massachusetts, native, who began using the last name "James" as a stage name to protect her privacy when she was a young teenager playing gigs at local restaurants.

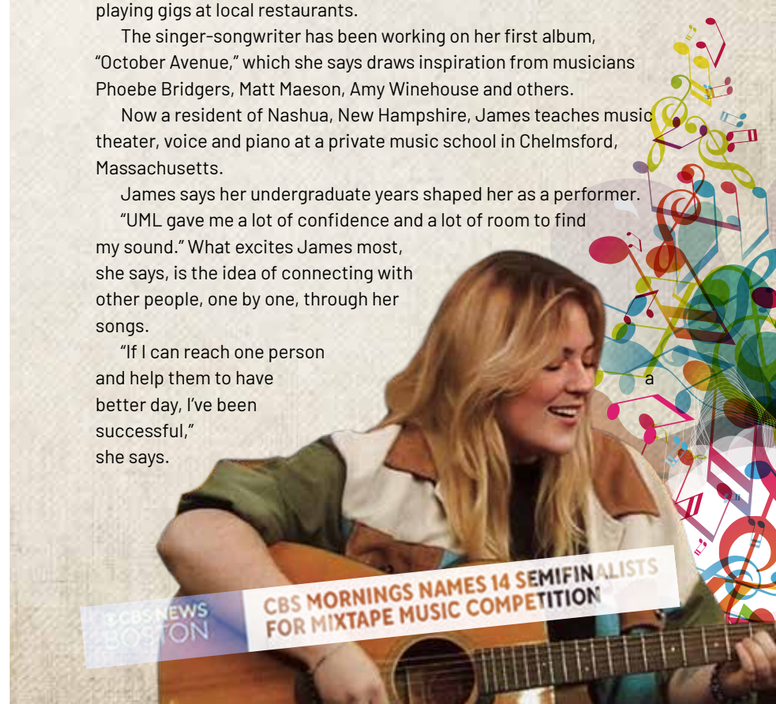
The singer-songwriter has been working on her first album, "October Avenue," which she says draws inspiration from musicians Phoebe Bridgers, Matt Maeson, Amy Winehouse and others.

Now a resident of Nashua, New Hampshire, James teaches music theater, voice and piano at a private music school in Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

James says her undergraduate years shaped her as a performer.

"UML gave me a lot of confidence and a lot of room to find my sound." What excites James most, she says, is the idea of connecting with other people, one by one, through her songs.

"If I can reach one person and help them to have better day, I've been successful," she says.



he officially took the seat in January. Hong immigrated from Cambodia in 2013 and graduated from Lowell Public Schools in 2018. He has spent the past few years volunteering for the Lowell Public Schools, the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association and the Lowell Litter Krewe. He's also served on the board of directors for Lowell Litter Krewe and Mill City Grows.

Maria Kolbe is the new director of multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) for the Newton Public Schools. Kolbe has worked for the Newton schools since 2012, first as a special education teacher and later moving first to elementary support and stabilization and then to elementary social and emotional learning.

Peter Eldredge joins the Burlington Police Department after serving as a patrolman for the Townsend Police Department for two years.

DJ Cremin teaches eighth grade math at Lowell's Stoklosa Middle School. In his free time, he has been using the skills he learned as a digital studies minor on side projects, most recently producing a video about a children's book. Cremin filmed author Sam Frykenberg, a childhood friend from Andover, Massachusetts, reading his book "Will and the Little Man Wee." He hopes the 12.5-minute video, which is posted on YouTube, will help spark children's interest in reading.

2023

Luana Arese and Matt Schaffer opened The Perfect Cup in Dracut, a coffee shop that serves breakfast and lunch sandwiches. The Perfect Cup Café also offers bagels, muffins, smoothies and daily specials.

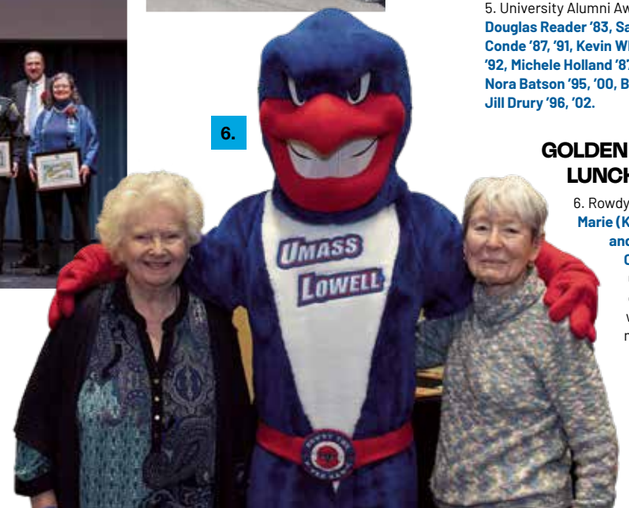
2024

Anjali Kurup started a new job as a paraprofessional at Chelmsford Integrated Preschool.

In Memoriam

CLASS YEAR	NAME
1943	Evelyn (Mekelatos) Scozzafava
1950	Judith (Brown) Gilchrest
1950	Jacqueline R. Bernardin
1951	Norma J. (Stella) Coyne
1951	Joseph S. Panto
1952	Nickolas Kalantzakos
1953	Richard K. Hall
1953	James A. Nelligan
1953	Electra J. (Kominis) Parigian
1954	Charles P. Riley Jr.
1957	Beatrice M. DiLavore
1958	David L. Wood
1959	Jean H. (Herward) Allen
1959	Mary E. (Vaughan) Wood
1960	Kenneth D. Lurvey
1960	Basil Dixon
1961	William J. Swan Sr.
1961	Pauline P. (Pearsall) Gallagher
1961	Forest J. Dostaler
1961	Judith A. (Tracy) Hersey
1962	C. Anthony Boucher
1962	Eugene S. Chaney
1962	Margaret (Farrell) Ogden
1963	Cynthia M. (Harris) Foye
1963	Robert S. Brown Jr.
1963	David B. Russell
1964	Richard J. Campiola
1964	Thor E. Peckel Jr.
1964	Anna B. (Silva) Cancella
1964	Kathleen (Chwalek) O'Wril
1965	Margaret A. (Connaughton) DesLauriers
1965	Robert J. Nacon
1965	Ron Randall
1966	John F. Foster
1966	Lawrence J. Fahey Jr.
1966	John A. Janeczko
1966	Edward J. Christopher Jr.
1967	William M. Johnston
1968	Patricia E. (Mason) Fitzpatrick
1968	James J. Kennedy Jr.
1968	Harold E. Diekman Jr.
1969	Ann E. (Fuller) Northrup
1969	John Lipnicki
1970	Paul J. Castaldo
1970	Richard H. Scheel
1970	Robert E. Germann
1971	Edward F. Maher
1971	Edward R. Parlee
1972	Kenneth E. Johnson
1972	Harry M. Leonard Jr.
1972	Theresa (Zaharious) Koukias
1973	Johanna B. O'Hearn
1973	Patricia (Whittaker) Montgomery
1973	Robert D. Kearin
1973	Heiner E. Wais
1974	Henry J. Tousignant
1974	Pearle L. O'Neil
1975	Robert J. Bastien
1975	William H. McKenna
1975	Kathleen A. Borys
1975	Maurice R. Leblanc
1975	Suzanne (Broomell) Irujo
1975	David Moulton
1975	Billie Lydia Porter
1975	Gary T. Woods
1976	Donna (Stayman) Conlin
1976	Richard C. Dyson
1976	Jolane F. (O'Dowd) Roy
1976	Donna M. (Thyne) Hanley
1976	Paul J. Holmes
1976	Louise A. Walsh
1977	Ernest P. Brown
1979	Judith (Cox) Marley
1979	David C. Bisbee
1979	Neil P. Perry
1979	Robin L. (Russell) Antonucci
1980	Anthony G. Coelho
1981	Edward R. Dyment
1982	Jeffrey W. Noelcke
1982	Edward J. Decosta
1982	Anthony R. Stairs
1983	Michael T. O'Keefe
1983	David S. Perrin
1985	Robert J. Doyle
1985	Rosemary C. Gelman
1985	Cheryl L. Stevens
1986	Cathy J. Squires
1986	Carl A. Karrfalt
1986	Lori A. Powers
1988	Dorothy Malone-Rising
1988	Timothy J. Monahan
1989	Charles T. Burke
1989	Mark F. Walsh
1990	David E. Often
1992	Mark Pianowski
1998	Charles J. Gray
1999	Jennifer Rae (McLean) MacDonald
1999	Heather Spyrakis
1999	Louis S. Cohen
2000	Brett C. Rodden
2001	Timothy J. Aeschliman
2001	Sophy Suon
2002	Nicholas M. Pauling
2005	Donna A. Mullin
2005	Rachel B. Jacobson
2006	Ellen Mary (Warrington) Savage
2008	Hoi Yan joyce Pang
2009	John O'Keefe
2019	Talisman Escott

NAME
Lillian S. Panagopoulos
Jeanne G. Berard
Claire Chamberlain
John A. Defreitas
Lewis Capone
Robin Gavin
Ahmed T. Abdelal
Emile Barry



THE 2024 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

1. The 2024 Women's Leadership Conference welcomed over 350 attendees from across the Merrimack Valley and more than 30 speakers for an inspiring day. **Pictured are panelists, from left: Kelly Dyer Hayes, former NCAA and Team USA athlete; Alison Quandt Westgate, associate athletic director for academics and student-athlete services at UMass Lowell; Mary Azzarto Ciampa, founder and CEO at WomenX; and Tiffany Bullock, chief operating officer at WomenX.**

UMASS LOWELL CAPE COD SUMMER RECEPTION

2. **Ramika Shah and Bhupen '92** graciously hosted alumni and friends at their home in East Sandwich for the annual UMass Lowell Cape Cod Summer Reception.

2024 YOUNG ALUMNI AWARDS

3. Chancellor Julie Chen helps celebrate honorees of the university's 2024 Young Alumni Awards, from left: **Patrick Kiley '18, Service to the University Award; Shruti Jain-Lynch '20, Innovation and Success Award; and Bradley Buitenhuys '14, Service to the Community Award.**

MOLONEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

4. In recognition of Chancellor Emerita Jacquie Moloney's many contributions to UMass Lowell, the university renamed Durgin Hall on South Campus as the Moloney Performing Arts Center. **Chancellor Emerita Moloney and her family proudly cut the ribbon at the official building dedication.**

UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AWARDS

5. University Alumni Awards were presented to **Douglas Reader '83, Samuel Curry '96, Cynthia Conde '87, '91, Kevin Whitney '96, Martha Mayo '92, Michele Holland '87, Jerome Holland '87, Nora Batson '95, '00, Bob Giles '79, '86, and Jill Drury '96, '02.**

GOLDEN ALUMNI LUNCHEON

6. Rowdy welcomes alumni **Marie (Kirwin) Sweeney '64 and Connie Lanseigne-Case '53** to the annual Golden Alumni luncheon, celebrating our alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago.

HOMECOMING HOCKEY GAME

The Alumni Chorus reunited to sing a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem at the Homecoming hockey game. The Hawaiian theme added a fun flair to the alumni takeover of Tsongas for the game. **Pictured back row, left to right: Amy Johnson '23, Micah Ross '24, Kiki Donahue '04, Mark Nemeskal '81, Jailene Velazquez '23, Eric Miller '17, '19, Leon Grande '76,'89, David Miller '81 and Fritz Sowa. Pictured front row, left to right: Director of Choral Activities Jonathan Richter, Connie Martino '03, Brianne Biastoff '11, '15, Morgan Biastoff '02, Brent Kincaid '16, Becca Crivello '17, Catiana Rosario '21, '23, Olivia Minchello '21 & '23 and Andrea Grande '76.**

UMASS LOWELL ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2024

PICKLEBALL AT HOMECOMING

Left: Alumni Pat McGuirk '84, left, and Diane Pitta '82 finished second in their women's division at the Homecoming Pickleball Slam.

Below: Assoc. Director of Competitive Sports Meghan Jordan and her husband, physical therapy alum Sean Jordan '14, play in the mixed doubles tournament.

RADIO STATION REUNION

Alumni celebrated over 70 incredible years of underground radio with WLTI, WJUL and WUML and to paid tribute to the one who started it all, Ed Bonacci '54, with an endowed scholarship in his memory. **A few members of the volunteer planning committee, from left to right: Linda Cyr '90, Mike Kutlowski '78, Rich Gingras '79, Joanne Doody '80, Tony Janeczek '76, '86, and Anne Marie Janeczek.**

Be a Part of Our Proud UML Alumni Community

HERE'S HOW:

- Attend a UML event
- Help with a UML program
- Follow us on social
- Take advantage of alumni benefits
- Update your contact info (so you never miss an opportunity!)

It's easy! Scan the QR code for all this and more.

www.alumni.uml.edu/stayconnected

Events Calendar

For a complete listing, go to **www.alumni.uml.edu.** Also, check out our library of previously recorded lectures and talks at **alumni.uml.edu/recordings**

March 2025

4
Alumni Reception at ANTEC 2025 Plastics Engineering Conference
4:45 p.m., Con Murphy's Irish Pub Philadelphia, Penn.

7
Kennedy College of Sciences Alumni Appreciation Hockey Night
Talon Club, Tsongas Center
Pregame: 6 p.m., **Game:** 7:15 p.m.

13
Spring 2025 Zamanakos Lecture Series and Reception
6-8 p.m., Coburn Hall

15
On the Road: Florida
St. Patrick's Day Parade,
Naples, Florida, 10 a.m.

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon
Bistro 821, Naples, Florida, 1 p.m.

17
On the Road: Florida
Boston Red Sox vs. Baltimore Orioles BBQ Picnic & Spring Training Game
11 a.m., Pre-game BBQ
1:05 p.m., Game

19
SCORE Speaker Series
Featuring Jane McManus
11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Alumni Hall

19-27
AHI Travel Tour
Italy, The Charm of the Amalfi Coast

22
Fado Concert: An Evening of Fado with Katia Guerreiro
Moloney Performing Arts Center
7:30 p.m.

25
Women in Defense: Empowering Women in Business and STEM
5:30-8 p.m., Moloney Hall

April 2025

15-17
Days of Giving
48 hours of united support for UMass Lowell

17
Campaign Launch
University Crossing, 5:30-8 p.m.

24
Graphic Design Spring Show
5-8 p.m., Coburn Hall, room 255

25
EMS Alumni and Student Celebration
Location and time TBD

26
UML Day of Service
9:30 a.m.-Noon, Lowell

27
Chris Sullivan Memorial 5K Run/Walk
Race Time, 10 a.m.
Tsongas Center

April 29-May 7
AHI Travel Tour
Netherland-Belgium, Dutch Waterways

May 2025

3
Bent Water Brewing Company Tour, Tasting and Networking
1-3 p.m., Lynn, Mass.

8
Studio Art + Animation and Interactive Media Awards and Reception
5-7:30 p.m., Coburn Hall, room 255

15
50th Class Reunion: Class of 1975
Lunch, North and South Campus Tour
Reunion Dinner, Hilton Garden Inn, Tewksbury, Massachusetts

June 2025

7
Trillium Canton: Distillery Tour, Tasting and Networking
1-3 p.m.

12
Women's Leadership Conference
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Tsongas Center

18
River Hawk Open
Four Oaks Country Club
7 a.m.-2 p.m.

THEN...

VINTAGE LOOKS

It's autumn 1969, and a Lowell State College student is reading a paperback while lounging with a classmate on the leaf-strewn lawn outside of Concordia Hall. He's wearing an outfit that reflects a relaxed, scholarly aesthetic: flat cap, thick-framed glasses, V-neck sweater and mustard-yellow trousers. Her simple, neutral-color dress, with a high neckline, long sleeves and modest hemline, is indicative of women's fashion of the late 1960s, as it moved away from the structured femininity of the 1950s and embraced more comfortable, minimalist designs.

NOW...

EXPRESS YOURSELF

It's autumn 2024, and a UMass Lowell student checks her phone on a sunny afternoon on South Campus. As for a "fit check," as the kids like to say: The overall vibe combines comfort, functionality and creative self-expression. The mix of bold patterns, colors and textures—the preppy striped sweater, bohemian skirt, whimsical socks and edgy combat boots—reflect the fluidity of today's fashion. Students don't feel confined to one "look" and instead combine elements from different styles to create something personal and versatile.

University of Massachusetts Lowell

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Charles J. Hoff Alumni Scholarship Center
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Lowell, MA 01854-2882

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