

UMass Lowell

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

UMASS LOWELL STATE OF MIND.

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Spring 2012

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Learning with Purpose

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

This edition of the UMass Lowell Magazine for Alumni and Friends could easily be called "The Music Issue."

In the following pages, you'll meet many people who have brought music to campus and the world at large. People like Billy Joel, who chose to visit UMass Lowell over hundreds of other colleges clamoring for him. Or alumnus Greg Maloney '05, who helps create the scores for major projects like the "Men in Black" films and Cirque du Soleil productions. Or Symphonic Band Camp founder Mary Jo Leahy '37, a great friend to the University, who passed away in November.

Right here on campus, meanwhile, the century-old Department of Music (the first public school of music education in the country) is preparing our students to win Grammy Awards, perform on Broadway and work with artists like The Rolling Stones.

But this issue also celebrates some lesser-known stars outside of the music industry—students, alumni, corporate partners and faculty members who have been instrumental in helping the University continue its unprecedented trajectory of growth in all areas.

The generosity and hard work of these people are resulting in everything from millions of dollars in research grants, to new buildings on campus, to scholarships and top-tier jobs for hundreds of our students. I couldn't be more grateful and proud to be part of this truly special community.

Read about all of our exciting developments in these pages, and learn even more at www.uml.edu.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Martin T. Meehan".

Martin T. Meehan '78
Chancellor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 28	Cross Country and Track & Field Sunset Social @ Bellegarde Boathouse
Aug. 3-4	Alumni Musical Theater Production @ Durgin Concert Hall, South Campus
Aug. 13	Sig-O Annual Golf Tournament @ Merrimack Valley Golf Club in Methuen
Sept. 21	Plastics Engineering Golf Tournament @ Connecticut National Golf Club in Putnam, Conn.
Oct. 11-14	Fall Festival 2012: Including Homecoming, Celebration of Philanthropy, Family Day, Jennifer's 5K Run in Lowell
Oct. 12	Hockey Opening Night: River Hawks vs. University of Vermont Catamounts, Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell

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Engineering Building renamed for benefactor Barry Perry '68.

The Company We Keep

UMass Lowell and Nypro: partners from the same mold.

UMass Lowell State of Mind

Billy Joel takes the stage at Durgin Hall.

From Sunflowers to Swanky

HGTV host Taniya Nayak '97 got her start in Fox Hall.

The Dreammaker

Patricia Foley Karl '64, '95 is changing thousands of lives with her Lawrence charter school.

Face of Philanthropy

The generosity of John Pulichino '67 and Joy Tong will result in \$4 million in student scholarships.

Corrections and Clarifications

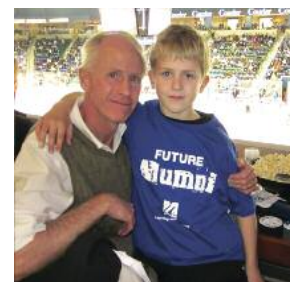
The person responsible for nurturing women's sports in the 1970s at the University, along with Denise Legault, was Claire Chamberlain. We regret that we incorrectly identified her in our "Soaring With Pride" story in the Winter 2011-2012 issue. In that same issue, the In Memoriam listings included Robert Moran '71, leading to confusion among readers such as the very much alive-and-well Robert Moran '71. There were two Mr. Robert Morans in the class of 1971. Robert Paul Moran, an engineering graduate and a retired Navy commander of Moorpark, Calif., was the one who died in September 2011. The other Robert Moran received a degree in plastics engineering and currently lives in Hampstead, N.H.

Robert Moran: still with us



ALUMNI LIFE

44 EVENTS



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61 IN MEMORIAM



Editor's Note

Please send comments to Editor Sarah McAdams at Sarah_McAdams@uml.edu. Submit class notes to: Class Notes Editor, Southwick 250, 1 University Ave., Lowell, MA 01854 or www.uml.edu/advancement/classnotes.

Campus Life



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Grammy-nominee J. Cole played to a packed house on campus March 30.



Students Get Advice, Lunch—and a Cadillac Ride—From Warren Buffett

Visiting the “Oracle of Omaha” was Angela Pasquarello’s most memorable college experience to date, says the senior accounting major.

Pasquarello, along with 19 of her Manning School of Business classmates, was invited by billionaire investor Warren Buffett to fly to Omaha, Neb., to meet with him.

Each year, Buffett, the CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, invites select groups of students from across the country, most of them MBA candidates, to meet for a question-and-answer session and then lunch. Management Prof. Ravi Jain had written to Buffett twice, asking that his finance students be included. This year, the invitation came.

“I couldn’t imagine having a better experience through school,” says Pasquarello, who is enrolled in Jain’s Portfolio and Security Analysis class. “I learned so much and made so many friends. It was a great group.”

The students from UMass Lowell and seven other universities met with Buffett at the Field Club, the oldest country club west of the Mississippi River. At Jain’s urging, the group arrived at the auditorium an hour early and got front-row seats. Jain’s students prepared several questions in advance and three of them were chosen to pose theirs to Buffett. Pasquarello asked him how he maintains a positive outlook. His response surprised her: His optimism is unyielding.

Buffett told the students that their best investment is in themselves and said the best way to prepare for the business world is to sharpen their written and oral communication skills.

“He’s as sharp as a tack. He told stories that students could understand,” says Kevin Kohr, a senior finance major who helped plan the trip.

Buffett even gave Kohr a ride to the restaurant, Piccolo Pete’s, where the group had lunch. Buffett, who drives himself everywhere, offered to chauffeur four students in his Cadillac and Kohr was chosen as one. “It was like talking to someone’s grandfather,” Kohr says. “He’s so down-to-earth. He made it about us. He asked us what we are doing now and where we see ourselves in 10 years.”

After lunch at the downtown Omaha restaurant, Buffett posed for pictures and chatted with the students.

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” says Jain. “Buffett is a pure financial genius. He has a different way of looking at finance, a common sense approach.”

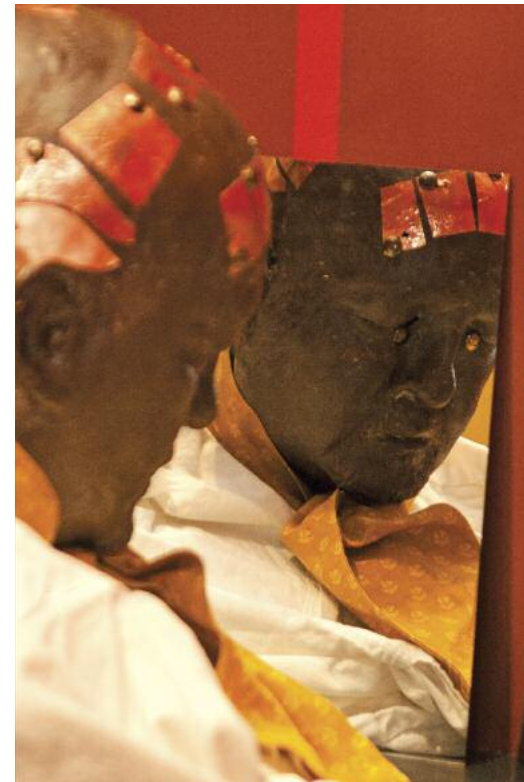
Jain’s students are well-acquainted with Buffett’s approach to investing. They oversee the University’s Student Managed Fund, one of four investment funds set up by the UMass Foundation on the Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell campuses. The UMass Lowell fund has won the intercampus competition three out of four years using Buffett’s value investing philosophy.

Manning School alumni supported the trip, donating about \$7,000 to help pay the travel costs.—JG



The Return of Dickens

In 1842, Charles and Catherine Dickens sailed to North America for a five-month visit, landing first in Boston, where Charles was greeted like a Victorian-era rock star. Feted at fancy dress balls and formal dinners, Dickens also made a point of touring American prisons, hospitals, mental institutions and orphanages—and the model textile mills that had recently opened in Lowell. Dickens later called his day in Lowell “the most pleasant I spent in the country.” To mark the bicentenary of Dickens’ birth and to commemorate his trip to Lowell, UMass Lowell and its partners are throwing a party—a seven-month slate of performances, speakers, family programs and a landmark exhibition exploring Dickens’ life, work and travels in America.



The Charles Dickens exhibit includes a section on the author’s interest in phrenology, the study of the emotions in relation to the skull.

How UMass Lowell Is Helping U.S. Kids Get Better at Math and Science



Sophomore Laura Laranjo's long-term goal is to become a physician, but she thinks a career as a high school science teacher may be a good backup plan.

When the opportunity to pursue teacher certification while continuing her pre-med studies came up, she decided to give it a try. Training to be a teacher while earning a biology degree offers an alternative career path in a field she is passionate about. "It opens up an opportunity to still do something that I like," she says.

Laranjo is among the first group of UMass Lowell students enrolled in the UTeach program, an initiative to prepare a new generation of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teachers. In December, the state awarded the University a \$1.6 million grant to fund the program, part of a nationwide effort to improve STEM teacher training.

In recent years, concern has been mounting about the quality of STEM education in the U.S. and students' preparedness to compete in a technology-driven global economy. For instance, in its most recent Global Competitiveness Report, the World Economic Forum ranked the quality of math and science education in the United States 51st out of 142 countries.

The UTeach program is designed to change that. Founded at the University of Texas Austin 15 years ago, UTeach aims to attract a wide range of STEM majors to teaching careers. Central to the program are intensive classroom experience and extensive feedback and support from faculty. The program has been introduced at 29 colleges across the country, with UMass Lowell the only university in New England to offer it.

"With the shortage of science and math teachers, STEM teaching provides a stable career path," says Interim Dean of the Graduate School of Education Anita Greenwood, who is a co-principal investigator for the UTeach grant. "It gives our students another string in their bow." —JG

PROFESSOR NAMED STATE DEPARTMENT FELLOW

Nuclear engineering Prof. Gilbert Brown was recently appointed a William C. Foster Fellow by the U.S. Department of State.

Brown will be involved with the Office of Nuclear Energy, Safety and Security in the State Department's International Security and Nonproliferation Bureau.

"I look forward to working with the State Department, helping the agency implement and support the diplomatic efforts of the United States toward peaceful nuclear cooperation throughout the world, particularly in the areas of nuclear education and training," he says. "I also aim to gain real-world, international experience to bring back to UMass Lowell and my students."

ALL MED LAB GRADS GET JOBS

One hundred percent of graduates from both Medical Laboratory Science and Clinical Sciences programs have been successfully employed after graduation, in spite of the economy, with many receiving multiple job offers.

The reason? It is an essential medical profession.

"Seventy percent of a physician's decisions about patient diagnosis, prognosis and treatment are based on accurate and precise medical laboratory tests," says Prof. Kay Doyle, director of the medical laboratory science program in the Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences Department. "This critical function will continue to grow as the baby boomer generation retires."

The demand is so great that students are receiving

multiple job offers during their laboratory internships. Before Aaron Stella graduated, he was offered positions at Lahey Clinic, Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates, Anna Jaques Hospital and Cambridge Hospital. He ultimately accepted a position at Mayo Medical Laboratories New England in Andover.

"The internship is like a 'try-out' for a sports team," said Stella, who received a bachelor's degree in 2008 and a master's degree in 2010 and is currently enrolled in the University's biomedical engineering and biotechnology Ph.D. program. "Each student has five weeks to demonstrate their skills in front of potential employers. You end

up getting so many career offers that you have to turn some of them down."

The 2010 national accreditation report and site visit from the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences resulted in the Medical Laboratory Science program's fourth straight perfect accreditation scores with the site visitor team leader stating "the UMass Lowell's program is one of the very best in the country." This is supported by the program's 100 percent employment for graduates and the 95 percent pass rate on the national board certification exams, compared to lower national averages in the high 70s to low 80s. —KA



JOHN DUFFY: LEAVING OUR VILLAGE

The Lowell campus won't be the same without mechanical engineering Prof. John Duffy—and neither will Peru. The longtime director of the Center for Sustainable Energy, who retired in January, has made 28 two-week trips to Peru as part of the Village Empowerment Project. While there, he helped design and install more than 100 systems in 60 villages—addressing basic needs like medical care, water supply and purification, food production, communication, housing, heating and transportation. "Every time we go, we come back with more requests," says Duffy, who's taken more than 165 students and volunteers to the Andes over the past 15 years. "There's no end to the need. It's impressive to see that the students can make such a difference."

Pettibon's Art:

WHAT PUNK LOOKED LIKE, 1978-86



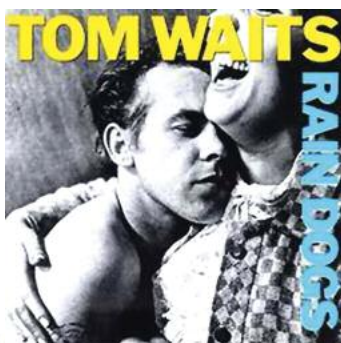
For just under a month, punk ruled at the University Gallery in McGauvran Hall. The work of Raymond Pettibon was affixed to the gallery's walls, from flyers to album covers, some 200 pieces in all.

Pettibon's early work, so fastened as a visual representation to the blunt burst of the West Coast's hardcore punk movement, had always been stapled and taped to telephone poles, bulletin boards and club walls. And here it was, in a gallery.

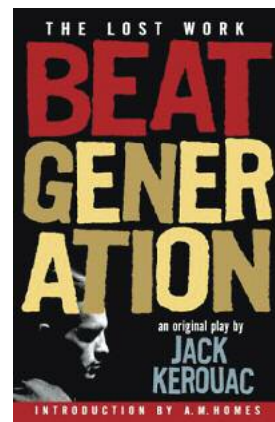
According to Bill Kaizen, Pettibon's work has been embraced by the "taste-making class" who will now pay hundreds of thousands for an original, later-day Pettibon work. Kaizen, a former UMass Lowell professor now with the art history department at Northeastern University, booked the show.

The exhibit was designed to "appeal to both music and art majors as well as anyone who knows the bands," said Michele Gagnon, gallery coordinator.

Pettibon, whose posters, flyers and advertising for punk bands and their shows were drawn from his homemade comic books and spread through his brother's record label (SST) and band (Black Flag) are rooted in Los Angeles. His work touted records and performances by such bans as Circle Jerks, Minutemen, Dead Kennedys and a slew of others best known for an in-your-face, body-slammng style that placed them far outside the bounds of the worlds of pop charts and arena-rock.—DP



Kerouac Play to Premiere in Lowell



UMass Lowell and Merrimack Repertory Theater will stage the world premiere of Jack Kerouac's only full-length play in October.

"Beat Generation" will be the centerpiece of the 2012 Jack Kerouac Literary Festival, which will be held Oct. 10 through Oct. 14. The theme of this year's festival—held every two years by the University and community partners—will be "writing and music."

Kerouac wrote the play—which tells a story of friendship and karma that draws from lives of Beat writers like Neal Cassady and Allen Ginsberg—in 1957, the same year his iconic "On the Road" was released. The manuscript

was found in a warehouse in 2005.

"At midcentury, Jack Kerouac and his fellow Beat writers posed a series of pertinent questions regarding the assumptions of the Cold War, the attractions of suburban family life, the costs of conspicuous consumption and what they saw as American spiritual deprivation," says Todd Tietchen, a UMass Lowell English professor and expert on Beat Generation writers. "Those questions take center stage in 'Beat Generation,' as the principal figures of this important literary movement reaffirm their friendship in a search for alternative approaches to life."

The play's premiere—a staged reading for eight performances only—is being presented with the support of Kerouac Literary Estate representative John Sampas.

Auditions for "Beat Generation" will take place this summer; information will be released on www.merrimackrep.org, once dates have been selected.

The Next Big Thing Needs You

As Steve Jobs said, "To turn really interesting ideas and fledgling technologies into a company that can continue to innovate for years requires a lot of discipline."

It also requires a lot of money.

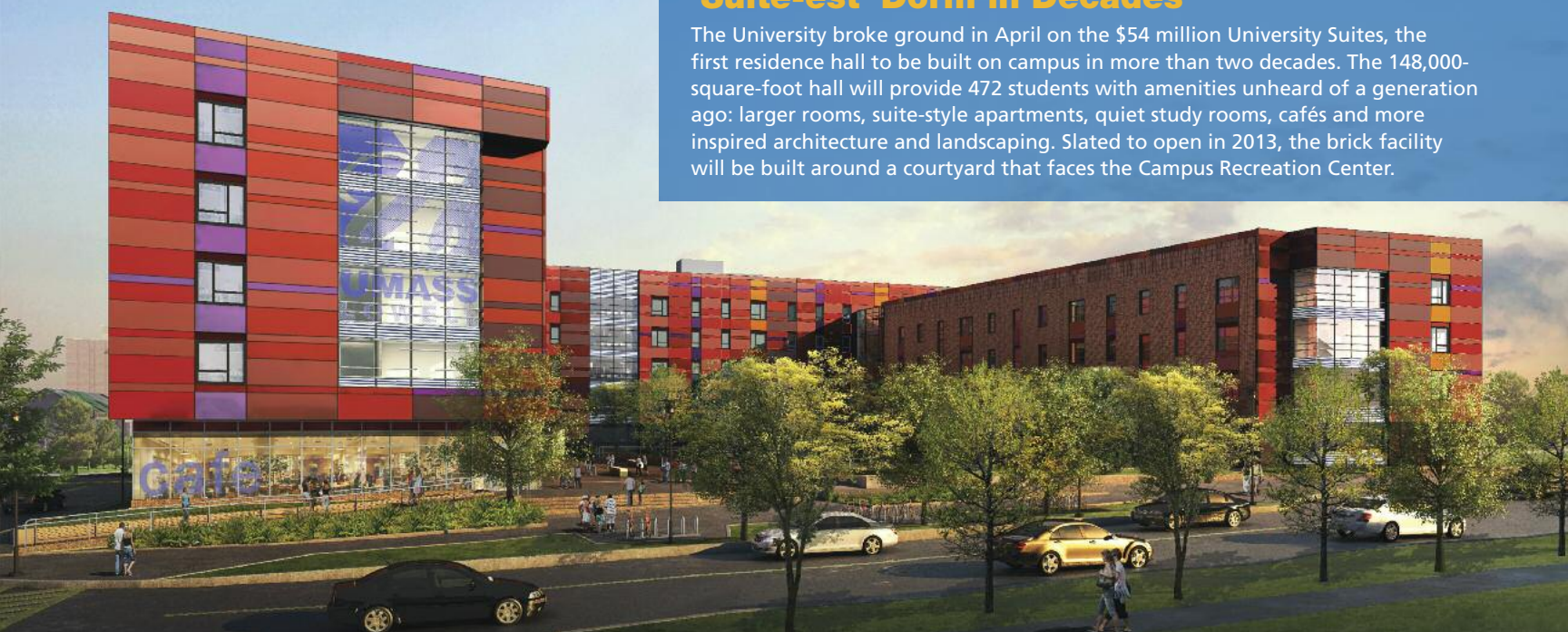
A group of UMass alumni—including John F. Kennedy '70—understands that. And to give the best chances to the most innovative ideas from the across the system, they're hoping to raise \$6 million to create a University of Massachusetts Seed Fund.

The fund will provide approximately \$250,000 to \$500,000 to each early stage venture, in exchange for an equity position.

Want to help make it happen? Contact Bill Rosenberg, executive director of University of Massachusetts Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property, at wrosenberg@umassp.edu or 617-287-4088.

'Suite-est' Dorm in Decades

The University broke ground in April on the \$54 million University Suites, the first residence hall to be built on campus in more than two decades. The 148,000-square-foot hall will provide 472 students with amenities unheard of a generation ago: larger rooms, suite-style apartments, quiet study rooms, cafés and more inspired architecture and landscaping. Slated to open in 2013, the brick facility will be built around a courtyard that faces the Campus Recreation Center.



Students Report on Weather From Boston Marathon Route

Everyone was talking about the weather at the 116th Boston Marathon on April 16—but a group of meteorology students and faculty from UMass Lowell were the experts, providing live weather reports along the route of the 26.2-mile race.

"This is the first time the Boston Athletic Association has asked an outside group to do weather monitoring as far as we know, so we're pretty excited," says Prof.

Frank Colby of the Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department (EEAS), who headed the team.

"Our students were positioned at five locations along the route—at the starting line in Hopkinton, the 10K mark in Framingham, the halfway mark in Wellesley, the 30K mark near 'Heartbreak Hill' in Newton and the finish line in Boston," says Colby.

The team gathered real-time data—temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction as well as local sky and road conditions—and relayed it to the event media center at Boston's Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. In previous years, the BAA received weather reports from a vehicle that preceded the race leaders and also utilized data from Logan Airport and Hanscom Field.

Temperatures that day rose to 89 degrees, forcing a number of participants—including 2011 champion Geoffrey Mutai—to drop out. It was one of the top-10 hottest days in the history of the Boston Marathon.

Some areas were hotter than others. "It was really interesting to see the weather's variability throughout the race course," says graduate student Chris Hoyt.

The EEAS Department has proven to be a great springboard for launching the careers of researchers and TV weather forecasters. Many of the big-city TV stations across the country have UMass Lowell gradu-

ates on their weather teams. They include Danielle Niles '06 at New England Cable News (NECN), Sarah Wroblewski '05 at Fox 25 News Boston, Barry Burbank '72 at WBZ-TV and Shiri Spear '07 at NBC 6 Miami.



Prof. Frank Colby conducts a dry run with his students.

ALUMNI STAR IN NEW TV AD

The spectacular successes of UMass Lowell alumni—who've invented AstroTurf, run Fortune 500 companies, produced Broadway plays and served as ambassadors to other countries—are front and center in a 30-second TV spot now airing on major regional networks. The ad, first in a series of alumni-based spots, features Rich Miner (Android co-founder and Google Ventures partner), Lynne Samuelson (chief scientist of U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research) and Adam Ayan (Grammy-winning sound mastering engineer). View the spot at www.uml.edu/about/TV-spot-Alumni.aspx.





'An Unwavering Commitment'—Honored in Stone

By Geoffrey Douglas

Barry Perry '68, joined by his wife, Janice, daughter Kimberly Perry, granddaughters Alix Perry Madden and Chase Madden Perry and son-in-law Brian Madden, celebrates the re-dedication of the UMass Lowell Engineering Building with plastics engineering students, faculty and staff.

When last we visited with Barry Perry '68, two years ago in the pages of this magazine, he was setting off on a fishing trip to Belize with his about-to-be 40-year-old middle daughter. This time when we called, it was his youngest daughter's turn to hit 40, and the trip—her choice—would be down the Colorado River on a raft.

"It's a tradition," he explains. "All three of my girls, on their 40th, I try to do something really special."

Doing special things for people—daughters, companies, UMass Lowell students—has become, for Perry, a tradition in itself. The son of a prison guard father and a textile worker mother, Perry says his Lowell Tech education was possible only through scholarship aid. He is now six years retired from his job as CEO of a \$5 billion chemical firm.

It's a very active retirement. In addition to the fishing and rafting with his daughters—and the quail hunting and target shooting he finds time to do for himself—he travels the country as director on four corporate boards, spends at least as much time on the phone on those companies' behalf ("it's the best way I know to keep your head in the game"), and—increasingly, as time goes by—contributes an ever-larger portion of his wealth to assuring that young, qualified engineering students aren't denied access to a UMass Lowell education.

His latest contributions are his largest to date. In October, he pledged \$1.25 million to the University for renovations to the Engineering Building, support for the new Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center and funding to double the size of his endowed scholarship fund. In appreciation of this latest gift, on April 19 the University renamed the engineering building Perry Hall in his honor.

"Since 1952, this building has been at the forefront of innovation and industry in Lowell, first as a laboratory and classroom space for students in the paper and leather engineering fields, and later, in chemical engineering and biomanufacturing," said Chancellor Marty Meehan at the event. "Today, we celebrate a new beginning. Under the Perry Hall name, the building will be a catalyst for student achievement in engineering and fields we can only imagine."

Achievement is something Perry knows about. After growing up in Dartmouth, Mass. (he now lives in Newtown, Penn.), he earned his bachelor's degree in plastics engineering at what was then Lowell Technological Institute. He began his career at General Electric and retired in 2006 as the chairman and CEO of New Jersey-based Engelhard Corp., a chemical and metals company.

“If I can give some deserving kids, who might not otherwise have the resources, the opportunity to pursue engineering careers—well then, that’s what I’ll try and do.”

—Barry Perry '68

These days, he’s focused on helping younger generations find such success.

“Having my name on the building is very nice,” says Perry—who concedes that it was his wife, Janice, who “really put me over the top” in deciding to make the recent gift. “And maybe one day, my grandkids will see it and think good things of me. But that’s not what’s important.

“What matters to me is what’s always mattered—to encourage our young students, as much as possible, to pursue their careers in engineering, as opposed to, say, the service industries. Because it’s a value-added field—it’s where real wealth is created. And if I can give some deserving kids, who might not otherwise have the resources, the opportunity to pursue that—well then, that’s what I’ll try and do.”

All this is in addition to his past support of the Plastics Engineering Department, the College of Engineering’s Dean’s Discretionary Fund, and the UMass Lowell Fund—as well as the time he gave, for seven years, as advisory board member to the College, and his role several years ago as a member of Plastic Engineering’s \$11 million capital fund drive.

“Barry Perry has demonstrated an unwavering commitment, over many years, to the Engineering program at UMass Lowell,” says Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Edward Chiu. “It is more than fitting that we recognize his generosity through the naming of Perry Hall.”

The Perry Endowment Fund, valued last November at nearly \$192,000, was enough this year to fund \$1,600 scholarship awards to four UMass Lowell engineering students.

“With this recent donation, Barry Perry will help support the upgrading of student and faculty space in the College of Engineering, and provide aid for student scholarships,” says Engineering Dean John Ting. “Donations such as this are vitally needed at a time when our students are shouldering an increasingly large fraction of their tuition costs.

“The generosity of alumni like Mr. Perry helps us provide our students with the highest-quality education. On behalf of all our faculty, staff and especially our students, we couldn’t be more grateful.” ■

Engineering students, top right, watch as the newly named engineering building is unveiled. Posing under the new Perry Hall sign are, in back row, from left, Plastics Engineering Department Chair Robert Malloy, Brian Madden, Barry Perry '68 and Janice Perry. In the front row are, from left, Francis College of Engineering Dean John Ting, Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney, Chase Madden Perry, Alix Perry Madden, Kimberly Perry and Chancellor Marty Meehan.



Solving the Mystery of the Superhot Sun

The sun's outer atmosphere, called the corona, is easily seen with the naked eye during a total eclipse. This view of the corona's delicate structure was photographed by our staff writer Edwin L. Aguirre during the July 11, 2010 total solar eclipse, which he observed from the South Pacific, on Tatakoto Atoll in French Polynesia's Tuamotu Archipelago.



The Sun, whose light and heat have made life possible here on Earth, has been studied in great detail since the invention of the telescope in the 17th century. But fundamental questions remain about the nature of this star nearest to our home planet.

One of them is the puzzle of the heating of the Sun's tenuous outer atmosphere, known as the corona, which is composed of charged particles and extends millions of miles into interplanetary space. In the late 1930s and early '40s, scientists discovered that the corona is extremely hot—about 2 million degrees. And yet the Sun's visible surface, called the photosphere, is a “mere” 6,000 degrees.

For years, scientists have debated: how can the photosphere heat the surrounding corona to such incredibly high temperatures?

“This has been a long-standing problem in solar physics and astrophysics,” says Prof. Paul Song of the Physics and Applied Physics Department. “If the photosphere is indeed responsible for heating the corona, then it contradicts the second law of thermodynamics, which states that heat flows from

higher-temperature regions to lower ones, and not vice versa.”

Song, who directs UMass Lowell's Center for Atmospheric Research, recently helped propose a new theory that might help explain this apparent anomaly and lead to the final resolution of the coronal heating problem.

“Many people realize the Sun is very turbulent and the energy associated with that turbulence—similar to many atomic bombs going off everywhere on the Sun—can provide the required heat energy,” notes Song. “However, the question is how motional energy can be converted to thermal energy. Previous theories are able to come up with only a small percentage of the required thermal energy based on the observed turbulence energy.”

Song and co-author Vytenis Vasyliunas, distinguished research professor at the Center, analyzed the perturbation (disturbance) of Alfvén waves as they propagate from the solar surface to the corona through the chromosphere, a rather difficult and complex mathematical-physical task. Alfvén waves are low-frequency traveling oscillation

of the charged particles and the Sun's magnetic field.

Song and Vasyliunas found that the waves' perturbations are heavily damped, and that the motional energy of the perturbation can be converted to heat in regions where the magnetic field is weaker. The damping and heating is much less in regions of stronger magnetic field, they say.

“Conventional wisdom has been to focus on regions of stronger magnetic field because these are where stronger perturbations are observed,” explains Song. “Now everything becomes clear: stronger perturbations are observed in stronger field regions because they are not damped, and vice versa. Our theory is thus able to convert the observed level of turbulence energy to the required thermal energy.”

Why are these findings important? Since coronal heating is essential to understanding the formation of the corona and solar winds, which are the cause of all space-weather phenomena, the new theory will substantially improve our current knowledge about solar storms and space weather. —EA

Researchers Find Early Indicator for Alzheimer's Disease

UMass Lowell researchers—along with collaborators at Boston University, MassBay Community College and Veterans Administration Medical Center—have discovered an early indicator for Alzheimer's disease.

Assoc. Prof. Garth Hall of UMass Lowell's Biological Sciences Department and his former Ph.D. students Sudan Saman and WonHee Kim helped find that high levels of a biomarker for the tau protein in exosomes can indicate early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Exosomes are tiny bubble-like membranous structures released from cells that can be found in the cerebral spinal columns of patients.

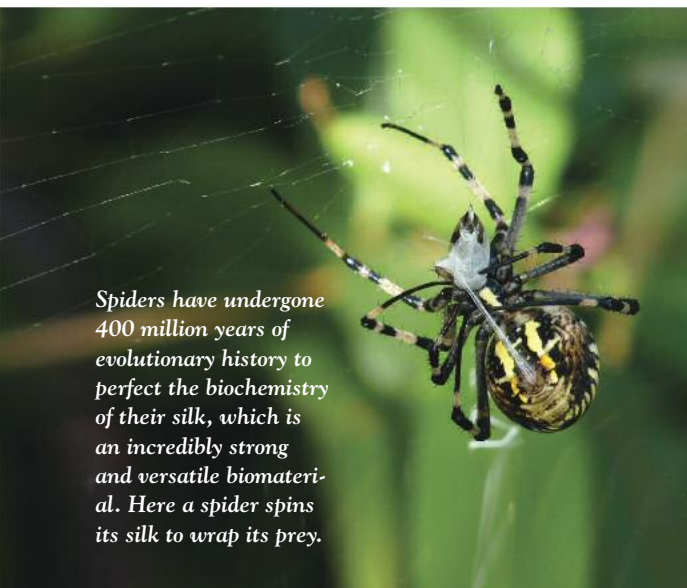
“The idea is that tau secretion probably occurs before the neurons, or brain cells, die in Alzheimer's patients, and, if so, the levels of secreted tau in the cerebral spinal fluid—and possibly blood—might be able to predict whether a person would get Alzheimer's before he or she actually starts to show symptoms,” explains Hall.

He believes this will assist in diagnosing people early enough so that existing medicines can help them.

“Most importantly, it would permit the identification of Alzheimer's patients while they are cognitively intact—that is, before they lose a lot of neurons—so they can be enrolled in clinical trials for drugs that might cure Alzheimer's disease,” he says. “This has been one of the biggest obstacles to finding a cure for AD; our study marks a big step forward in removing that obstacle.”

Garth and his team have filed a patent application on the secreted tau biomarker and are looking to partner with a large biopharmaceutical firm to develop a commercial diagnostic for AD based on their research. —EA





Spiders have undergone 400 million years of evolutionary history to perfect the biochemistry of their silk, which is an incredibly strong and versatile biomaterial. Here a spider spins its silk to wrap its prey.

SPIDER SILK: STRONGER THAN STEEL

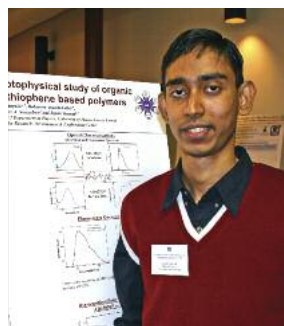
You know that elaborate spider web decorating the upper corner of your front porch? It's made of nature's wonder fiber—it's tougher than steel or Kevlar, but weighs much less and can be stretched up to three times its length without breaking.

"Spider silk is important for many reasons," explains Biology Asst. Prof. Jessica Garb, who is studying the genetics behind spider silks and venoms.

Because spider silk has extreme toughness, high tensile strength and elasticity, is lightweight and biodegradable, scientists are interested in understanding its composition and production. It can potentially be used in diverse applications requiring high-performance materials, including body armors, bandages, surgical sutures, artificial tendons or ligaments, ropes, fish nets, seat belts, airbags and parachutes.

"Spiders have evolved many specific uses of silk: different web types, adhesive

silks, Velcro-like silks, silks just for egg cases, et cetera," says Garb, who has published her findings in many professional journals. "Also, spiders always rely on silk throughout their lives, and silk has played a key role in spider evolution."



Ph.D. candidate Soumitra Satapathi

NEW METHOD IMPROVES CANCER SCREENING

If we want to increase cancer patients' survival rates, we need to improve early screening techniques.

A team of UMass Lowell researchers is doing just that. Led by Soumitra Satapathi, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Physics and Applied Physics and a researcher at UMass Lowell's

Center for Advanced Materials, the group has developed a novel method of examining cancer cells in the laboratory that could someday help in the early detection and diagnosis of the disease.

"Our technique provides a unique way for non-invasive, high-contrast imaging of cancer cells," he says. "This process can potentially be extended as a tool to replace conventional endoscopy and colonoscopy procedures."

Satapathi, a native of Kolkata, India, presented the team's findings in February, during the American Physical Society meeting in Boston.

HEADS OF STATE TO LEARN FROM RESEARCHERS' REPORT ON TOXICS

The production and use of chemicals in developing countries is skyrocketing, resulting in significant harm to human health, especially for children living in poverty, says a new report written by staff and faculty of the University's Toxics Use Reduction Institute and the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production.

The Global Chemicals Outlook report, commissioned by the United Nations Environment Programme, will be a major source of reference at an international meeting, the RIO +20 U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development. The June conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will attract more than 200 heads of state and government officials who will set goals for worldwide sustainable development.

Rachel Massey of the Toxics Use Reduction Insti-



Ken Geiser

tute (TURI) and Prof. Ken Geiser of the Work Environment Department and co-director of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, played leading roles in the international process that led to this report.

"It is very empowering and refreshing working with representatives from different countries," says Geiser. "The work that we began here at Lowell with the Toxics Use Reduction Act 20 years ago will now have international presence. We believe that the same strategies of finding safer alternatives and reducing toxics at the source rather than dealing with clean-up and health effects can be applied worldwide to foster economic growth while protecting health and well-being."

70 Million of Us Can't Sleep

As many as 70 million Americans suffer from sleep deprivation—which does a lot more than just make people groggy. It increases the risk of obesity, cardiovascular diseases, inflammatory diseases, mood disorders and cancer, says Prof. Geoffrey Phillips McEnany of the Nursing Department.

Phillips McEnany is co-author of a new book "Sleep Disorders and Sleep Promotion in Nursing Practice" that was recently recognized as a Book of the Year by the American Journal of Nursing.

His No. 1 piece of advice?

"Raise the issue of sleep with your primary care provider, whether that person is a nurse practitioner or a physician," he says. "If a sleep medication is offered for a sleep complaint, then ask for a broader sleep assessment. The important question is 'What's the cause of my sleep problem?' If obesity is a clinical issue, then discuss snoring and daytime sleepiness, which is the best indicator of poor or inadequate sleep. Bring sleep into the light of day in any clinical visit."

To help clinicians better diagnose and treat sleep problems, Phillips McEnany established an online graduate certificate program in Sleep and Sleep Disorders. Offered through UMass Lowell's Division of Online and Continuing Education, it is one of the first programs of its kind in the United States.

—KA



Teen Sexting: 'Not Going Away'

Sexting has been the cause of some high-profile scandals, inspiring a flurry of new laws and prosecutions and raising the anxiety of parents across the country.

But what exactly is it?

"The teens who we interviewed were unclear as to what sexting means and whether their own activities constitute sexting," says Andrew Harris, assistant professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology. "Was it safe sex as opposed to real sex, just a normal part of a romantic relationship or a coercive move? As investigators, we need to ask, what is old behavior—just part of teen relationships—and what is new with the new technology?"

The study Harris is leading, *Teens, Sex and Technology*, focuses on how teens themselves perceive sexting. Funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the U.S. Department of Justice, the study involves researchers in three states (Massachusetts, Ohio and South Carolina) and from several disciplines (including clinical psychology), nine school systems and more than 120 teens who were interviewed in focus groups based on age and gender. Focus groups of parents and educators were conducted.

"The old behavior includes the typically poor judgment capacity of the teenage brain, heightened sexuality and desire for intimacy," says Harris. "The new behavior is that teens have spent their lives as digital natives. They are living, learning and relating with new media."

In a digital environment, private and public spheres have changed dramatically.

"Social media enable teen relationships to be insulated from parents and other adults," says Harris. "They have extraordinary autonomy and independence. At the same time, their peer relationships are played out in a public domain, putting them in a minefield of potentially real problems."

Younger teens are experimenting with technology and with relationships, researchers found, and might send explicit images just because they can. Older teens perceive a continuum that ranges from intimate and caring communications to peer pressure and deliberate cruelty.

As to gender, boys are perceived as attempting to compete and show off, while girls are said to be seeking attention.

"The personal and social consequences are quite different," says Assoc. Prof. Judith Davidson of the Graduate School of Education, who is analyzing the teen narratives and supervising a team of UMass Lowell student researchers. "For boys, status is enhanced by sexting.

For girls, status is diminished and they are subjected to name-calling and insults."

The bottom line, says Harris, is that "sexting is not going away. We need to teach teens how to navigate in a responsible way." — SS

COMING SOON: IMPROVED PRIVACY FOR YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS

Federal laws regulating health care records aim to protect patients' privacy and keep personal information secure. But those restrictions can limit the utility of the data for research purposes.

Two Manning School of Business professors are working to develop cutting-edge technology that improves patient confidentiality protection while making high-quality data available to health care researchers.

Professor Xiaobai Li is leading a team that received a \$700,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop data-masking technology. Also involved in the three-year project are Manning School Prof. Luvai Motiwalla as well as Prof. Patricia Franklin and Assoc. Prof. Wenjun Li, both of UMass Medical School.

"It is difficult to strike a balance between privacy protections and providing the best data quality possi-



New data-masking technology will provide health care researchers with the best data possible.

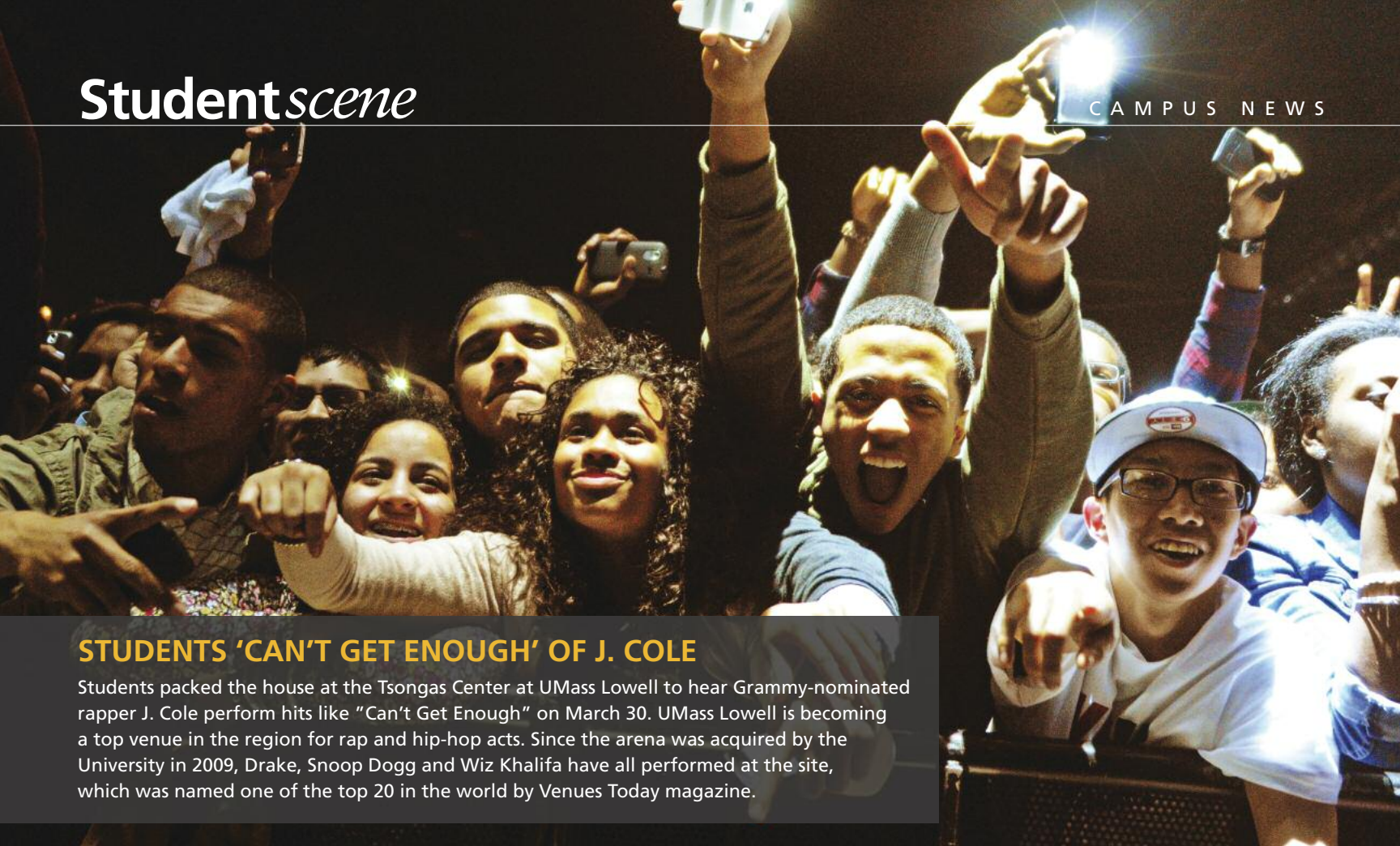
ble," says UMass Lowell's Li. "By developing a data-masking system, we can better protect privacy and at the same time we can make the data more useful."

The availability of quality information contained in medical records has broad implications for policy, treatments and health care finance, says Motiwalla.

The data can be used by physicians who are searching for new treatments as well as health care economists who are seeking to control the cost of care.

BREAKTHROUGH IDEAS ON THE FAST TRACK TO COMMERCIALIZATION

Every year, there's an unspoken competition between researchers at the five UMass campuses—all of whom are hoping to win one of a small number of grants given by the UMass President's Office to professors with the best chances of turning their technologies into commercial success. This year, UMass Lowell professors snagged a third of those grants. Keep an eye out for cool new inventions (involving a blood poisoning sensor, biodegradable surfactants found in household cleaning agents, and a living-cell-based biosensor) coming down the pipeline. Three teams—led by Assoc. Prof. Sanjeev Manohar of Chemical Engineering, Assoc. Prof. Joel Therrien of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Asst. Prof. Ramaswamy Nagarajan of Plastics Engineering—will receive a total of \$75,000.



STUDENTS 'CAN'T GET ENOUGH' OF J. COLE

Students packed the house at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell to hear Grammy-nominated rapper J. Cole perform hits like "Can't Get Enough" on March 30. UMass Lowell is becoming a top venue in the region for rap and hip-hop acts. Since the arena was acquired by the University in 2009, Drake, Snoop Dogg and Wiz Khalifa have all performed at the site, which was named one of the top 20 in the world by Venues Today magazine.

A Life-changing Spring Break

Some students spent spring break working on their margarita-lifting muscles. Others learned how to paint a room, where to get the best deal on fried chicken near campus—and how to make a difference.

As part of the Alternative Spring Break Club's

Lowell Immersion project, a group of five UMass Lowell students spent the week helping out local nonprofits, meeting community leaders and learning about the city.

Throughout the week, the students knocked on doors in city neighborhoods

to let residents know about home energy assessments that could help improve the energy efficiency of their homes and save money. The result? They signed up 38 homeowners.

They also made phone calls to Lowell Transitional Living Center donors to thank them for their support and they helped the Lowell Food Security Coalition with its community needs assessment, visiting neighborhood bodegas and markets to gather information from storeowners (and taste their chicken).

They met with neighborhood leaders to learn about their work in the community and painted rooms at the United Teen Equality Center in downtown Lowell. They traveled to Boston to help out at Community Servings, a not-for-profit

group that provides nutritious meals to people coping with serious illnesses.

The students camped out for the week at the historic Pawtucket Congregational Church, sharing meals and planning their activities together. To thank the church, which also hosted the Lowell Immersion group last spring, the students did some painting inside the building.

Alternative Spring Break Club President Kevin Copson, a senior criminal justice major, said volunteering with other students creates a shared sense of purpose that is sometimes missing from the daily routine. Last year, he traveled with other club members to Mississippi to help with hurricane clean-up.

"So many people get into the rut of eat, sleep, work,"

he said. "The sense of camaraderie and self-development that you can attain through volunteering is invaluable."

Also participating this year were sophomores Eamon Lightning and Deborah Paul and juniors Savannah Marshall and Becca Walsh.

UMass Lowell students are devoting more time to community service than ever, with the number of hours recorded doubling over the past year from 50,000 to 100,000. The University was recently named to the 2012 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction, a prestigious recognition for colleges and universities committed to volunteering, service-learning and community engagement. — JG



Student volunteers spent part of spring break painting inside the Pawtucket Congregational Church.



The student club Steppin' in Unity enthralled a crowd in Durgin Hall with rousing dance performances on March 31.

STEPPIN', IT UP!



The Off-Broadway Players recently performed "columbinus," a play based on the 1999 school shooting tragedy in Colorado.

'columbinus' Calls for Culpability and Change

While the members of the student theater group Off-Broadway Players were not yet in high school during the 1999 Columbine, Colo., shootings, they've lived with its aftermath.

Emergency drills, anti-bullying programs and the faces of the victims have been part of their school experiences. And high school remains a difficult ordeal for many.

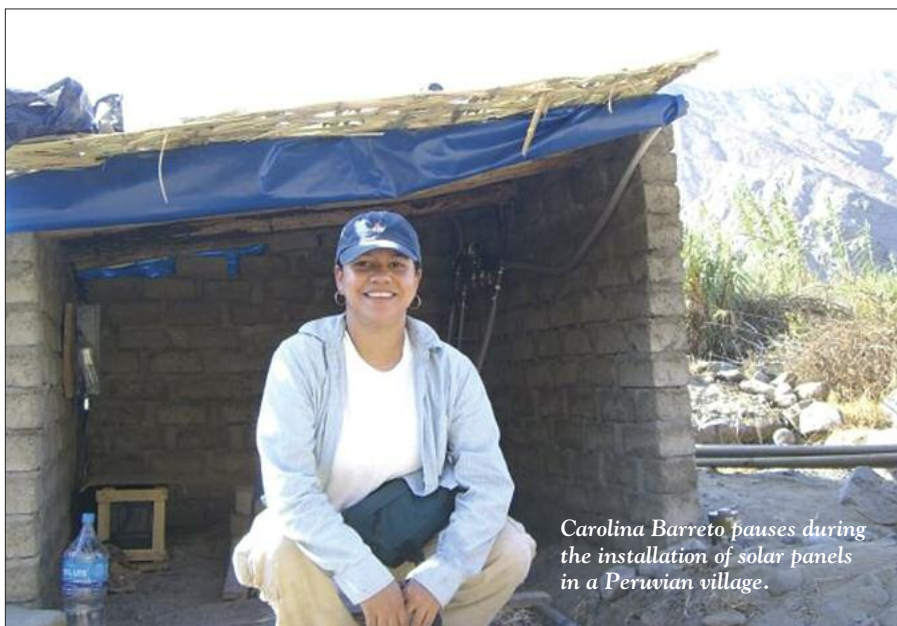
As they took the stage to present "columbinus," a play based on the tragedy, the students' own experiences and feelings about the horrifying event shone through.

"We chose to do this play because we wanted to

put on a meaningful and emotional play," says Kate Munoz, vice president of the Off-Broadway Players and an actor in the play. "Production was emotionally taxing for cast members because of the characters we had to embody and the content we used. But we helped one another get through and Colleen Rua, our director, created a safe environment. Even when we were rehearsing the most uncomfortable scenes, it was never unbearable."

The actors expressed hope that encouraging students to talk and empathize with one another more could decrease violence in schools.

"This play challenges us to really think about the ways in which our actions affect others and reminds us that in many ways, we are more alike than different," says Rua, artistic director at the Arlington Children's Theatre. "This applies to all of us, not just students. These concepts seem so simple, so basic, yet we continue to see tragedies like the recent shootings in Ohio and Florida. Theater like 'columbinus' asks us to consider our own culpability as a society, but also offers us hope for change." — JKG



Carolina Barreto pauses during the installation of solar panels in a Peruvian village.

Student Wins ‘German Oscar’

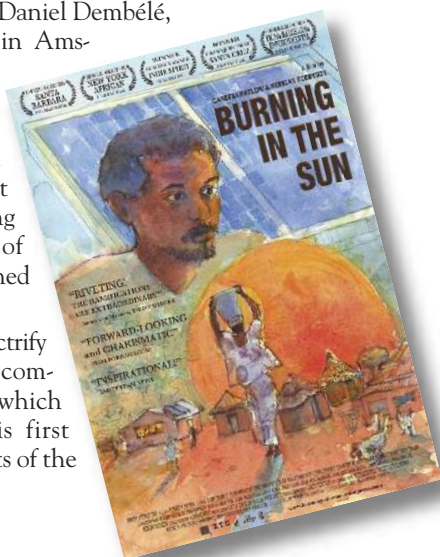
Angelina Jolie and UMass Lowell student Carolina Barreto have something important in common. They both won Cinema for Peace awards at the Berlin International Film Festival in February.

Barreto, a native of Nicaragua and a doctoral student in the University's solar energy engineering program, played a key role in the documentary “Burning in the Sun”—one of five films that won what is often called the “German Oscar.”

“They recognize filmmakers who are involved in making a difference in the world. We won the Cinema for Peace International Green Film Award sponsored by the German automaker Opel,” she says.

The critically acclaimed “Burning in the Sun” tells the story of Daniel Dembélé, a 26-year-old bartender in Amsterdam who decides to return to his homeland in Mali, an impoverished, landlocked country in Western Africa, and start a local business building solar panels—the first of its kind in the sun-drenched nation.

Dembélé's goal is to electrify the households of rural communities, 99 percent of which live without power. His first customers are the residents of the tiny village of Banko.



“In the film, I’m shown training Daniel and other Malians how to assemble and install solar panels,” Barreto says. “Daniel didn’t have any background in solar energy, but he wanted to find a way to help his countrymen. This solar energy training provided him with the skills, job and business opportunity to do it.”

Barreto was also interviewed on-camera and gave her views about rural electrification in developing countries.

You can view a 22-minute clip of the documentary, which had its national broadcast premier on PBS on Jan. 29, on YouTube.—EA

INTRODUCING MR. UML (YES, THAT’S HER)

When she heard about the Mr. UML contest happening on campus a few months ago, sophomore fine arts major Trudy Ulmstead decided she was the best man for the job.

“They didn’t specify that you have to be male and I met the other criteria,” says Ulmstead, who is a resident advisor, orientation leader and Off Broadway Players officer. “I’m a prominent student leader on campus, so I thought it would be a

fun thing to add to my involvement here.” She was surprised as anyone when she won.

“I think I won because I was trying to convey an important message ... that if you want something, go for it. Take a chance,” she says. “I fully expected to not be taken seriously or not allowed to compete because of my gender. But I was allowed, and clearly got the support of the UMass Lowell community.”



Trudy Ulmstead



Good Will Growing

About a dozen students are building a greenhouse and community garden on campus this spring, in part thanks to a grant from the Deshpande Foundation. The group hopes to donate vegetables and flowers to local organizations.



‘A Wonderful Player, a Wonderful Person’— River Hawks Forward Beats the Odds

By Geoffrey Douglas



Matt Ferreira

He was 18 years old, a standout forward for his Junior League team in Ontario, just days away from the start of his first year playing Division I college hockey at UMass Lowell. He was out to breakfast with his family and some friends—they'd thrown him a party the night before to celebrate and say goodbye—when he began to feel, he remembers, “really weird.”

He went home and went to bed. When he awoke, the room was full of paramedics. Then he was in an ambulance, then a hospital bed. The doctors told him he had a tumor on his brain. There would be no Lowell, no Division I hockey. His odds of even surviving, they said, were roughly two to one. “I felt,” he would tell a reporter two years later, “like someone just came and took me away.”

That was nearly five years ago. Today, Matt Ferreira is the third-leading scorer on the River Hawks team, with 14 goals and 18 assists this season. He appeared last year in 33 games, ranked third on the team in scoring. Over the past three-and-a-half years, he has played in 122 games, with 29 goals and 30 assists. He will graduate this spring.

“It’s been an unbelievable story,” says River Hawks coach Norm Bazin. “He plays well both with the puck

and without it—which I can’t say for every player. He’s one of the true leaders on the team.”

For Ferreira, it has been an extraordinary five years. With the tumor removed and three metal plates in his head, he returned for a year (2007-08) to play for his junior team in Ontario, struggling mightily at first before he found his stride—all the while getting visits from his UMass Lowell coaches and emails from River Hawks players he didn’t know if he would ever meet.

“I have nothing but praise for the staff and the team for seeing him through that ordeal,” says Bazin, who was not at UMass Lowell at the time. “That made all the difference, I think.”

By the fall of 2008—a year later than originally planned—he was on the ice in Lowell. A fourth-line player at first, he saw limited minutes, though that began changing within weeks. “He’s a Lowell player—he’s tenacious, he’s thorough,” then-coach Blaise MacDonald would say of him before his freshman season was done.

“He’s [already] played to our expectations. I know, over his career, he’s going to amplify those.”

And so he has—off the rink as well as on. “He’s a wonderful player,” Bazin says of Matt Ferreira today. “But an even better person. I’m proud to be his coach.” ■



Hockey Team Lands First NCAA Tournament Bid Since 1996

UMass Lowell hockey earned its first NCAA Tournament bid since 1996, winning against Miami (Ohio) in the opening round on March 23, before falling just a game short of the Frozen Four after losing to Union College.

Led by the 2012 Hockey East Coach of the Year, Norm Bazin, the team finished its season with a 24-13-1 record, a tie for second-place in Hockey East. It was the second largest turnaround in NCAA Division history with 19 more wins than last year. It was the largest turnaround by

a first-year head coach, earning Bazin a nod as finalist for the Spencer Penrose Award, given by the American Hockey Coaches Association in memory of the Colorado Springs benefactor who built the Broadmoor Hotel Complex, site of the first 10 NCAA championship hockey tournaments.

Sophomore Doug Carr also snagged kudos, being named one of two Division I All-Star goalies and the Paul Hines Most Improved Player Award winner.



SNOW DAY!

Hockey players Malcolm Lyles, William Eiserman, Stephen Bucu and Tim Corcoran spent time on their off-day on March 1 shoveling local driveways and inviting fans to that weekend's home game against Providence College. (They won 4 to 2!)

GORIVERHAWKS.COM GETS NEW LOOK

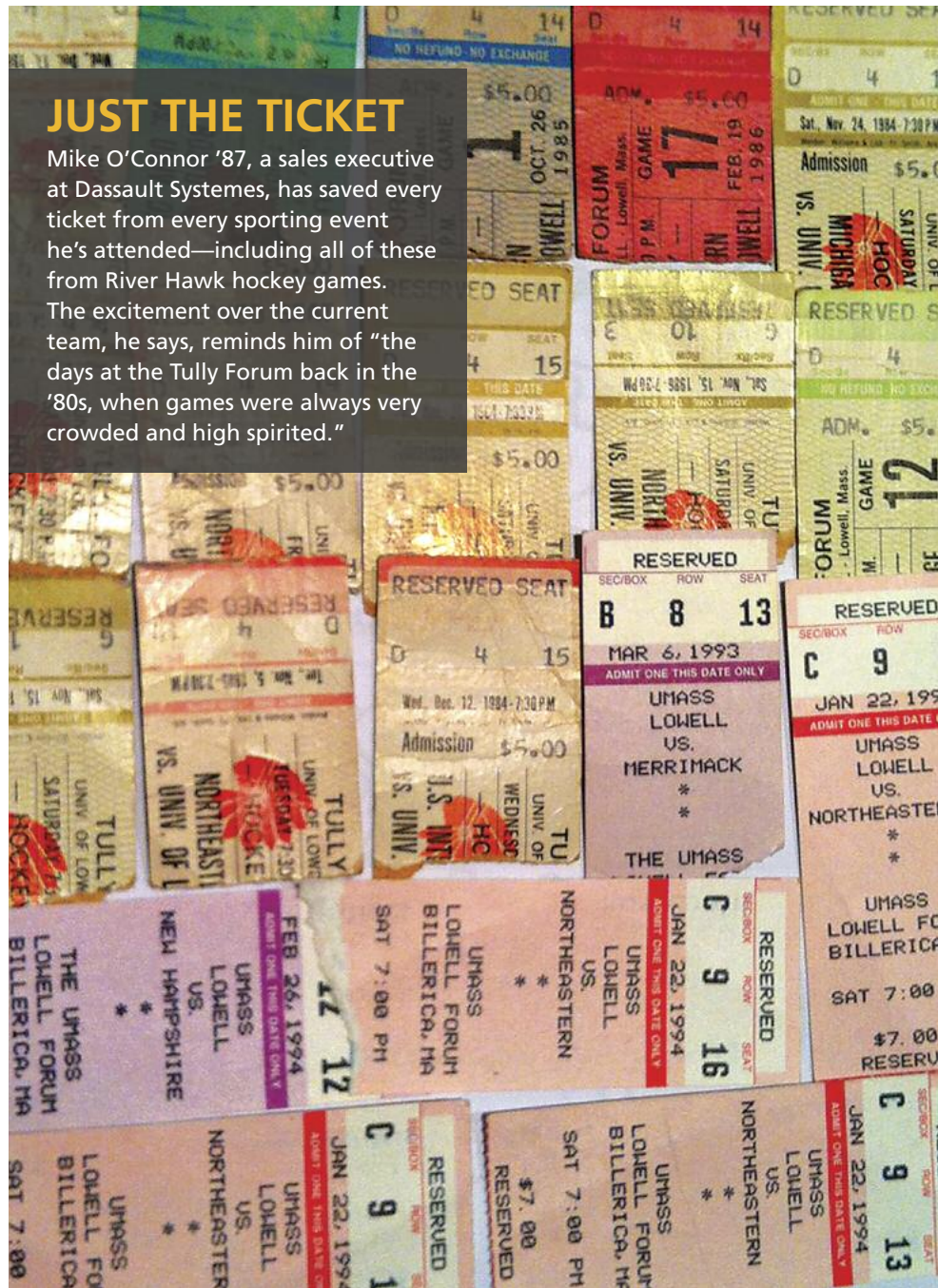
The Department of Athletics debuted a new website, www.goriverhawks.com, in March. A cutting-edge design and flash headers are featured, along with an enhanced version of live stats, better integration of Facebook and Twitter, and larger windows for viewing video highlights.

The site was created in conjunction with Sidearm Sports, replacing CBS Interactive, which served as the University's athletics website provider since 2009.

"We place great value on the importance of first impressions and are excited to partner with Sidearm Sports to create a more dynamic, user-friendly website," says Director of Athletics Dana Skinner. "Our new site will also drive more revenue by providing new content for corporate sponsors."

JUST THE TICKET

Mike O'Connor '87, a sales executive at Dassault Systemes, has saved every ticket from every sporting event he's attended—including all of these from River Hawk hockey games. The excitement over the current team, he says, reminds him of "the days at the Tully Forum back in the '80s, when games were always very crowded and high spirited."



Run, Hawks, Run!



Junior Evan White, left, receives the baton from senior Jeff Wundt, leading the 4x400 team to second place.

Photo by Dave Eggen

UMass Lowell's Junior Evan White and seniors Angus MacDonald and Jeff Wundt earned All-America honors in two events at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field Championship at Minnesota State-Mankato's Myers Fieldhouse.

UMass Lowell scored 23 points to place a best-ever ninth in the 40-team field. MacDonald added to the milestone weekend by becoming

the University's most decorated athlete: He earned All-America honors for the eighth and ninth times in his career, and still has one more outdoor season of eligibility.

"We obviously achieved most of our goals for the weekend by placing ninth as a team and coming back with 10 All-Americans," says head coach Gary Gardner. "That this was the team's best finish ever,

having two national runner-up finishes. And Angus earning his eighth and ninth All-America awards made it a very special weekend."

White captured All-America honors in both the 200 meters and 4X400 meter relay while MacDonald earned All-America in the distance medley relay and the open mile. Wundt was a part of both relay teams.



Senior Angus MacDonald, center, received a 2012 NE-10 Scholar-Athlete Sports Excellence Award.

RUNNER SNAGS SCHOLAR AWARD

Senior Angus MacDonald received the 2012 Northeast-10 Conference Scholar-Athlete Sports Excellence Award for indoor track and field, making him one of seven winter season student-athletes conference-wide to receive the distinction. To be eligible, student-athletes must have completed two consecutive years of full-time enrollment and athletic eligibility while maintaining a 3.30 cumulative grade point average. This is the second time MacDonald received the honor. He was also the men's cross-country recipient for the 2009 season.



Send Her In

Senior pitcher and designated hitter Elyssa Boris, number 14, became UMass Lowell's career RBI leader as the River Hawks defeated Saint Michael's College in a Northeast-10 Conference softball doubleheader at Doc Jacobs Field on April 3.

Features

A portrait of John Prendergast, a man with long, wavy, greyish-brown hair and a light beard. He is wearing a dark grey blazer over a black t-shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Inside...

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Just a few weeks after testifying before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations about the atrocities he witnessed in South Sudan while on a mission there with actor George Clooney, John Prendergast spoke to students on campus about why he is “wildly optimistic” about Africa’s future. The human rights activist, who co-founded the advocacy group Enough Project, is UMass Lowell’s 2012 Greeley Scholar for Peace Studies. Prendergast said he came to UMass Lowell because the University’s commitment to service is a natural fit for what he does. “All the students, or many of them, are trying to do something in the world or in the backyard or in the local community,” he said.

By David Perry

THE COMPANY WE KEEP.



UMass Lowell Plastics and Nypro: Partners From the Same Mold

Employers dream of college graduates who are trained well enough to plunge right in to work. For educators, internships offer a bond with industry, a practicum of sorts. And for students, a seamless transition from classroom to work clothes is a particularly good deal, especially in a tough economy.

Since 1955, UMass Lowell's Plastics Engineering Department and Clinton-based plastics manufacturer Nypro have been fused at the hip. The University has produced so many interns and full-time employees for Nypro that some UMass Lowell alumni working there say there's an unspoken bond between them.

But the relationship between the University and the plastics company is perhaps best personified in Amber Zapatka, a 23-year-old Lowell native. A full-time Nypro employee since July 1, the 2011 graduate is working toward her master's degree in plastics engineering. She first joined Nypro as a scholar-intern following her freshman year and never left. She is training to become a quality engineer.

"It's pretty well-known that a lot of UMass Lowell plastics engineering alumni go to Nypro to work," says Amber, "whether it's a starting point or a final destination."

"There's a very rich and deep history between us," says Louise Griffin, director of corporate and foundation relations for the Office of University Advancement. "The histories of the University's Plastics Engineering Department and Nypro parallel one another and are very important to us. They've been generous, as well."

One of the most visible examples is in Ball Hall, on North Campus. That's where, in 2003, Nypro and its Chairman of the Board Gordon Lankton funded the renovation of a laboratory to create the Nypro Precision Injection Molding Laboratory. The lab houses \$500,000 worth of equipment, including an injection-molding machine from Nypro.

UMass Lowell Plastics Engineering Department head Robert Malloy says it's not much of a stretch to say one might not exist as it does without the other.

"It's pretty close to the truth," says Malloy. "managers there will tell you a lot of their success is due to their people, and they get a

trained workforce from UMass Lowell. And it's not just plastics engineering, though we've certainly supplied the largest numbers to them. They are hiring mechanical and chemical engineers from UMass Lowell, too."

The programs grew up together. UMass Lowell's plastics engineering program dates back to 1954, when the school was known as Lowell Technological Institute. Nypro was born the following year.

"There are only so many ways a university and a company can interact, and I'd say we've engaged in just about every one of them with Nypro," says Malloy.

"It's pretty well-known that a lot of UMass Lowell plastics alumni go to Nypro to work, whether it's a starting point or a final destination."

— Amber Zapatka '11

In a rambling former carpet mill refurbished as its Clinton headquarters in 1971, Nypro is one of the 10 largest employee-owned companies, anticipating sales of \$1.2 billion this year. The company has 17,000 employees, at 41 sites in 14 countries, according to Nypro spokesman Al Cotton.

In various parts of the building, you'll find those who bleed River Hawk blue. Alan Maranian '79, is a business development manager at Nypro, and recalls taking classes here with Malloy. After school, he worked for Xerox and got to know Nypro as a supplier.

"I started dealing with Nypro in 1983, and I've been here for 10 years," says Maranian, 54. "So many UMass Lowell graduates work here. There's a strong association between the two places." He has a senior from the University's plastics department working for him as an intern, and plans to hire him after he graduates.

"I remember hearing the name Nypro when I was there," says Tina Downey '92, a Nypro project manager who has been with the company for 13 years. "Now I hear UMass Lowell a lot here."

Sometimes, a rich program can bring in folks from other majors, too, such as Chris Bussiere '92, a mechanical engineering graduate.



Alumni, from left, Alan Maranian '79, Chuck Henry '86 and Tina Downey '92 chat at Nypro headquarters.

"I started here cleaning molds for three months," says Bussiere, in his office overlooking Nypro's vast tool shop. "And I've been designing molds for the past seven, eight years. I found out they just hired my college roommate."

Nypro maintains a presence on UMass Lowell's North Campus.

The plastics engineering department's advisory board includes a Nypro representative, "whose input helps us keep abreast of what is going on in the larger plastics world and how we should approach it," says Malloy. "We don't necessarily change our program for everything they say, but when they say something, we do listen."

Nypro also provides scholarship support. Malloy says the Nypro scholarship began in 1979 and in 2005, "turned into an endowed scholarship."

"UMass Lowell prepared me in all sorts of ways for the real world," says Amber Zapatka. "There was such a broad range of things we learned. You really end up with an in-depth knowledge, one that gives you a really good base to stand on."

"There were times in class where I was the most knowledgeable because of what I was doing at work. I would have that practical knowledge and be able to use it in class. The two complement one another so well." ■

Editor's note: As some smart person once pointed out, no one can whistle a symphony. It takes an entire orchestra to get it right. In our new section *The Company We Keep*, we'll profile some of our own first-chair players—the partners who are helping to make this time of unprecedented growth at UMass Lowell possible.

UMASS LOWELL STATE OF MIND.

By David Perry

BILLY JOEL TAKES THE STAGE AT DURGIN HALL

As a drummer, Savannah Marshall's tastes run toward force-of-nature heavy metal, or the rumbling thunder of jazz and big band.

Yet there she was, backstage at Durgin Hall, about to shake hands with rock star Billy Joel. Marshall was one of three UMass Lowell music majors joining Chancellor Marty Meehan and a handful of others in greeting Joel before his Dec. 14 appearance at the South Campus performance center.

Continued



Billy Joel, playing a section of "Piano Man" on campus in December, joked, "This is a hit record? It's a drag. The lyrics are all limericks. And there's 30 minutes of them."

“THIS IS THE KIND OF THING THAT’S FASCINATING. IT’S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY. STUDENTS CAN ASK, ‘HEY, WHAT’S IT LIKE?’”

—John Shirley, chair of the Department of Music



Billy Joel shakes hands with junior Savannah Marshall.

Joel emerged to shake hands and exchange pleasantries with a short line of fans. He smiled and chatted briefly with each person, posing for a few photos. He’s 62 and bald. Marshall, a UMass Lowell junior from Methuen, is 20, with hair the color of pink bubblegum. She was accepted at Boston’s Berklee College of Music, but financial concerns helped her opt for UMass Lowell, a choice she

“couldn’t be happier” to have made. Joel, meanwhile, had flown in by helicopter, a black-bladed chariot that awaited him near the softball field.

Though he has continued to perform, notably in a much-acclaimed tour with Elton John and as the last concert at Shea Stadium, the Piano Man released his last pop album, *River of Dreams*, in 1993.

Savannah Marshall was 2.

What might these two have in common? What could she learn from him?

As it turns out, plenty.

A MASTER CLASS ON BEING A ROCK STAR

Joel strolled onto the Durgin Hall stage, following the leanest of introductions. The crowd of 1,000, mostly students, roared.

For more than two hours, he enchanted, educated and entertained the long sold-out audience.

The evening was a master class in the art of being Billy Joel, leavened with humor and spiced with music to flesh out the artist seen on stages and screens all over the

world. Sometimes, he played a verse or two. Sometimes, he performed an entire song.

The crowd met the songwriter, the businessman, the reluctant celebrity, the modest, self-deprecating “rock star.” He seemed at odds with pretense, and completely at home fielding questions that ran from the technical to requests for personal mementoes.

He was also happy to share inside stories.

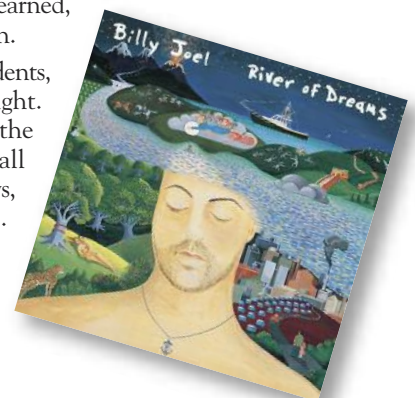
He theorized on Keith Richards’ longevity (when the bomb drops, “it will be just cockroaches and Keith Richards left,” he joked) and revealed that “And So It Goes” was written for supermodel Elle MacPherson during their “doomed relationship”:

“She was 19, I was 30, she’s 6’2” and I’m 5’7,” he said. “I saw a picture of us walking on the beach and I looked like Bubbles the Chimp.”

Launching into one tale with “Bono’s gonna kill me for this...” Joel recalled attending a U2 show in New York and wondering how just four guys were making all of that sound. He said he discovered a secret backing band of musicians bolstering the sound from beneath the stage.

Although Joel served up plenty of laughs, he also shared life lessons he’s learned, some of them hard-won.

Stardom, he told students, does not come overnight. He played around on the piano before he was tall enough to reach the keys, then took lessons at 6. By third grade, he was earning weak-kneed





screams from fourth-grade girls, crooning “Hound Dog” in the cafeteria.

But before he saw any real success, Joel said he worked on the side making ink for typewriter ribbons, as an oysterman, a freelance writer and landscaper. He forged a career beginning in the garages of Long Island’s seminal suburban tracts, pumped on rock power trios, then scaled back to piano bars before finding his voice as a keyboardist/troubadour and, eventually, an arena draw.

He told the crowd at UMass Lowell that he had promised himself while a struggling musician that if good fortune ever smiled upon him, he would try to help others. “I wanted to be able to help people do this job,” he said, to wade through the often “treacherous” and “larcenous” waters of the music business.

Those audience members with their hearts set on the same business appreciated his insights.

“You know, this is really cool for me,” said Marshall. “I mean, how often do you get a chance to see such an accomplished musician, right on your own campus, in a place this small?”

JOEL PICKS UMASS LOWELL FROM HUNDREDS

Joel was the latest in a series of award-winning artists to visit the campus. The six-time Grammy winner, record sales titan and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member joined a growing list of folks celebrated and accomplished for their work, and willing to share tips and experiences with UMass Lowell audiences. (See sidebar.)

It had already been a pretty good week for the Piano Man. Two days earlier, at the Steinway Hall of Fame in New York, the piano maker had unveiled Joel’s portrait. Captured on canvas wearing a leather jacket, he became the lone non-classical performer to be inducted.

Joel’s legend had just been handsomely boxed, too, in the form of Legacy Recordings’ 14-disc “Billy Joel—The Complete Albums Collection.” Remastered and reimagined as a hefty brick of all things Billy, it is a career captured.

But his proudest achievement, he said, is his daughter, Alexa Ray. His career highlight? Playing the Soviet Union in 1987 and feeling his personal vision of the Cold War melt.

The morning of his trip to Lowell, the University’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously to award Joel an honorary doctorate of human letters.

Landing Joel was a high-water moment in the cultural life of UMass Lowell, one that Chancellor Meehan hopes draws due attention to the University’s music program, which has all too quietly produced a steady stream of sound professionals, nestled into jobs as teachers, musicians and recording engineers in everything from sports to film to pop music. More recently, Sound Recording Technology (SRT) grads have been bringing home Grammy Awards.

“It’s important, as a university that prides itself on offering real-life educational experience, that we bring to our students people who

HE TOLD THE CROWD AT UMASS LOWELL THAT HE HAD PROMISED HIMSELF WHILE A STRUGGLING MUSICIAN THAT IF GOOD FORTUNE EVER SMILED UPON HIM, HE WOULD TRY TO HELP OTHERS.

Continued





“IT’S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE STUDENTS TO LEARN FROM A MASTER. BUT I HOPE THIS PUTS THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT ON THE MAP, TOO. THEY’RE DESERVING OF IT.”

—Chancellor
Marty Meehan

have been recognized for their hard work and innovation,” says Meehan. “And we want to offer students a glimpse behind the curtain. Billy Joel, thanks to his high standing in his profession, is perhaps the best-known of our visitors, but by no means does he stand alone in accomplishing great things. Of course, just about everyone can sing along to his songs.”

The University’s bid for Joel was crafted in the summer, but it took months for him and his team to wade through hundreds of proposals and notify three winners. (Joel also visited UConn and Cornell in the weeks before he came to Lowell.)

‘BETTER THAN THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME CONCERT’

Though he hasn’t recorded a new pop record in nearly two decades—his latest is a 2001 classical recording—Joel maintains enough pop music cache to easily sell out the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell. But this evening was about connecting with a college crowd. The agreement between Joel’s camp and the University called for dedicating 85 percent of Durgin’s 1,000 seats to students, the rest to faculty and staff.

Volunteers moved through the audience with handheld microphones, and Joel playfully picked his questioners by marking them with the beam from a green laser pen. Two pianos, a gong and a stool graced the stage. The stool was never used.

“This is the kind of thing that’s fascinating,” says John Shirley, chair of the UMass Lowell Department of Music. “It’s a great opportunity. Students can ask, ‘Hey, what’s it like?’”

While answering audience questions, Joel continued to share stories of his personal and professional highs and lows. Looking back has its joys, he said, but Joel also winces at the past. He completed but scrapped the publication of his autobiography, “The Book of Joel,” when he learned it would be marketed as a tell-all.

“I’m not a kiss-and-tell kind of guy,” he told the crowd. He returned the publisher’s \$3 million advance.

If there is one rear view mirror he enjoys, it is usually attached to a motorcycle. He recently opened his own motorcycle shop, 20th Century Cycles, in Long Island’s Oyster Bay.

Joel illustrated his points with snippets of songs, even allowing two students to accompany him. His voice warmed as the evening went on, to where he was singing such younger-man’s songs as “Innocent Man” to perfection.

Joel’s sound is infused with Fats Domino, the Gershwins, The Beatles and Tin Pan Alley. He is a master of melody. He told the UMass Lowell crowd he writes music before lyrics “99 percent of the time ... I’m a music guy.” His still writes, but only music. No words.

Bradford Swanson, a 32-year-old graduate student in the University’s Sound Recording Technology program, knows a pro when he sees one.

Swanson is the front-of-house engineer for The Bad Plus, an acclaimed, jazz-rooted trio with major label recordings under its belt. He also worked as a session player and teacher in a private school in Virginia before deciding to earn his master’s degree at UMass Lowell.

“I dug Billy Joel more than I expected,” he said later. “And I expected to like it. The guy was so honest and earnest about things. He handled the lightest questions better than I could ever imagine. It’s funny, but the night before I was watching him on this Rock and Roll Hall of Fame anniversary concert film and it was cool enough. But I much preferred what he did here.”

A STUDENT BECOMES THE STAR

Joel doesn’t need to do this, nor did he need to select UMass Lowell from the hundreds of schools that applied to host him. UMass Lowell’s rich musical history may have held sway. The University is home to the nation’s first public music education school and over the years has produced more music teachers in Massachusetts than any other institution.

“Obviously, we love having Billy Joel at UMass Lowell,” said Meehan after chatting with the star backstage. “It’s a tribute to the world-class music department we have and an opportunity for the students to learn from a master. But I hope this puts the music department on the map, too. They’re deserving of it.”

Indeed, the UMass Lowell Sound Recording Technology program has produced Grammy winners, infused the radio, TV and film worlds with talent, and has hosted international recording summits, including one in 2008, where the keynote speaker was Phil Ramone, one of Joel’s producers. Just weeks earlier, Frank Filippetti, the producer, engineer and sonic pioneer whose credits include work with Joel and Ramone, had visited SRT classes. (See sidebar.)

The evening crystallized near the end, when Joel headed to the piano to render “Leningrad” after discussing his Soviet tour. He searched for the key.

“I know it! It’s in D!”

It was a voice from the floor seats. Joel peered into the crowd.

“You know it?”

The young man said he did. Joel waved him toward the stage.

Like a sort of dueling Ferrante and Teicher, Joel and the kid saddled up on the benches of the two pianos, facing one another. It could have been a rough ride had the kid been bluffing. He was not.

Joel and David Schockett, 22, glided through what sounded like a flawless version of “Leningrad,” a Joel song that celebrates human similarities hidden by fear.

And the star became a teacher and accompanist. The kid became a star for a moment, realizing a musician’s dream. And the 40 years between the two musicians melted away. ■



SOME OF WORLD'S GREAT VOICES GRACE STAGES AT UMASS LOWELL

Billy Joel was a huge catch, no doubt. But the University has been landing some formidable names over the past couple of years, cutting a wide swath across popular culture and academics. The future holds one of the literary world's biggest rock stars, **Stephen King**. The latest visiting scholar, **John Prendergast**, has been making the rounds with George Clooney in the name of justice.

The University landed an impressive member of the Obama Cabinet for commencement this year in **Ken Salazar**, secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. With Lowell's status as an urban National Park, Salazar would seem an especially fitting choice. Before accepting his current post at the dawn of 2009, Salazar served as Colorado's 35th U.S. Senator and was known for his part in bipartisan efforts. Long active in conservation efforts on the state level, Salazar is an important voice in the balance of land use and energy needs.

The campus is buzzing about the upcoming Dec. 7 appearance by **King**, who'll open the 2012-13 Chancellor's Speaker's Series with "A Conversation and a Reading" at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell. The evening event with the writing icon will take place in a more intimate setting than is usual in the Tsongas. King and his wife,

Tabitha, have generously donated the honorarium as the seed money for a **Stephen and Tabitha King Scholarship** at UMass Lowell, which will benefit deserving students who need financial support. Professor **Andre Dubus III** will facilitate the onstage conversation with King.

Students will be admitted free, while staff, faculty and the public will be able to buy tickets. (Details to come.)

At one point, author and activist **John Prendergast**, UMass Lowell's 2012 Greeley Scholar for Peace, was less visible. His human rights work, including toiling for peace in Africa for more than a quarter-century, has largely been done out of the spotlight. Not that it didn't earn some recognition along the way ("60 Minutes" and The New York Times are among the media outlets that have featured Prendergast). A veteran of the Clinton White House, among other posts, Prendergast co-founded the Enough Project, which aims to halt genocide and human rights violations. And then, in early March, he became public, thanks to his role in the very viral Kony 2012 video. The half-hour production by human rights group Invisible Children Inc., calls for the capture and trial of warlord Joseph Kony, who turns girls into sex slaves and boys into child soldiers. The unprecedented viral success

has cast a bright light on Prendergast as well. He pops up near the 14-minute and 24-minute marks.

Other guest speakers to take the microphone at University events over the past few years:

Laymah Gbowee shared the 2011 Nobel Prize with Yemeni activist Tawakkul Karman and Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Gbowee, the Liberian peace activist known to many as the centerpiece of the documentary "Pray The Devil Back to Hell," was a 2011 Greeley Scholar at UMass Lowell. She told students here of the need for conflict resolution in April. In December, she was in Oslo, to receive the Nobel Prize.

Doris Kearns Goodwin and her husband, **Richard Goodwin**, held court in a Q&A session, on the eve of 2010 Commencement. And there was a big score the next day, with **Roger Goodell**, National Football League commissioner, serving as 2010 Commencement speaker. Other recent Commencement speakers included **Sen. John Kerry** in 2009, Rep. **Harold Ford** in 2008 and Rep. **John Lewis** in 2007.

Lynda Barry, the cartoonist and author whose weekly Ernie Pook's Comeek strip drew a legion of devout followers, was the Fall 2011 Artist in Residence for the Center for the Arts & Ideas.

Poet **Kay Ryan**, the nation's 16th poet laureate (2008-2010), visited the University on April 26, 2011, during National Poetry Month. It was also just a week after she was named 2011 Pulitzer Prize winner in poetry. In September, Ryan was named one of the year's MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" recipients. Other writers: **Dennis Lehane**, sportswriter **Jackie MacMullan** and **Russell Banks**.

Since the University formally took ownership of the Tsongas Center in February 2010, the arena has played host to pop music luminaries from **Bob Dylan** to **Drake**, from the **Dropkick Murphys** to **Chicago** and **Selena Gomez**.

And **Phil Ramone**, familiar to Billy Joel (it was Ramone who produced Joel's smash album, "The Stranger" as one of pop music's premier producers, was the keynote speaker when the University hosted the International Art of Record Production conference in November 2008. Ramone has been nominated for 33 Grammy Awards, and taken home 14. Last fall, the Joel-Ramone relationship came full circle, when **Frank Filipetti**, the producer, engineer and sonic pioneer whose credits include work with Joel and Ramone, visited SRT classes. ■

By David Perry



The Music Department's New Composition: Teachers, Gamers and Grammy-winners

**“THEY’RE
READY WHEN
THEY LEAVE
HERE.”**

—Music Prof.
William Moylan

In its infancy a century ago, UMass Lowell’s music program produced a long line of music professionals of the day. They were prim and proper, trained to teach the basics of a music education to elementary school children.

If the direction of music education was different than it is now, then so was the tempo of campus life.

When Norma Lajoie arrived from Gardner to major in music in 1965, she lived in Allen House, then a dormitory. About 30 women lived there, and no males were allowed above the first floor. A housemother oversaw the residents, a cook prepared meals and students cleared the table and washed dishes. In your room at 9 p.m., lights out at 11.

“And don’t get caught roaming around with curlers in your hair!” Lajoie remembers.

At that time, Durgin Hall—now home to the Department of Music—didn’t even exist.

“Where we’re sitting right now?” says music Prof. Emeritus Stuart Smith, during an interview in his office in Durgin. “This wasn’t even here when I got here in 1967. There were rows of cottages built for World War II vets. This building was a big field. There was still a barn standing on it.”

In those days, after their studies were complete, music graduates fanned out across the region to add a taste of the arts to the days of elementary school students. They were, in their time, world-ready. And they were a part of the nation’s first public music education school. UMass Lowell has produced more music teachers in Massachusetts than any other institution.

“We were primarily a teacher-preparation program,” says Smith, who arrived at Lowell State in the spring of 1967, a degree in music theory and composition from Brandeis still warm in his hand. “We were not too far removed from Lowell Normal School, or at least that mindset.”

But eventually the landscape changed, transformed by forces far beyond the diatonic scale. The University was ready with an intensive program designed to attract and mold music professionals of a decidedly different stripe.

SRT: ‘A SONIC HAIL MARY PASS’

The Sound Recording Technology (SRT) program began as a sonic Hail Mary pass, an attempt to resuscitate a music program that seemed doomed by fiscal belt-tightening.

In 1980, amid a sweeping national anti-tax movement, Massachusetts voters passed the Proposition 2½ ballot



Grammy-winner Adam Ayan '97 has been the mastering engineer for such clients as the Foo Fighters, Pearl Jam, the Rolling Stones and Keith Urban.

measure, which limits rises in local property taxes, the major source of funding for local school districts. The measure went into effect in 1982.

"With 2½, suddenly parents were thinking, 'are there going to be music education jobs out there?'" says Lajoie, who became the music department's secretary and stayed for 41 years, until she retired in June 2010. "And they wanted their kids to be able to work after graduating, knowing there was a profession there."

Enrollment in the Department of Music took an almost immediate hit.

"After the passage of Proposition 2½, the enrollment at the college of music just plummeted, from 500 to almost nothing," says music Prof. William Moylan.

Meanwhile, engineering was ruling the academic roost at UMass Lowell. With the high-tech boom spreading across the area, and companies such as Wang establishing roots locally, enrollment in engineering programs doubled during the decade beginning in 1975.

Prof. Stuart Smith saw the writing on the wall, and—as chair of the college curriculum committee—joined with Dean of the College of Music Dr. Tom Elliot to put together a proposed curriculum that melded music and engineering in hopes of saving the department. They designed and gained approval for both the SRT and Music Business programs. Both were among the first in the nation of their kind. SRT is the first to offer a master of music degree in the field.

"It was a no-brainer," says Smith, who retired in 2002, but still teaches a pair of classes. "Everybody wanted to be in the record industry. But it was so competitive."

A BRIDGE BETWEEN ARTS AND SCIENCES

The SRT proposal became a reality but Smith credits Moylan, who arrived in the fall of 1983, with "making it what it became." Moylan put flesh on the bones of the Sound Recording Technology program. "He deserves the credit," insists Smith.

"The idea was to create a program that would bring together the rich heritage of music, and meld it with the heritage of engineering on our campus," Moylan says.

It was a bridge across the Merrimack, from North to South campus, spanning arts and sciences. And if it would become a way of making the studio an instrument itself, SRT also had to feature an ensemble of players.

"It needed to take a broad view of things," says Moylan, a soft-spoken man whose passions include the music of The Beatles. "It was a program to appeal to young folks and create a program to educate people and further the recording industry. And my vision of the recording industry was not solely the recording studio. I was also talking about TV, radio, film. I insisted there be two other faculty members. I did not want us to produce clones of me and my approach."

But he did want students to have proper production facilities. The equipment went from, he says, "boxes in a closet when I got here, to state-of-the-art" rooms and production and mixing facilities that have since been featured in national publications.

It was a rigorous major, designed to bring in students but also not to short-change them.

"The first enrollment group had seven students, and two actually stuck with it," says Moylan. "I think it scared some of them once I started teaching and they figured out it was not going to be sex, drugs and rock and roll. In fact, only rock and roll got into the studio. It's very intensive."

Over time, it has become the Department of Music's most popular of four concentrations (the others are music business, music studies and performance). Today, the program has 140 students, an enrollment that had stayed "remarkably steady" over the past two decades, says Moylan. "We graduate between 20 and 30 a year."

They include multi-Grammy-winners like Adam Ayan '97, one of the mostly highly regarded mastering engineers in the business. They include several who work in the gaming industry, putting the sound to the action. And they include sound engineers who work in mobile units making sure TV viewers hear the sporting nation's biggest events.

"They're ready when they leave here," says Moylan. ■

**"IT WAS A
NO-BRAINER.
EVERYBODY
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INDUSTRY.
BUT IT WAS SO
COMPETITIVE."**

*—Prof. Stuart Smith,
on the creation of the
Sound Recording
Technology program*





Mary Jo Leahey (1916-2011): She Lived for the Music

By Geoffrey Douglas

Of the thousands of benefactors who have contributed over the years to the life of this University, there are probably none whose generosity has touched more lives, as personally or directly, as Mary Jo Leahey '37.

It may have been the memory of the opportunity she once passed up herself, decades ago, as a student—a seven-year contract with 20th Century Fox—to return to Lowell and marry her sweetheart. Or it may have just been her love of music. Whatever the reason, much of her life and wealth would be dedicated to a single cause: the right of every boy and girl who loves music as she had, and was willing to work for it, to have the means to the same opportunity.



Mary Jo Leahey '37 helped 2,000 students pursue their musical dreams.

"She wasn't just a benefactor, one of those who just gives and walks away," says Debra-Nicole Huber '89, who, for the past 17 years, has served as executive director of the Mary Jo Leahey Symphonic Band Camp, an annual, residential, week-

long summer instructional camp for high-school music students, based on the UMass Lowell campus—which, over the years, has afforded nearly 2,000 of them the chance to pursue their musical dreams.

"She talked with the students," Huber says. "She would want to know, from me, how things were going, where the students were coming from, if we were getting them the highest-possible level of instruction we could, all those sorts of things. She cared, she really, really cared. She loved music, and she loved teaching—and that's something we had in common. It was a beautiful partnership."

Leahey: singer, teacher, mentor, visionary, philanthropist—and member of the Lowell State Teachers College class of 1937, from which she earned her bachelor's degree in music—died in late November at her home in Florida. She was 95.

The Band Camp, which began with 53 students in 1997 and is now enrolling 130, is not the only legacy of Leahey's generosity. Other beneficiaries over the years include the University's Center for the Arts, the UMass Lowell String Project and the Chancellor's Educational Excellence Fund for Student Scholarships. Not long before her death last year, she was honored, as one of just 11 benefactors, as a member of the University's newly formed Circle of Distinction.

"Mary Jo was a very special, really beautiful person," says Chancellor Marty Meehan. "Her generosity continues to provide for the educational experience of young people from diverse backgrounds. It's a wonderful legacy."

But the Band Camp was her trademark. And her passion. Ever since her student days in the 1930s, and the war-time years that followed when she sang and danced for the wounded troops, and the years later, on Martha's Vineyard, as music supervisor of the island's public schools—it was always the music that drove her.

"It was her inspiration," says Huber. "Her passion for it was contagious. At the same time, though, she never lost her dignity. Or her capacity to love, to reach out. She was a remarkable lady. A true role model. I will miss her very much."

A memorial is planned: on July 21, in the finale concert on the final day of this year's Band Camp, the orchestra will feature a world premiere of "Sounds of Courage" by Robert W. Smith, a composition based on the life of Amelia Earhart. It will be dedicated to the memory of Mary Jo Leahey, the camp's visionary founder. ■

F rom Sunflowers to Swanky: Alum's Designs Caught on Camera

By Sheila Eppolito



“I HAD NO IDEA WHAT I WAS DOING. I HAD NEVER BEEN ON TELEVISION, AND HADN’T BEEN INVOLVED IN SUCH LARGE-SCALE DESIGN DECISIONS, LET ALONE ON CAMERA!”

M

aybe it didn’t start with the sunflowers, but they were certainly a clue.

On freshman move-in day, as hundreds of other eager students loaded up parents and siblings with microwaves, beanbag chairs and cases of Ramen noodles to populate their new homes in Fox Hall, Taniya

Nayak ’97 had a different array of must-have items.

“I brought a table I had painted with sunflowers, and a matching window valance I’d sewn,” she says.

Asked if the curtain was of the oft-derided “balloon” style, she’s horrified.

“Never!”

In fact, Nayak’s good taste is becoming legendary in home and commercial design circles.

Born in Nagpur, India, Nayak moved to Weymouth with her family as an infant. Nayak says she was always considered the “creative” child, although she is quick to point out that her scientist-turned-marketing executive sister Yoshika demonstrates some “serious creativity” in the way she interacts with her children.

“Every Valentine’s Day creation, every school project she works on with her kids is fabulous,” says Nayak. “She thinks of things I never would have come up with.”

“My father is an architect—he’s had his own business for years,” she says. “He’s amazing—I still call him all the time for advice.”

A marketing major, Taniya lived in Fox Hall on the 7th floor. She fondly recalls watching “Friends” with friends, dancing on the dance team and celebrating her 21st birthday in Lowell.



Taniya Nayak, center, unloads her U-Haul on move-in day in 1993. Her Fox Hall room was the site of her first interior design effort.

After graduation, she attended the Boston Architectural Center, intending to follow in her dad’s career footsteps. Instead, she pursued design, earning top honors in the International Interior Design Associations’ Student Sketch Problem Competition.

“One day, an instructor told us that ABC Family was holding auditions for hosts of a design program called ‘Knock First,’ a show targeting hip, ambitious teens,” she says. “I had no idea what I was doing. I had never been on television, and hadn’t been involved in such large-scale design decisions, let alone on camera!”

She nailed the audition, and was hired.

“Being on television is a sort of happy accident,” she says.

The happy accident went viral.

After “Knock First” came an opportunity on HGTV’s “FreeStyle” which ferrets out items already in people’s homes and repurposes them for a fresh look. Then came



Petit Robert Central in Boston's Downtown Crossing features interior design by Taniya Nayak '97.



an offer from “Designed to Sell,” a show that helps people get their homes sold with \$2,000 of improvements and a lot of sweat equity. Unlike other home improvement shows, “Designed to Sell” puts everyone to work, even lovely designers. Nayak gets right in the thick of it—from design to demo—with a nearly constant smile on her face.

Bolstered by her success, Nayak created her own design firm, Taniya Nayak Design LLC, to create “affordable and inspirational” spaces. Her client list includes everyone from regular Joes to A-list customers like Jesse Metcalfe of “Chase” and “Dallas,” Joe Perry of Aerosmith and Tyler Christopher of “General Hospital.”

Yet no matter how big the job or famous the client, Nayak is unflappable.

“I was walking with my design assistant today and we were going over the laundry list of business items, and as the list got longer, she got kind of wired,” says Nayak. “I realized that I wasn’t anxious—I probably should be, I’m just not!”

Her good karma may be related in part to her recent marriage to Brian O’Donnell, head of a successful Boston restaurant group, which boasts such Boston hotspots as Petit Robert Central, Julep, McGreevey’s and a new, as yet unnamed, spot next to the W Hotel in the Theater District, all of which feature Nayak’s design imprimatur.

“I was a bartender for 13 years, so I have a soft spot for restaurants,” she says. The soft spot—and the restaurateur husband—opened up another creative door for her.

After consulting on restaurants owned by O’Donnell, Nayak has become the go-to designer for hot eateries. As design expert on Food Network’s “Restaurant Impossible,” Nayak works with colleague Robert Irvine, host and chef, to develop a plan to save foundering eateries with \$10,000 and two days’ work. The team has spiffed up a variety of venues across the country, including the Meglios in St. Louis, Coffee’s Boilin’ Pot in Madisonville, LA., and dozens of others in between.

In each case, it’s Nayak’s job to create a theme, plans for seating, tables, lighting, flooring—basically everything “front of house.” And if saving a business in just two days weren’t enough, her pressure-cooker job is all caught on camera.

One look at her, though, and it’s clear the camera is this woman’s friend.

In addition to a keen eye—courtesy of genetics or good fortune—her success may be tied to her authenticity. Whether she’s on television or on the telephone, she is herself. Interactions with crew members on any of her shows reveal a cast of friends, with nary a prima donna in sight. During a phone interview for this story, Nayak is approachable and warm, even offering up free suggestions for a writer’s tired, brass wall sconces. (“Paint them a nice matte nickel, and put some simple Edison bulbs in. Don’t use little shades—they’re just dust collectors.”)

She has recently developed her own lighting line for wayfair.com, and expects to add more product lines soon.

Before signing off to board a plane for her latest design consultation, she asked if there are any other design dilemmas she can help with. Fame, it seems, has not gone to her head. ■



TANIYA ON THE AIR

- Oprah
- Knock First
- FreeStyle
- House Hunters on Vacation
- Restaurant Impossible
- Destination Design
- Designed to Sell





Patricia Foley Karl '64, '95 helped found the Lawrence Family Development Charter School, where 100 percent of students learn to read by first grade.

By Sheila Eppolito

The Dreammaker

SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE RETIRED. RELAXING. *RIGHT.*

Patricia Foley Karl '64, '95 is a force to be reckoned with. Entering the Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS) with Karl is like walking with a celebrity. Every student, teacher, aide, receptionist and custodian lights up upon seeing her, and she responds in kind, knowing every person's name.

Karl—who has bachelor's and master's degrees from the Graduate School of Education—founded the charter school in 1995 in Lawrence, her hometown. An educator her entire adult life, Karl taught for five years in Andover, followed by 13 in Lawrence. She and husband Russell (longtime University professor of Legal Studies) raised three children, all of whom have had roles in education.

After the Massachusetts Education Reform Act passed, creating fertile ground for the formation of charter schools, Karl was tapped to write a plan for a one in Lawrence.

After talking to scores of parents in the community, Karl discovered one important thing, she says: Despite having a reputation for refusing to get involved in their children's educations, plenty of Lawrence parents simply want their children to be given a chance at the American Dream.

That's no easy task, given the hard realities of the economic situation. Nearly a third of residents are low income and 74 percent are Hispanic, and for many English is their second language. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Lawrence has poverty rates twice the national average, and the unemployment rate of 17 percent is three times the state average. The high school dropout rate exceeds 40 percent, and several high-profile misdeeds by City administrators have hurt Lawrence Schools when they can least afford it.



The Lawrence Family Development Charter School houses 640 students in pre-k through eighth grade.

Weaker souls would have walked (or run!) away from the proposition of attempting to create an excellent school against such a daunting backdrop.

Karl is no shrinking violet.

"We determined that our charter school would be different. Instead of viewing the high Latino population as a 'problem', we embrace the cultural differences. Instead of seeing our students as poor, we view them as gifts with overwhelming promise. Instead of viewing parent involvement in education as a distraction, our view is that embracing and supporting parents—respecting their culture and their part in their child's future—is a much more effective outlook," she says.

"Instead of viewing the high Latino population as a 'problem,' we embrace the cultural differences."

—Patricia Foley Karl

Continued



Months of meetings, research and writing later, the plan was written by Karl, and submitted.

It worked. And Lawrence Family Development Charter School was born.

Almost.

There was the problem of finding a facility. And hiring teachers. And getting books. And recruiting students. And all the rest of it.

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

Karl dove right in, meeting every challenge with determination, seemingly superhuman energy and the support of the organization's board of directors. First, the facility.

"R. Kingman and Dean Webster—former owners of the Blue Seal Feed Co.—helped connect us to the new owners, who donated the building and land to us, which was the foundation of everything thing you see today," she says.

The vacant factory was transformed. Donations supported the changes—garage bays were turned into classrooms; today, a gazebo sits atop the site of a former grain silo.

"We received the property in June, and opened in September—it was a whirlwind, and we nearly didn't make it," Karl admits.

On opening day, Sept. 6, 1995, 180 students waited anxiously in the yard outside their new school. And Karl—waiting for the Certificate of Occupancy from the City—greeted each child enthusiastically, a curriculum back-up plan at the ready in the event they couldn't use the building.

Miraculously, at 8:15 a.m., the certificate came, and the doors were opened.

LOTTERY OF A LIFETIME

Students at the charter school are admitted through a lottery, held annually in the school's gym. On lottery night, Karl says, students and their extended families gather, and celebration abounds when names are called. But demand

exceeds supply in this special place: there are currently more than 1,200 students on a waiting list.

The lucky ones admitted benefit from LFDCS' four-pronged approach.

1. Parents are important, too. The school offers ESL, citizenship and computer classes to interested parents, and their involvement in their children's education is encouraged, not dismissed.

2. Excellent teaching is a must. Class sizes are limited to 20. Teachers pursue professional development through graduate courses and workshops. Every single student is monitored for performance in key areas—teachers collaborate to ensure no student fails.

3. Culture is respected. Dual-language proficiency for students is a must.

4. Partnerships open doors. Science and technology-related partnerships with colleges and Universities, including UMass Lowell's Mechanical Engineering Department, present rich opportunities.

THE PROOF IS IN THE EYES

The statistics, facilities and strategies are impressive. But in this place, the kids are the true stars.

"Just look in their eyes!" she says. "You don't see poverty here. You don't see failure. You see possibility."

As kindergarten students file by in their comfortable navy blue uniforms—the parents' request—they dutifully hold "one hand on lips, and one hand on hip," per the instruction of a smiling teacher.

They move, a happy line of beautiful children, getting closer to their best selves.

A HISTORY OF BUILDING COMMUNITY

This wasn't the first time Karl made an enormous difference in the community.

She was previously executive director of both the Lawrence Youth Commission and the Lawrence Family Development and Education

LFDCS Success by the Numbers

100%: graduates accepted to one or more admission-based schools

60%: graduates received scholarship and financial aid totaling more than \$700,000

3: LFDCS buildings—the former St. Anne's School, the former Blue Seal Feed Co. and the Maria Del Pilar Quintana Family Center

640: students enrolled at LFDCS

10: number of grades—pre-k through grade 8

100%: students reading before first grade

2: languages (English and Spanish) are spoken by all students

20: the largest class size; many number just 15

\$10 million: estimated worth of LFDCS properties

\$0: debt owed by LFDCS

\$1,000,000: the goal of the Patricia Foley Karl Scholarship Fund to support continued academic success of LFDCS graduates

Fund, a group formed in 1992 to support programs in youth education and career direction, empowerment of urban parents and leadership development.

Thanks to the group's efforts, YouthBuild Lawrence was born, one of the first five AmeriCorps programs in Massachusetts. Under YouthBuild, up to 25 participants work toward GEDs while learning job readiness through instruction in construction and management skills. The program has graduated more than 140 young people and helped more than 90 earn their GED. The program is housed in the historic Orange Wheeler House—a donation from the family's estate.

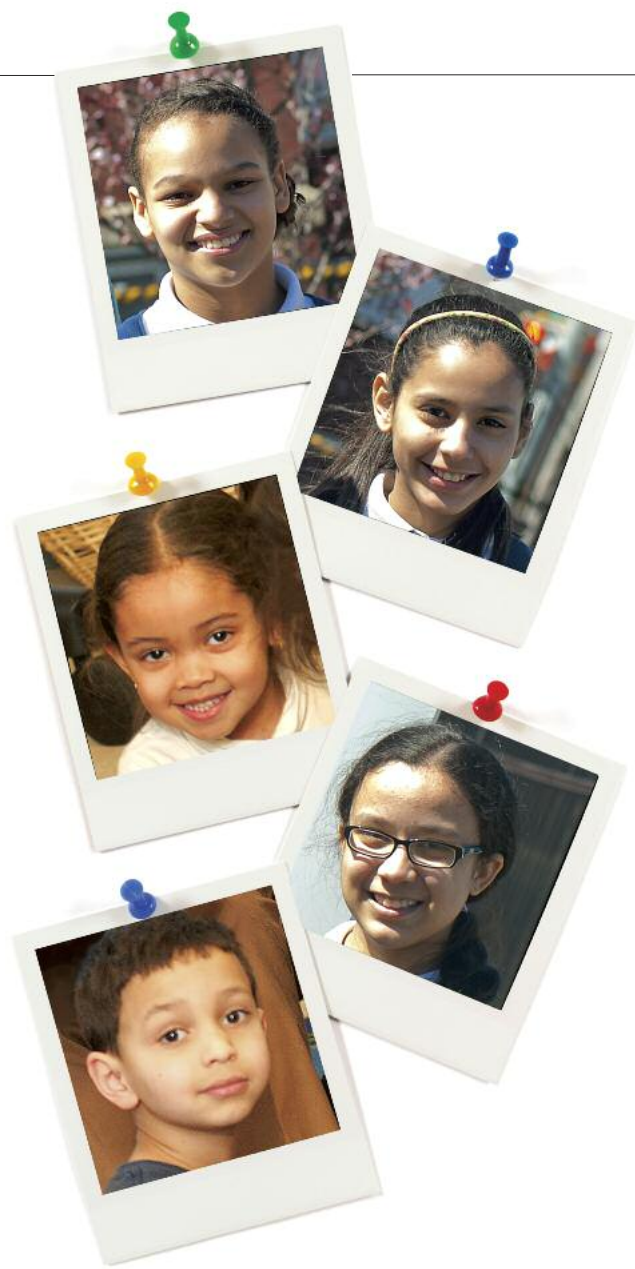
YouthBuild has worked with the Greater Lawrence Habitat for Humanity to construct 18 units of housing and has owned and developed eight units of housing constructed by the program's students.

"YouthBuild helps participants rebuild neighborhoods as they rebuild their own futures," says Karl.

But they don't do it alone. When it comes to rebuilding futures, people like Patricia Foley Karl are the construction managers. ■

"There is no education like adversity; it is the best teacher for willing pupils."

— *Maria Encarnacion, LFDCS Class of 2011*



The Power of Family

It's clear that respect for family and culture are deeply ingrained in Patricia Foley Karl—she chalks it all up to her own upbringing.

"As a senior in high school, my dad had the opportunity to attend to MIT, and had a sponsor who was going to cover the costs," she says. But his own father's illness made MIT impossible, so he decided to educate himself.

"Every Saturday morning, my dad would spend hours at the Lawrence Public Library—he started with the A encyclopedia, and read his way through the alphabet, says Karl." "He was the most knowledgeable man I knew."

And if he held himself to a high educational standard, he and his wife, Genevieve, were also committed to the best for their eight children. Not easy on a policeman's salary—he later became head of Lawrence Public Safety—but not impossible.

The Vincent and Genevieve Foley Library in the school's family center honors the value of books. "We were tremendously blessed," says Karl. "Our parents were enthusiastic believers in us, and believers in education."

All eight Foley children graduated from college.

The GSE: Breeding Ground for School Leaders

Educating teachers like Patricia Foley Karl (see accompanying story) is an art that runs deep at UMass Lowell. When Lowell Normal School was founded in 1894, the school of education was at its core. Finding a product of the program isn't much of a challenge. The Graduate School of Education (GSE) began producing those with master's and doctoral degrees in 1987 and 25 years later, the results are overseeing districts and classrooms across the region.

Here's a look at some of the GSE products:

SUPERINTENDENTS:

Curtis Bates, Boxborough
Lisa Dana, Danvers
James Scully, Haverhill
Kevin Lyons, Hudson
Judith Scannell, Methuen
Marc Kerble, Newburyport
John Doherty, Reading

PRINCIPALS:

Donna Georges, Amesbury Academy Charter Public School
Stephen Murray, Andover West Middle School
Ryan Plosker, Executive Director of New England Academy (Beverly)
William Downing, Thomas Ditson Elementary (Billerica)
Eileen Roake, Eugene C. Vining Elementary (Billerica)
Roland Boucher, Marshall Middle School (Billerica)
Deborah Koniowka, Joseph A. Campbell Elementary (Billerica)
James Scully, Greenleaf Elementary (Haverhill)
Mary McCarthy, C.R. Hubert Elementary School (Hudson)
Ellen Baranowski, Frost Middle School (Lawrence)
Michael Fiato, Humanities & Leadership Development High School (Lawrence)
Christina DiBenedetto, High School Learning Center (Lawrence)
Ada Ramos, John Breen School (Lawrence)

Margaret McDevitt, Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School
Marianne Bond, Joseph McAvinue Elementary (Lowell)
Anthony Volpe, Curtis-Tufts High School (Medford)
Joan McQuade, North Andover Middle School
Mary Lou McCarthy, Franklin Elementary (North Andover)
Christine Balzotti, Frederick J. Dutille Elementary (North Billerica)
Anne O'Bryant, Chelmsford High School
Joseph Dillon, Lunenburg High School
Richard Cowdell, Thurgood Marshall Middle School (Lynn)
Dorothy Flaherty, Masconomet Regional High School
Brandi Kwong, Comprehensive Grammar School (Methuen)
Richard Beshara, Marsh Grammar School (Methuen)
Michelle Zottoli, Wyman Elementary (Woburn)
Thomas Cornacchio, West Memorial Elementary (Peabody)

Pauline Cormier, Peter Fitzpatrick Early Childhood (Pepperell)
Cindy Evans, Rumney Marsh Academy (Revere)
Renata McFarland-Bateman, Bentley School (Salem)
Sharon Bird, Central Elementary (Stoneham)
Angela Kimble, North Street Elementary (Tewksbury)
Denise Arvidson, Col. John Robinson (Westford)
Kevin Regan, Norman E. Day Elementary School (Westford)
Frank Ferriero, North Immediate Elementary (Wilmington)
Eileen Mills, Daniel P. Hurlid Elementary (Woburn)
Ernest Wells, Linscott-Rumford Elementary (Woburn)

A 'Late Bloomer' Hits His Stride— and Remembers Where it Started

By Geoffrey Douglas

The generosity of John Pulichino '67 and his wife, Joy Tong, will result in a \$4 million scholarship fund to benefit the Manning School of Business, whose main building will be named in their honor.



He was from northern New Jersey, the middle child of Italy-born parents. A mediocre student in high school, he says, "I was just trying to figure out what I could be good at." His father guessed that he might make a decent engineer—"because I was better at math than English." So, without any better ideas, he applied, as a senior, to Lowell Tech.

That was nearly 50 years ago. His path since then has not featured many stops related to engineering. Nor has there been anything mediocre about it.

"I was a late bloomer," says John Pulichino '67 "But if you believe in yourself and set attainable goals, it's amazing how it'll all come together for you."

He enrolled at Lowell Tech in the fall of 1963, an outsider in important ways: "I was one of the few who lived in a dorm, who didn't go home on weekends; and my black shirts and slacks—the North Jersey look—were kind of a clash with the white shirts and loafers I saw all around. I was a little different, I guess."

But he adjusted—pledged a fraternity, built a social life, formed friendships that would endure to graduation and a few that would last a lifetime. "There was a sense of community there. I came to see it as home," he says.

In the course of all this, he says, "I began to understand that engineering wasn't for me. It was a process of discovery, of just better understanding myself." He graduated in the spring of '67 with a degree in industrial management.

The 70s found him at Polaroid, where he would spend 11 years—first in industrial engineering, later in planning and finally in marketing.

"It was a wonderful experience and provided me with a strong managerial foundation for what was to come," Pulichino says. "But it was also the time when digital imagery was entering the market, ultimately replacing Polaroid's film chemistry format. That, among other things, would prove to be the company's demise."

In the early 80s, a recruiter came calling. The company was American Tourister, among the country's best-known manufacturers of durable, mid-priced luggage. Pulichino, though still a young man, brought a broad background to the table; in less than three years, he was president and CEO.

"Here I was, still in my 30s, running a \$100 million business, involved with distribution, sales, planning and marketing—a lot of the areas I'd been active in at Polaroid," he says. "We opened over 150 retail outlets and created a Special Products Division to market accessory

bags for hand-held video devices. It was quite a challenge."

In 1993, American Tourister was sold to Samsonite, and a year later Pulichino moved on. This time the company would be his own: Innovation Luggage, a New Jersey specialty luggage chain with 60 retail stores. The company prospered, and expanded west, adding 40 more stores in seven years.

Then 9/11 happened.

"In four days, revenue dropped in half and stayed there," he says. "We lost our store in the World Trade Center. There was a ripple effect across the whole economy. People just stopped traveling."

The company went into Chapter 11, downsized, rebounded, then was sold in two parts. Pulichino, who had been living in New York City, moved to Florida. And life took on a whole new direction.

"THE STUDENTS I TALK TO TODAY, THEY'RE ALL STRAPPED—20, 30, 40, 50 THOUSAND DOLLARS IN LOANS, THAT'S A HUGE BURDEN TO TAKE ON BEFORE YOU EVEN SEE YOUR FIRST PAYCHECK."

His wife, Joy Tong, an industrial designer whom he'd married 12 years before, had founded, in 1984, Group III International Ltd., a small boutique wholesale company that marketed fashion travel bags. It was a nice, successful niche business, he says, but with limited growth potential.

"I thought I had retired—until one day she said to me, 'Come help me with my business.' So I said, 'Okay, fine, I can do that,'" he says.

The result was a partnership that merged Tong's design skills with her husband's business experience and the retail contacts he had developed over the years. It didn't take long to bear fruit: a 2003 licensing agreement between Group III and Wenger, maker of the 100-year-old Genuine Swiss Army Knife brand, has generated a company that, since 2003, has done more than \$400 million in sales. With offices in Florida, Taiwan and mainland China, Group III now distributes more than 60 products through Target Stores alone.

"We started out as a small entrepreneur business," says Pulichino, "that's now grown to the point where we're approaching \$100 million a year in sales. And the great part is, I get to work side-by-side with my wife."

The couple recently sold a majority share of Group III to a Florida-based private equity firm, though the company remains intact—with Pulichino still in the CEO's seat and his wife still the creative director. In the meantime, he says, the two of them have widened their scope to support other causes. Ranking high among these has been his alma mater and its students.

"For the longest time, years and years after I left, I never paid much attention," he says.

He has come to see things differently—partly through recent visits to the campus and partly, he says, as a result of his lifelong friendship with fellow alumnus, Phi Gamma Psi fraternity brother and one-time Polaroid colleague Charlie Hoff, a long-time major donor to the University, whom he credits as "probably the number-one inspiration" behind his choice to become active as a donor.

"Joy and I started out small, but we always knew that when the time was right we would make a more significant commitment," he says. When we made the decision to sell the company, we knew that time had come."

He had realized in the meantime, he says, that things aren't as they used to be: "The state isn't paying what it once did. The students I talk to today, they're all strapped—20, 30, 40, 50 thousand dollars in loans, that's a huge burden to take on before you even see your first paycheck. We just felt we needed to do something to help these kids get through school."

They have indeed done something. The Pulichino/Tong Family Foundation Scholarship Fund, established this January, will dedicate \$4 million to supporting students of UMass Lowell's Robert J. Manning School of Business. The fund will be open to non-residents and residents alike, freshmen as well as upperclassmen—a nod, says its alumnus donor, to "that New Jersey kid, all those years ago, who had to pack his bags to come to school."

The University, in turn, has agreed to name the new building for the Manning School in honor of the couple: the Pulichino/Tong Business Building.

Having his and his wife's names on the building will be "an honor, a very nice honor—it's hard not to appreciate something like that," Pulichino says. "But the real point, the biggest reward, will be to see a number of deserving students graduate from the business school with the assistance of our scholarship fund." ■

Building a New Future.



How You Can Help

The Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center (ETIC)—slated to open in the fall—will keep UMass Lowell at the forefront of discovery and innovation. The state-of-the-art facility will be a hub of manufacturing technologies: preparing students for emerging job sectors, fostering industry partnerships and offering cutting-edge research in nanomedicine, plastics, clean room technologies and more. Located on the corner of University Avenue and the VFW Highway, the ETIC will be a gateway to North Campus. It will bring together world-renowned research leaders to develop solutions to complex scientific challenges.

Help support the intersection of ingenuity and industry.

Go to www.uml.edu/givenow and designate a gift to the Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center Building Fund.

For information about room and laboratory naming opportunities, recognition packages and leadership gifts, please contact John Davis, assistant vice chancellor for principal gifts: 978-934-2223 or john_davis@uml.edu.



Learning with Purpose

Alumni Life



Inside...

- 42 FEATURE
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- 61 IN MEMORIAM

He's Got the Beat

Drum studio owner Zach Field '01 says he learned to be a well-rounded percussionist—and a grown-up—at UMass Lowell. Read the full story on Page 55.



By Geoffrey Douglas

Anstiss & Co.: A Father, a Son and a 50-Year Connection

Fifty years ago, the University gave Raymond Anstiss a job as an adjunct professor of accounting. Today, the company he went on to found—recently ranked by the Boston Business Journal among the largest accounting firms in the state—hires new UMass Lowell graduates every spring.

“We owe so much to our ties with UMass Lowell,” says Anstiss’ son, Ray Jr., who is one of the partners running the Lowell-based Anstiss & Co. today. “As far back as I can remember, we’ve hired at least one graduate every year. It’s just such a strong [accounting] program they have there—because of it, we can compete on an equal footing with the firms in Boston. That just wouldn’t be possible otherwise.”

Of the firm’s 38 employees, nearly a quarter are alumni. Two are directors—Jayne Andrews ’90, director of the company’s not-for-profit service group, and Jason Khalil ’99, director of audit and technology-based businesses. There are also four CPAs, two tax seniors, and Alyssa Maloney, the intern who answers the phones.

One of the nine is Mark Gearin ’96, a CPA and manager with the firm—“I’m a generalist,” he says, with a background in audits, tax work, corporate planning and more—who’s been there since 2005. His recollections of his UMass Lowell years are a strong endorsement of his boss’s sentiments, from the alumni side of the fence:

“It’s a really, really excellent program, with quality professors, tough but almost always fair. What I especially remember, though, is how approachable they were. Prof. Carter [Kathryn Carter, now dean of the College of Management]—we got to know each other pretty well,

and she went to bat for me more than once. And Bernie Shapiro [retired in 1996 after more than 40 years]—a great math teacher, he got to be a friend. He’s a client of ours today. I’ve stayed in touch with them both.”

At least some of the credit for the UMass Lowell-Anstiss connection, says Ray Anstiss, belongs to a single man: Prof. Stephen Collins, chair of the Accounting Department and a member of the faculty since 1986, who, prior to his time at UMass Lowell, was an auditor himself, with two different Boston firms, as well as an assistant professor of accounting at Boston College. Every year, Anstiss says, Prof. Collins compiles a book of his graduating

“To have world-class educated students right in our backyard—it’s been a very big reason for our growth.”

—Raymond Anstiss

seniors and sends it around to all the accounting firms in the region.

“It’s been an amazing asset for us,” says Anstiss. “This year alone, we interviewed five graduates from that book, and hired one of them. To have world-class educated students right in our backyard—it’s been a very big reason for our growth. It’s like they say: you’re only as good as your people, and we’ve had the advantage of drawing from the best.”

The man responsible for the original connection to the University—the senior Ray—is gone now. He died two years ago, though his presence at the firm continues to be felt. Ray Jr. still remembers, as a boy, arriving at his

father’s office after school—“sharpening pencils, doing my homework, just to be near my dad.”

But it wasn’t handed to him, he says. “My dad, he didn’t even offer me a job when I got out of school. He made me earn my wings somewhere else”—four years at Peat Marwick in Boston as a member of the audit staff, followed by an MBA at Notre Dame, where he finished with highest honors. “And even then, when he did bring me onboard [in 1993], he only gave me one client. Because that’s what he believed—that the idea is to hold on to what you have, take care of what you have, and grow from there. That was a core belief with him. It’s how he grew the company. It’s how we’ve grown ever since.”

He thinks often, he says, especially since his father’s passing, of the half-century of ties between his firm and the University that once employed its founder and now helps feed its growth:

“My dad was such a proud member of the faculty there all those years ago—and now to see some of his old students as business leaders in the region [among them Enterprise Bank President Richard Main ’69 and Community Teamwork CFO William Reis ’66], and all these new UMass Lowell graduates adding so much to our staff.

“It’s been a wonderful relationship, I think, for us both.” ■

The UMass Lowell Crew at Anstiss, pictured above, from left, are: Jason Khalil CPA, director; Kim Leczynski, tax senior; Liz Paquin, audit staff; Ray Anstiss, Jr. CPA, partner; Matt Kalil, CPA, manager; Mark Gearin CPA, manager; Richard Dionne CPA, partner; Tiffany Jack, audit senior; Alyssa Maloney, intern and Jayne Andrews CPA, director. (All but Anstiss and Dionne are alumni. Not shown: Bill Dion, tax senior.)



Fall Festival 2012

Homecoming | Family Day | Reunions

Save the Date! Oct. 11-14, 2012

Don't miss this fun-filled weekend for alumni, students, faculty, staff, friends and family.

Fall Festival is an event-packed weekend to remember. Enjoy campus events during the scenic fall season and see the major changes happening on campus!

Activities will include a Celebration of Philanthropy, reunions, live entertainment, the Hockey East home opener: River Hawks vs. University of Vermont Catamounts, other athletic events, Jennifer's 5K Run and tours of new buildings.

More details to come. For more information, contact **alumni_office@uml.edu** or visit **www.uml.edu/fallfestival**.



Alumni events



1 Alumni and friends enjoy the 10th anniversary Wine & Dine Epicurean Extravaganza, at Ricardo's Café Trattoria, arranged with the help of Garrett Thurston '90, '95. **2** Attendees young and old watched the UMass Lowell River Hawks take on the Boston University Terriers during the annual Alumni Appreciation Night and hockey game in November. **3** Alumni at the Cross Country and Track & Field Reunion Reception and hockey game. Back row, from left: Michael Hurton '80 and Jim Murray '85. Front row, from left: David Quintal '85, Leslie Whiting-Poitras '82 and Dave Dunham '87.



4 UMass Lowell alumni and officials assembled at the PlastIndia Conference in New Delhi, India, where a signing and reception for a new Plastics International University took place in February. **5** UMass Lowell alumni employees of EMC Corporation gather during an alumni reception and reconnection event in November. From left: Anas Hussin '05, Retired Professor Giampiero Pecelli, June Odongo '05 and Randy D'Souza '06.



6 Alumni and friends at the Delta Kappa Phi reunion. **7** In January, UMass Lowell Alumni Relations and Athletics welcomed more than 200 alumni, season ticket holders and supporters to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to skate at Fenway Park. **8** Jeff and Anne Jackson '11 at the Fenway Park skating event.



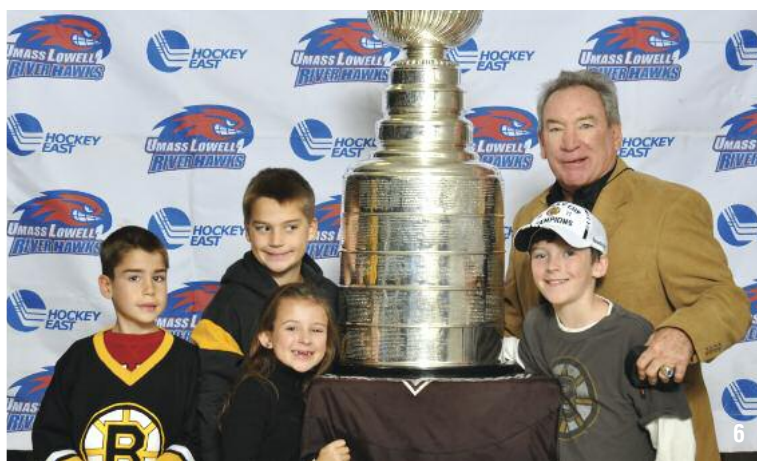
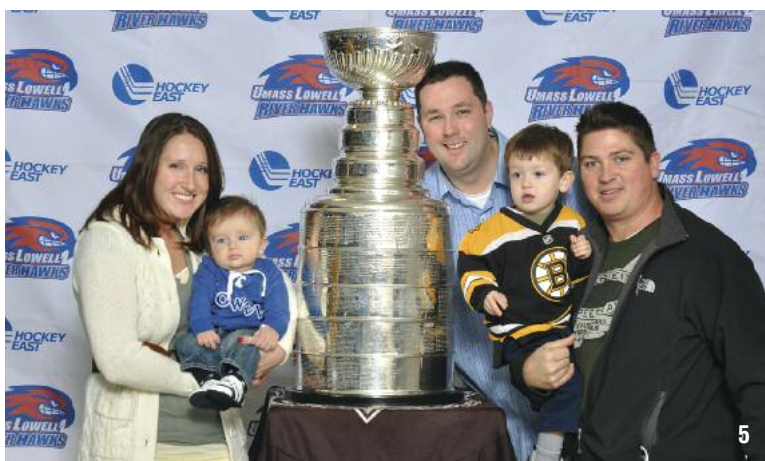
9 Independent University Alumni Association at Lowell members and friends gather at a hockey game in February. From left: Chet Szablak, Bernie Shapiro '56, Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92, Walter Dawson '59, Chancellor Martin T. Meehan '78, Drucilla Fitzgerald '92, Richard Donaldson '67, Director of Alumni Relations Heather Makrez '06, '08 and Thomas Vaughn '77.



1 Alumni and friends of the men's basketball team gather for a reunion and memorial for B.J. Romanoski. Back row from the left: Zechariah Zegarowski '99, John Cavalieri '83, Chris Cavalieri, Brent Oakleaf '96, Mike Gore '08, Todd Boyle '94, Jim Borodawka '97 and Malik Curry '00. Second row from left: Peter Monfort '08, Rob Breckenridge '08, Jamael Lynch, Terrel Randle and Head Coach Greg Herenda. Front row from left: Joseph, Jill, Kelly and Megan Romanoski; Ken Jankowski and Director of Athletics Dana Skinner. **2 & 4** February's third annual Student Leader Reunion Reception. From left (in photo 2): Doug Seed '04, James Gleason '03, Rowdy the River Hawk, Kristen Gleason '04 and Kristin Higgins Seed '05. From left (in photo 4): Alicia Leonard, Alex Amado and Liron Asher '09.



3 Alumni and friends of the women's basketball team join for a reunion in January. Back row, from left: Head Coach Sarah Behn, Dominique Pagan, Brianna Wilson, Marsha Blalock '99, Emily Kordas '07, Bridgette Hooker '09, Revital Quintana '09, Tamaria Menefee, Demetria Bell, Shaina Berry '09, Megan Berry '11, Briana Szidat, Nyachul Biliew, Danielle DePierro and Gia O'Connor. From left, front row: Brianna Calver, Bianca Simmons, Krissy Little, Sha'Nay Bushner, Jen Valenti, Liron Asher '09, Whitney Wilson, Lauren Fiola and AJ Guidi.



5 The Stanley Cup visited the Tsongas Center in December. Kevin Kotyluk '02, center, former River Hawks hockey player, with his wife and child; and Marc Salsman, former River Hawks player, and his child. **6** Former hockey coach Billy Riley with his grandchildren (from left): Kyle and Drew Bouley and Brook and Riley Moulton with the Stanley Cup.

Alumni events



1 Rowing alumni and students enjoy an alumni appreciation night and hockey game in February. From left: Irene Cassidy '12, Rachel Paquette '15, Melinda Neale '13, Megan McLaughlin '14, Jenna Bueno '15, Brittany Smith '15 and Meredith Swan '15. **2** Sigma Phi Omicon reunion.



3 University Independent Alumni Association Scholarship Banquet in January. From left: Arthur Miller '51, Richard Donaldson '67, Walter Dawson '59, Kevin Shanahan '70, Drucilla Fitzgeald '92, Dr. James Swartz '64, Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92, Mary Ann Kitrosser '87 and Thomas Vaughn '77. **4** Attendees of a UMass Lowell Alumni Reunion in Taipei, Taiwan, in November with visiting professors and staff: Asst. Prof. TzuYang Yu, Dean of Engineering John Ting, Prof. Francis Lai, Executive Director of Major Gifts Mark Reimer and Prof. Edward Chen.



5 Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney '75, '92, far left, and Executive Director of Major Gifts and Gift Planning Mark Reimer, far right, visit with Anne Shih and Chialoo Louis Shih '72 of Hong Kong. **6** UMass Lowell alumni and friends take part in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Naples, Fla. From left: Vice Chancellor of University Advancement Edward Chiu, Stuart Pearce '64, Dick Dauksys '62, Carol Dauksys, Janet Netishen '59, Tom McAviney '63, Karen McAviney, Chris Hoeske, Jerry Lydon '66, Lorraine Lydon and Mary Cimini.



1 Enjoying a sunset champagne reception at the Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Fla., are, from left: Justine Quimby '69, Edwin Quimby and Ann Marie Clark '74.
2 & 3 Mary Jo '66 and Frank Spinola '66 (photo 2) and Chancellor Marty Meehan and Maureen and Arnold Lerner (photo 3) visit at a reception for alumni and friends hosted by the Lerner's in Naples, Fa.



4 Plastics industry professionals and UMass Lowell alumni, faculty and staff enjoy the UMass Lowell Plastics Alumni Dinner in Orlando, Fla., during NPE2012: William Carteaux, president, Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI); Gail Bristol and James Griffing of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE); UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan '78; Robert Malloy '79, plastics engineering professor and department chair and Willem DeVos, chief executive, SPE. **5** SPI 2012 Hall of Fame inductees gather with plastics industry professionals during NPE2012. From left: Timothy Womer, Hall of Fame inductee; Jim Buonomo, chief financial officer, NYPRO; Robert Malloy '79, UMass Lowell plastics engineering professor, department chair and Hall of Fame inductee; William Carteaux, SPI president and Jay Gardiner, Hall of Fame inductee.



6 Charlie Hoff '66, Dick Denning '66, Rick Hoeske '66 and Frank Spinola '66 at a reception in Naples, Fla. **7** Assistant Vice Chancellor of Advancement John Davis, right, presents a gift to Eamonn Hobbs '80, keynote speaker at the annual Plastics Engineering Alumni & Friends Dinner during NPE2012 in Orlando, Fla.
8 Plastics Engineering Professor and Department Chair Robert Malloy '79 presents the Russell W. Ehlers Award to John E. Quinn '69 for his lifetime of service in plastics engineering at the annual Plastics Engineering Alumni & Friends Dinner during NPE2012 in Orlando, Fla.

1967

James Healy sat on the boards of three joint ventures companies in Japan, Korea and Germany and has been honored in Asia for his work in executing joint ventures while at Engelhard (later acquired by BASF). He has had more than 10 years of executive experience in Asia. He retired as president of Grace China, a subsidiary of W.R. Grace & Co., in 2008. During his four-year stint as president, he worked with Chinese companies to expand distribution. Earlier in his career, he formed a joint venture between Engelhard and Kallie Chemie, directing global business operations with manufacturing facilities in the United States and European Union. James has lived and worked in five different countries in North America, Europe and Asia. He is a proven entrepreneur, having founded a company and a consulting business at different points in his career.

1970

George Anastos has been named international sector director of operation/project delivery for the Environmental Service Business Group of CH2M HILL.



John Kennedy was one of nine members of the consulting committee involved in hiring the new head football coach at UMass Amherst, an important decision as the university makes the transition from the Football Championship Subdivision level to the Mid-American Conference of the Football Bowl Subdivision. The university selected Charley Molnar, who was offensive coordinator at Notre Dame the last two seasons. Kennedy is an alumnus of both UMass Lowell and the UMass Amherst Isenberg School of Management.

1974

Peter Barrett, a partner at Atlas Venture in Weston, has been elected to the board of directors of PerkinElmer Inc., which produces analytical



instruments, genetic testing and diagnostic tools in the fields of health and the environment.

1975

Susan Crocker Houde, associate dean of the School of Health and Environment at UMass Lowell, is co-editor of the 2011 AJN Book of the Year Award "Geropsychiatry and Mental Health Nursing."

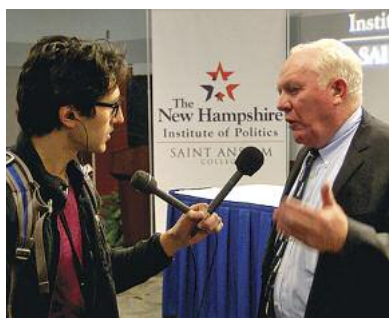


The Music Man

1976

Leon Grande '76, '89 spent decades inspiring countless teenagers to make music. Now, the retired supervisor of fine and performing arts at Dracut High School is turning his touch to professionals. Leon, along with writer Jack Neary '73 and choreographer Phyllis George, have formed the Greater Lowell Music Theatre. Their first production, a concert version of Meredith Willson's "The Music Man" (which will feature nationally acclaimed performers), is slated for Aug. 3 and 4 at Durgin Hall on UMass Lowell's South Campus. It will be a sweet return for Leon, who received both bachelor's and master's degrees in music education here. "The University provided me with a solid background in both music and teaching," he says. "It also gave me a tremendous network of professionals who continue to be my colleagues and friends."

ROBERT GREENE '68 challenged President Barack Obama in the recent New Hampshire primary, focusing his campaign on raising awareness and encouraging discussion of energy policy. Bob, a physicist, had a long and distinguished career with firms such as Compugraphic, Hewlett Packard and Gerber Scientific. His campaign, called "Project Thor," was based on his belief that thorium, a molten salt,



presents a solution to the country's energy problems. According to Bob, Thorium is more abundant—and safer—than uranium. "The country continues to thrash around for a comprehensive energy plan," he says. "Thorium is the greenest, cheapest and perhaps most abundant option." While Bob received only 213 votes, his energy platform was publicized in several media outlets. A Lowell native, he and his wife, Martha, live in Mountain View, Calif.

1976

James Evans is now facilities engineer at UMass Amherst, working on a variety of campus engineering issues. While now an employee of the Minutemen, he is still a River Hawk at heart.

Paul Marion '76, '05, executive director of Community and Cultural



Affairs for UMass Lowell, has been named winner of the 2012 Thomas G. Kelakos Kiwanis Community Spirit Award for his many years of work "to help make Lowell a special place." The late Thomas Kelakos, admired for his compassion and wisdom, owned a successful medical supply firm

and supported many charitable causes, including the Kiwanis Club of Greater Lowell, for more than 50 years. In 2009, Paul was named co-director of the UMass Lowell Center for Arts & Ideas. He and his wife, Rosemary Noon, and son, Joseph, live in an 1860's mill agent's house in Lowell. He is the author of several collections of poetry. He founded Loom Press in 1978 to publish books about his region by writers from the area.

1978

Stanford Who's Who, an elite organization of selected executives, professionals and entrepreneurs from around the world, has recognized **Alan P. Hicks** for his work and achievements in the field of software engineering. In

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► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1982

Shawn Lang: AIDs Activist Found Calling in Lowell

By David Perry

In 1983, Shawn Lang placed a phone call to her mother. At the time, the 1982 University of Lowell social sciences graduate was working deep in the dark and heartbroken side of Lowell, at the battered women's shelter Alternative House.

Lang, now 56 and director of the Hartford-based Public Policy for the Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition (CARC), had just visited her first national conference on violence against women. She had a revelation, and shared it with her mom.

"I know that all my life you've told me I can't change the world," she said. "But I can, and I am."

Lang has been changing the world with CARC for nearly 21 years, coordinating Connecticut's public policy and advocacy activities. She also co-chairs the AIDS LIFE (Legislative Initiative and Funding Effort) campaign, the state's AIDS policy group, and sits on several boards, including the national AIDS Housing Coalition.

Her work bridges the worlds of those affected by HIV/AIDS and those impacted by violence against women. She is also a single mom to Corbett Eamonn Lang, 14.

The road to the job she loves began here.

"It really was the perfect place for me," says Lang. "One of the things I loved about Lowell is that in taking women's studies, there was the home of labor history right there. It was like living in the laboratory, particularly learning about the history of women and labor."

She arrived in Lowell on her own time. A 1974 graduate of King Philip Regional High School in Wrentham, Lang was the oldest of five children. She didn't plan on attending college, so after graduation, she worked in a warehouse in Walpole. She later became a nurse's aide.

"Then my mom told me I was going to need to get a job with insurance," she says. "So there I was, four years after high school, taking the SATs. That was no picnic."

State schools fit her budget, and a university with strong programs in women's sports fit her interest. The University of Lowell it was.

She didn't waste time impacting campus life. Early in her freshman year, Lang co-founded G.O.A.L.S., a campus-wide association of gay and lesbian students. She also played field hockey, landing a partial scholarship after her freshman season.

After graduating in 1982, she took a job at Alternative House, but after she began dating a woman in Connecticut, the pull became too much. "Commuting between Lowell and Hartford got old fast," she says, laughing. So she moved to Connecticut. The relationship didn't last, but helping others did.

Lang worked in daycare before finding work as director of a battered women's shelter in Middletown, Conn. Eventually, she noticed more and more people in Middletown living with HIV or AIDS—"yet there were no HIV services there," she says. "They had to travel to Hartford or New Haven to even find a support group."

After helping establish a full-service AIDS service organization in the town, Lang was offered the role of interim executive director of the Hartford-based AIDS Resource Coalition, "and I've become the thing that never leaves."

Though Lang loves her job—"I get to do what I want to do for the people I want to do it for"—she still feels strong ties to Massachusetts. And though she shares custody of son Corbett with a former partner, Lang makes certain he is raised "right."

"I have raised him as a complete Boston sports fan," she laughs.



announcing this honor, the organization said Alan "has earned his place among the most excellent professional figures as a result of his impressive achievements throughout the 35 years of his experience, as well as through his position as principal software engineer with GSI Group Inc."

Karen Devereaux Melillo, professor and chair of the Department of Nursing at UMass Lowell Lowell, was co-editor of the 2011 AJN Book of the Year Award "Geropsychiatry and Mental Health Nursing."



1980

Kerri Howell has been elected mayor of Folsom, Calif., by her fellow city council members. Kerri has been on the council since 1998 and served as vice mayor in 2002 and 2006. A Folsom resident for 26 years, she also served on the planning commission for four years. A civil engineer, she is president of Atlantic Consultants Inc., a firm specializing in civil and corrosion engineering.



David Rardin, who worked his way up from associate to full membership, now has his name on the door of a patent law firm in Nashua, N.H. Once known as Vern Maine & Associates, the firm is now Maine, Cernota & Rardin. Dave, a graduate of Franklin Pierce Law, joined the firm in 2006 as a patent agent. Before launching his legal career, he served in the Air Force and, for more than 20 years, was in the science and technology field.

1981

Stephen McWhirter was awarded a U.S. patent that protects confidential data on any technology system. Stephen's risk protection programs are designed to protect data across large-scale global wealth management networks.

1983

Mary Ann McCann, orchestra director of Wellesley Middle School and Wellesley High School, has been named Orchestra Director of the Year by the Massachusetts chapter of the



American String Teachers Association. Mary Ann began her musical studies as a child, singing with the New England Children's Choir. Later, she became interested in the cello. She majored in performance at UMass Lowell and then earned a master's degree in music education from Boston University. She has performed with the Florida West Coast Symphony, the Portland (Maine) Symphony and the New England String Ensemble. Mary Ann developed a strong school orchestra program in the Winchester Public Schools system and then taught at Phillips Exeter Academy. Later, she was director of strings in the West Hartford, Conn. schools. She was also the first conductor of the Lowell Philharmonic.

Bob Mountain has been named senior vice president of business development for NameMedia in Waltham. The company is a leader in the acquisition, development and trading of digital real estate through a targeted website network and domain name marketplace. Prior to NameMedia, Bob was co-founder and chief operating officer of Quantia Communications. He has a degree in economics from UMass Lowell.

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1982

On Broadway

Growing up on Cape Cod, Deane Prouty dreamed of one day making his living as a drummer. Earlier this year, the College of Music grad was appointed percussion department coordinator at The Juilliard School in New York City. He's also the percussionist for the Broadway show "Peter and the Starcatcher," which opened in April at the Brooks Atkinson Theater in New York and quickly snagged more Tony nominations than any other play this year. UMass Lowell, he says, laid the foundation for all of this. "It's not just about being an artist, it's a business and I learned that a long time ago from [UMass Lowell Music Prof.] Dick Coff," he says. "I make a career as a performer and I've been able to pay my bills for the last 40 years."



1984

Carole A. Dwyer has been appointed interim administrator of the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles. Carole most recently was warden of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections' Anthony P. Trivisono Intake Service Center and, before that, was warden of the department's Minimum Security and Women's Divisions. She earned her undergraduate degree in administration of criminal justice and, later, at Anna Maria College, a master's in criminal justice.

1985

Scott Caswell has been named vice president of finance for Westborough-based Courion Corp., a company that offers identity and access management solutions that focus on access risk management. In this newly created position, Scott is responsible for financial and operational areas, such as accounting, financial planning, analysis and treasury. He has more than 25 years of finance and operations experience, most

recently at Iron Mountain, an information services management company.

David Squibb has been named chief sales officer at Valen Technologies. Responsible for managing all sales activities, he has more than 28 years of experience in the insurance industry working for both insurance carriers and insurance technology providers.

1986

Mark Hatch, who has more than 20 years of technology development and start-up management experience, has been named chief executive officer of mBLAST Inc., a media monitoring and analytics services company. Before joining mBLAST two years ago, Mark led software teams at Carbonite and Intronis.

John Spead has been named CEO and managing partner at GreenSpeed & Associates in Norcross, Ga. GreenSpeed is a



global management consulting firm specializing in business process improvement and change management. John has more than 25 years of experience in business development, client relations, operations and regulatory functions.

1987

Mark Bedrosian has been appointed principal of Galvin Middle School in Wakefield. He had been serving as dean of academics at Gloucester High School since 2010. Prior to this role, Mark was an assistant principal at both Gloucester High School and the Ralph B. O'Maley Middle School. He holds administrative licensure from Northeastern University, a master's of education in professional studies from Salem State College and a bachelor of science degree in public administration in the field of criminal justice from the University of Lowell.

Kanai Shah has been promoted to president of Radiation Monitoring Devices, Inc. (RMD), a wholly owned subsidiary of Dynasil Corporation

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► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1990's

By David Perry

Angela Sawyer's Learning Lab: Where 'Weirdo' is a Compliment

Angela Sawyer arrived on campus in 1989, nearly 2,000 miles from home, "raw and untested."

She was naive, filled with wanderlust, and greater Boston was far enough from her home in Denver.

She enrolled at the University of Lowell as a philosophy major. "I can't even begin to say how much I learned about getting things done, about which rules to pay attention to and becoming someone in this world," says Sawyer, now 41.

What she became is one of the region's most iconoclastic record store owners, a proprietor of niche sounds on a "dead" format in a business where many more shops were closing than opening.

Sawyer's Cambridge-based store, Weirdo Records (844 Massachusetts Ave.), is one of the region's most acclaimed record stores, a tiny, loaded-to-the-gills space that is more curated than simply stocked with music. The inventory reflects her own tastes and curiosities, which swim outside the mainstream: avant-garde, free jazz, foreign language, exotica, spoken word, outsider music.

"I actually had hours at home beginning in 2006, where people would come shop for records [at my house]," says the Somerville resident. "But eventually, it all got too big for the space. So I moved it to a storefront. Mind you, it's still very tiny. I firmly believe it's the smallest record store on the face of the earth. When there are five people in here, it is so packed you can't move."

She got her management ability, as well as her musical taste, right here on campus, says Sawyer.

Settling into dorm life as a freshman, she learned that a guy on whom she had developed a crush was going to a meeting of the student-run radio station, WJUL-FM. So she went, too.

"There were, like, 100 people there," she says. "They explained what it was about. It was an eye-opener. An island of misfit toys I never imagined, a place I had just stumbled upon. And I was psyched! I didn't know anything about music beyond what I heard on the radio, but I thought, 'Oh, my gosh, a place for me!'"

She volunteered to help. The next day, she vacuumed the studio, wandering into the last room to ask if she could enter.

"Sure, c'mon in!" chirped the man in the studio. "I didn't know it," she says, "but he was on the air."

Nor did she know it was Ron Lessard, owner of the record store RRRRecords in Lowell, noise artist and a regular on WJUL's airwaves.

They remain friends and audio kindred spirits. Recently, Lessard issued an audio-verite vinyl LP comprised of banter that happens in record stores. A photograph of Weirdo's storefront graces the cover.

Her time at the University was pivotal, she says.

"ULowell didn't have a huge philosophy department back then, but it was really good, and it was small enough so you really got to know your professors," says Sawyer, who eventually transferred to Boston College, where she earned a degree in philosophy. "But the station? The lessons I got in being in charge of people and making decisions were huge."



Angela Sawyer takes a break in her iconic Cambridge store, Weirdo Records.

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 1994

Rob Millard-Mendez: Playing With Art

Rob Millard-Mendez says growing up in Lowell “fostered in me a fascination with late-19th century mechanical technology. From an early age, I was enthralled with mechanics and motion.”

He melded that fascination with a bachelor of fine arts degree from UMass Lowell (and later a master of fine arts degree from UMass Dartmouth)—eventually turning into an award-winning sculptor and art professor.

“I am a first generation college student,” says Millard-Mendez, who now lives in Indiana. “I am eternally grateful for the generosity of Dr. An Wang, the founder of Wang Laboratories, who funded a number of full academic scholarships to UMass Lowell, one of which I received. In my career as a college art professor I have tried to honor Dr. Wang’s commitment to education by undertaking many art related community outreach projects that involve under-served populations.”



Rob Millard-Mendez sculptures from top: “Tends to lash out,” “Unfertility mask” and detail of “Phaeton Mask.”

of America. Kanai, who earned a master’s degree in chemical engineering at the University of Lowell, joined RMD in 1985 as a staff scientist and has served most recently as vice president of research and leader of the Material Science Group.

1988

James Barry has been named an independent director on the board of InspireMD Inc., a medical device company based in Tel Aviv. Jim has more than 20 years of experience in the medical device industry and is currently executive vice president and chief operating officer of Arsenal Medical Inc. Prior to joining Arsenal, he was a senior vice president with Boston Scientific. Jim earned a doctorate in biochemistry at UMass Lowell.

Leo Parent retired after 17 seasons as the head basketball coach at Pentucket High School. He will continue to teach at Pentucket Middle School. Leo’s teams qualified for the state tournament each of the last three years. Last year’s team advanced to the Eastern Mass. Division 3 North semifinal round,

matching the longest postseason run during Parent’s tenure. Leo was a two-time All-American basketball player at the University of Lowell, being named most outstanding player on the University’s 1987-1988 NCAA Division 2 national champion team.

1991

Sheryl Caterino-Klosowski is controller/treasurer for KLT Industries, Inc., in Ayer. Sheryl, who joined KLT last fall, brought to the new post more than 19 years of experience in the energy services industry – including companies such as National Grid and Alliant Energy.

Bill Kinch has been named director of operations at PrideSTAR EMS, a Lowell-based emergency medical

transportation services company. Bill has 29 years of emergency medical service experience at the clinical, strategic and operational levels, having begun his career as an EMT in 1983. He has been a licensed paramedic since 1988.



Scott Pizzo has been appointed North American sales manager, eastern region, for EAW of Whitinsville, a worldwide designer and manufacturer of professional loudspeaker systems. Scott first joined EAW in 2003 but left in 2008 to become eastern U.S. regional sales manager for Renkus-Heinz. Now, he says, “It’s good to be home.”

1991

Judith Dickerman-Nelson, the former longtime education director at the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, released a memoir called “Believe in Me: A Teen Mom’s Story.” The book was published by Jefferson Park Press under editor and publisher Hilary Holladay, former director of the Kerouac Center for American Studies at UMass Lowell. Judith’s next book, a poetry collection called “Spirits Dancing into Light,” will be translated into Khmer. She expects it to be published by Loom Press this summer.

1993

Kristine Cyr Goodwin has been named vice president for student affairs at Providence College. She will oversee

Residence Life, Off-Campus Housing, Judicial Affairs, Safety and Security, Student Health, Personal Counseling, Career Services, Club Sports and Student Activities. Kristine will also serve as an ex-officio member of the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. Previously, she served as associate dean of students/student life at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Before that, she served for eight years in several administrative positions relating to student life at Connecticut College, rising from director of residential life and housing to associate dean of student life. Kristine received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Westfield State College and a master’s degree in educational administration from UMass Lowell.

BILL LOVELY ’92, received a bachelor’s degree in industrial management in 1992 and is now pursuing a master’s degree in work environment. He has spent the past 13 years working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the Boston office, overseeing the cleanup of hazardous waste sites in the federal Superfund program. Prior to this, Bill was an environmental project manager at Gulf Oil, overseeing the underground storage tank program in four northeastern states.

Steve Lane, who played both baseball and basketball for the River Hawks, is the new head coach of boys' basketball at Nashua North High School. Steve is a big proponent of full-court pressure defense and says his emphasis on the "D" probably came from his UMass Lowell coach, Stan Van Gundy, now the coach of the Orlando Magic.



Kevin Murphy has been named vice president of product management at Certeon, an application performance company in Burlington. Prior to joining Certeon, Kevin was responsible for solutions management at VCE, a company that accelerates the adoption of converged infrastructure and cloud-based computing models. He earned his UMass Lowell degree in electrical engineering.

Michael Pelletier has been named an associate in the Boston office of Dewberry, a privately held professional services firm. He has extensive knowledge of Boston and the surrounding areas' water and



wastewater systems, having worked on projects for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

(MWRA) for many years. He received the 2009 Engineering Excellence Gold Award by ACEC Massachusetts for the engineering design and construction administration of an innovative water main reha-

MATTHEW AZEVEDO '99 has been appointed a consultant in architectural acoustics and mechanical systems in the Cambridge office of Acentech Inc., a multi-disciplinary acoustical consulting firm. Matt brings to the job an extensive range of teaching and recording talents, plus experience as an audio engineer, mastering engineer and musician. He also has taught acoustics, audio production and circuit design at Boston University, UMass Lowell and the Harvard Extension School.

bilitation for the MWRA. He will serve as a project manager for water and wastewater projects and services for public-sector utility clients in the New England region. Michael received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UMass Lowell. He is a registered professional engineer and is chair of the membership committee for the New England Water Works Association, a section of the American Water Works Association. He was recently selected as a 2012 Rising Star in Civil Engineering by CE News.

1995

Alyssa Wise Taylor is the owner of the Blue Hoot Soap Company of Duxbury. Alyssa says she named the company after her late grandmother who loved owls. "I make fantastic cold process soap and I don't cut corners with my ingredients," she says. Alyssa graduated with a degree in marketing.



1996

Steve Anthony '96, '03, who most recently was chief information officer at Charles River Associates, has joined AlixPartners LLP, a global business-advisory firm, as a director. Earlier in his career, Steve was vice president and head of the business

technology practice at Celerant Consulting.

Jason Cormier, who played varsity hockey for the River Hawks, has been inducted into the Waltham High Athletic Hall of Fame. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and now works at Millipore.

1997

James Borodawka is vice president at Paradigm Partners, a national tax consulting firm that specializes in federal government niche tax credit programs designed to offer economic assistance to



companies. Paradigm was recently selected as one of the top 500 fastest-growing United States companies by

INC. Magazine. James' daughter, Lindsey, a sophomore at UMass Lowell, is working toward a nursing degree while participating on the cheerleading team.

Alan Taupier, a Marblehead resident, joined the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District as director of information technology. Alan had worked as IT director for the Minuteman Vocational School District in Lexington since 2006 and was previously a network manager for Lowell Public Schools. He holds a bachelor of science degree in information technology.

1998

Carlos Roldan, who earned a master's degree in radiological physics and a doctorate in physics from UMass Lowell, is teaching physics at Richmond Community College in Hamlet, N.C. Earlier in his career, Carlos taught for several years at the Machias campus of the University of Maine and was an adjunct instructor at two community colleges in Massachusetts for nearly 15 years.

1999

Adam Candela and Amy Stucchi have announced their engagement and plan to be married in May. Both Adam and Amy work at Staples Corporate Headquarters in Framingham. Amy is a graduate of UMass Dartmouth.



2000

Bryan Shanley, executive vice president of PrideSTAR EMS, a Lowell-based emergency medical transportation services company, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Young Professionals of Greater Lowell.

Jason Barbieri is regional director of sales at OncoMed, an oncology pharmacy. He works closely with many of the oncology offices in the New England area. He is also a

swimmer for Team OncoMed, which helps raise money for cancer research, prevention and treatment through organizations such as Swim Across America. Over the years, Jason has competed in multiple triathlons and was a track-and-field state finalist in both the 100- and 200-meter dash. He received a bachelor of science degree in exercise physiology. He lives in Andover with his wife.

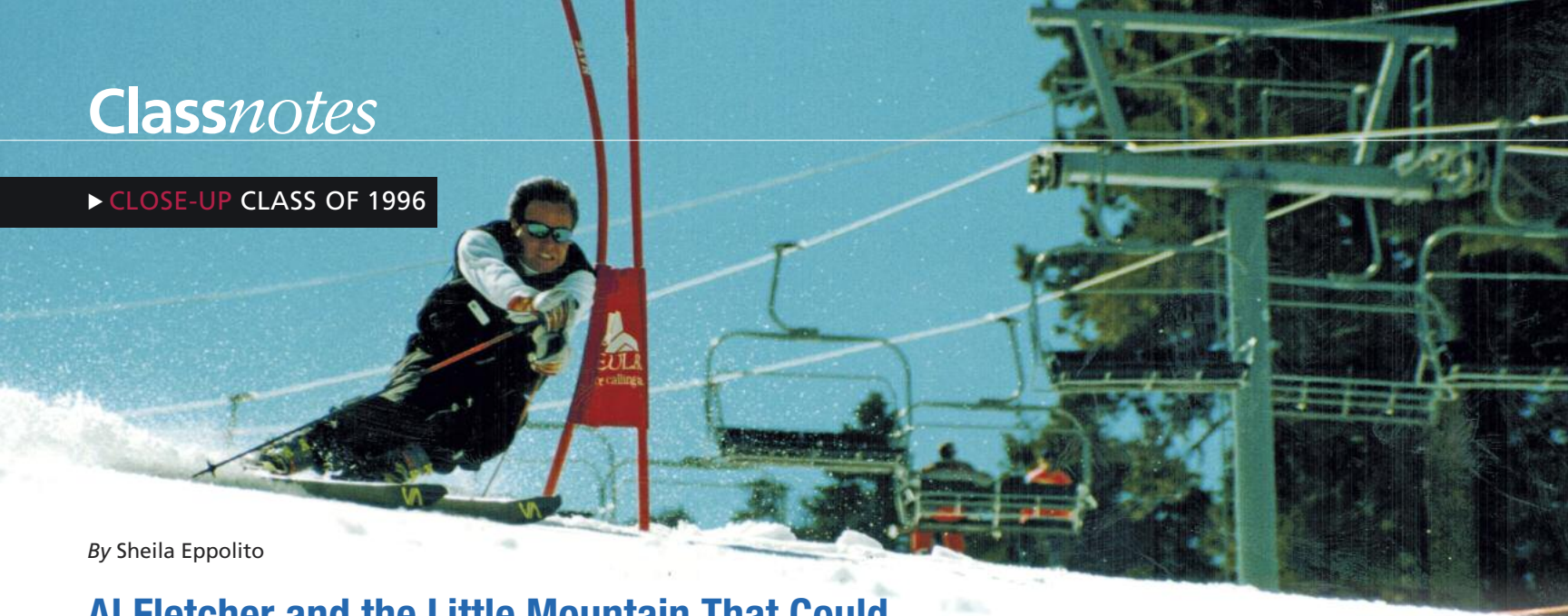
Worcester Polytechnic Institute men's basketball coach **Chris Bartley** won his 200th game this year.

Aliya Cox is the new head coach of the girls' varsity basketball team at Choate Rosemary Hall School in Wallingford, Conn. She played basketball during her four years at UMass Lowell—which she recently called "the best basketball team I have ever played on." After graduating, Aliya began her coaching career as an assistant coach at UMass Lowell, going on to coach at the University of Maine and Fairfield University before arriving at Choate.

2001

Conor O'Keefe and **Megan Hayes '03, '04**, were married last September at St. John the Evangelist Church in North Chelmsford. Conor, with a degree in criminal justice and psychology, operates Conor O'Keefe Master Electrician, Inc. in Tyngsboro. Megan, who earned a bachelor's degree in biotechnology, and a master's in biology in 2004, is a research scientist at

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By Sheila Eppolito

Al Fletcher and the Little Mountain That Could

Good things really do come in small packages.

Consider Nashoba Valley Ski Area. Nestled in the Merrimack Valley, hours from the mega resorts of New Hampshire and Vermont, Nashoba long ago overcame any Napoleon Complex it may have had.

“What we lack for in size, we more than make up for in quality and variety,” says President Al Fletcher ’96. He’s not talking trash.

On a late, snowless January day when bigger areas struggled to open even half of their trails, Nashoba was running at 100 percent, thanks to significant snowmaking and ski lift investments.

For Fletcher, covering the mountain with snow, and moving as many people to the top in the shortest amount of time are top priorities: good conditions guarantee customer loyalty.

“We are a volume operation,” he says, citing not only the sheer number of skiers and boarders efficiently whisked up the mountain—11,600 per hour—but a wide array of programs and attractions designed to keep the place humming all year long.

An early adopter to the snowboarding market, Nashoba jumped on snow tubing quickly, too, creating New England’s largest tubing park. With more than 300 instructors, it is host to thousands of area ski club members. There is something for all ages and levels—from the 3-year-olds on the bunny slope, to the active 55+ program to the 70+ masters racing team.

Nashoba also boasts The Outlook Restaurant, a retail store and a wildly successful Halloween-themed attraction called Witches Woods. In the summer, they offer a children’s day camp, an adult volleyball league and an outdoor waterfront Tiki bar.

Founded in 1964 by his father, Al Fletcher Sr., Nashoba Valley was modest in the beginning. Fletcher’s passion for the hill on which he once



Al Fletcher and his parents celebrate his UMass Lowell graduation in 1996.

hunted rabbits took a life-changing turn when he bought it, determined to create a ski area. Configured with a single rope tow on opening day, the staff packed snow on the four slopes manually, with shovels. The lodge was a tent with a gravel floor and a pot-bellied stove. The first season was a dismal 14 days long. The senior Fletcher confides that for the first 15 years of operation, he was dancing with bankruptcy.

“I bobbed and weaved around it,” he says.

The Fletcher family has earned bragging rights for what they’ve made from a seemingly impossible business model. While Nashoba has only 230 feet of vertical drop (compared, say, to Killington, with 3,050), they’ve taken chances and stepped outside the traditional ski resort business model in a way that many have since copied.

It’s clear that the younger Fletcher has gotten his money’s worth from his business degree, using his skills to build the mountain’s trajectory to a bustling four-season, vacation-around-the-corner. Today, the lone tow rope has morphed to 10 lifts. And the mountain’s annual revenues exceed \$10 million.

While he may be years away from his days as a carefree undergrad scouring North Campus for anything resembling a parking space to maneuver his junk-box car into, he remembers the time well. At the top of his list? His participation on

the University’s ski team as a junior and senior, where he earned two individual and two team Thompson Divisional titles.

“I made great friends at UMass Lowell, including lots of ski team members,” says Fletcher.

While the business skills may have been learned mostly in Lowell, Fletcher’s ski abilities—and those of his family members, most notably his sister—may be in the DNA. Pam Fletcher, a 1988 Olympian and nine-year U.S. Ski Team veteran, captured six U.S. national titles and a gold medal at the 1986 World Cup. Brother Paul grew up in the business, and is a solid skier, but makes his living at a cable and wire company. Mom, Nancy, was always on hand in the early years, skiing and working side-by-side with her family. Today, at 76, she still skis every day.

Two years ago, Al Junior bought out the rest of his family members, becoming president.

“I couldn’t have just taken over—it was important to me that I earned my position, that it was a clean business deal. I couldn’t have simply had it given to me,” he says over coffee one winter morning, the view from the Outlook Restaurant something from a postcard.

Pam continues as a consultant and Fletcher reports that Dad still comes by to “sit down, put his feet up, and bark a little before flying out the door.”

Creative business practices and exceptional DNA are not all that make for Nashoba’s success. Fletcher is quick to tout the role of his 40 full-time and 800 seasonal employees.

“Our staff is made up of passionate, competent professionals,” he says. “Many have been here for decades. I think they stay for the environment.”

One look out the window, and it’s easy to see why. ■

Lantheus Medical Imaging, Inc., in North Billerica.

Eric Olson and Heather Schwartz were married a year ago this past December at Indian Pond Country Club in Kingston and now live in Braintree. Eric is a senior staff scientist at AECOM and Heather is a program manager at the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare at Massachusetts General Hospital.

2002

Jeffrey Thurston, a director at CareLine by Genesis HealthCare, is engaged to marry **Shaelagh Florence** '03, a marketing manager at Comcast. A November wedding is planned.



2003

Keri Caffrey-Zwinggi '03, '05 is in her sixth year of teaching English at North Andover High School after having taught for two years at St. Michael School, also in North Andover. Keri graduated with a double major in English and psychology, and later earned a master's degree in secondary education. She's now enrolled in a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Educational Leadership program at Salem State University.

Mark Concannon, who played four seasons of hockey for the River Hawks and spent a brief period of time in the minor leagues, has been named head coach of varsity ice hockey at Hull High School.

Shaelagh Florence, a marketing manager at Comcast, is engaged to marry **Jeffrey Thurston** '02, a director at CareLine by Genesis HealthCare. A November wedding is planned.

Megan Hayes and **Conor O'Keefe** '01 were married last September at St. John the Evangelist Church in North Chelmsford. Megan, who earned a bachelor's degree in biotechnology and a master's in biology in 2004, is a research scientist at Lantheus Medical Imaging Inc., in North Billerica. Conor, with a degree in criminal justice and psychology, operates Conor O'Keefe Master Electrician Inc. in Tyngsboro.



2004

Joshua Deveau and **Kristen Graham** have announced their engagement and are planning a September wedding. Joshua is a systems administrator with Care.com and Kristen is a mobile graphic designer with Vlingo.

Fidelity Bank has named **Meghan Liddy** senior vice president and business banking relationship manager for the Worcester area. Meghan, who previously worked at Middlesex Savings Bank in Westborough, earned her M.B.A. at UMass Lowell. She lives in Holden.

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2001



Students at Zach Field Drum Studios

Zach Field: Drummer Boy

Zach Field, who majored in musical performance, says he's "honored and proud to say I am a UMass Lowell alumnus."

"I cannot believe how much I learned from UMass Lowell," says the owner of Zach Field Drum Studios in Newburyport. "I know for a fact that I would not have been able to get the same education at any other school."

UMass Lowell, he says, taught him how to be a well-rounded percussionist.

"Most schools will make you choose to either be in the jazz department or classical department," says Field, who was percussion director for the Pentucket Regional School District for 12 years. "There is no such thing at UMass Lowell."

"I was able learn Bach Sonatas on Marimba, Charlie Parker saxophone solos on drumset, orchestral pieces for timpani and learned the art of jazz vibraphone. On the weekends, I was performing all over New England on washboard with the bluegrass band, The Mill City Ramblers, as well as performing with area orchestras, singer songwriters, jazz ensembles and rock groups."

But he learned about more than music at UMass Lowell, he says:

"I felt important there, I was not just another student passing through. My teachers not only taught me about music, but they taught me about life, responsibility and, most of all, how to be professional. I will never forget the time I went to a lesson unprepared with Prof. Jeff Fisher. Jeff was not mad at me, he was disappointed in me. He didn't have to say much, it was the look on his face. I left that lesson that day feeling terrible! That was the last time I ever went to a lesson, class or rehearsal unprepared."

These days, Field often hires UMass Lowell graduates to work with and for him.

"I choose to hire UMass Lowell students and alumni because I know they come from an outstanding program and a student cannot successfully make it through the program without years of extremely hard work," he says. "I would not be where I am today if I went to any other school."

"GO RIVER HAWKS! Most of my Midwest friends are like, 'You went to school *where*?' or 'UMass *what*?' But let me tell you, they know who we are now!" —**Scott Mulcahy** '06, commenting on Facebook in reaction to the hockey team's stellar season

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2005



Rebecca with her father, Dean of Enrollment Tom Taylor, at her wedding in Sierra Leone last November.

Rebecca Taylor: Caring for the World's Forgotten

Two years ago, Rebecca Taylor '05 was in her fourth year as a pediatric nurse at Mass General in Boston. It was a dream job, with a good salary—everything a nursing grad could hope for. But she was after more than that.

And so, in her time off she went to New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, then to Rwanda and then to Haiti after the earthquake there. And even that somehow didn't seem enough.

In the end, she traded Boston for another world. Today, and for most of the past two years, she has been living aboard a 500-foot, 16,000-ton hospital ship off the coast of West Africa, volunteering her services as a nurse. Called the Africa Mercy, it's the largest such ship in the world. With six state-of-the-art operating rooms, a fully equipped intensive-care unit, bed space for up to 78 patients and a volunteer crew and

medical staff of more than 400 from nearly 40 nations, the ship anchors off the coasts of West African nations Togo, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

Its mission? To bring care, hope and comfort to some of the poorest, most forgotten people on earth. (Consider: Mass General Hospital, where Rebecca Taylor last worked, has 10 CT scanners, which detect everything from bone fractures to tumors to strokes. The nation of Sierra Leone, with 6 million people, has only one—aboard the Africa Mercy.) Over the course of each 10-month tour, the ship's staff will perform up to 14,000 surgeries—6,000 of them major operations—as well thousands more dental and eye-care procedures.

"Mercy Ships is an amazing organization," says Rebecca's father and UMass Lowell Dean of Enrollment, Tom Taylor, who visited his daughter aboard the Africa Mercy at the

end of last year. "It was a privilege to spend most of 12 days on the ship and get a glimpse of all they do."

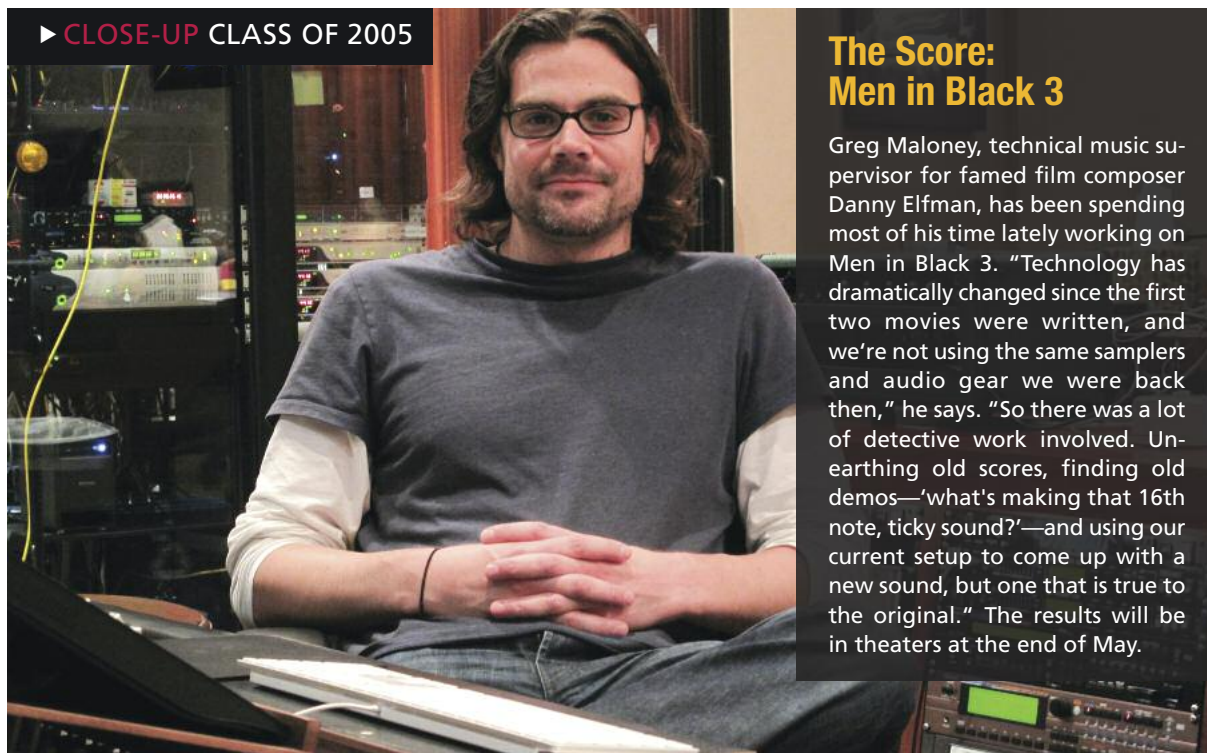
The occasion for the trip was Rebecca's wedding—to another volunteer shipmate, Liberian Gregory Kulah—which took place in November in Sierra Leone. Kulah, like Rebecca, has been working on the Africa Mercy a little more than two years.

And, as Tom Taylor would soon discover, his daughter wasn't the only UMass Lowell alum aboard the ship. Ray Szarek '81, a former Air Force weather technician and the father of two adopted Liberian daughters, had been onboard since July 2010.

Not long after Tom left the ship to return home, Szarek and Rebecca joined in a photo with a UMass T-shirt he had left behind—proving, Tom says, that "we have life-ready, work-ready and world-ready graduates at points throughout the globe." ■ —GD



► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2005



The Score: Men in Black 3

Greg Maloney, technical music supervisor for famed film composer Danny Elfman, has been spending most of his time lately working on *Men in Black 3*. "Technology has dramatically changed since the first two movies were written, and we're not using the same samplers and audio gear we were back then," he says. "So there was a lot of detective work involved. Unearthing old scores, finding old demos—'what's making that 16th note, ticky sound?'—and using our current setup to come up with a new sound, but one that is true to the original." The results will be in theaters at the end of May.



is an engineer with Robert Bosch LLC and Lauren is a physical therapist at New England Rehabilitation Hospital. Dana has a master's degree in mechanical engineering and Lauren has a doctorate in physical therapy.

Shiri Spear is the morning meteorologist on South Florida's NBC affiliate WTVJ, where she's been since Sep-



tember 2010. Spear, who received her master's degree in atmospheric and environmental sciences here, previously worked at NBC affiliate WWLP-22 News in western Massachusetts.

Janet Welby, who was a music education master's student at UMass Lowell and wrote her thesis on multicultural approaches to teaching music, is now an adjunct here teaching a course called Global Music for the Classroom. Janet also wrote a chapter for a new textbook for middle-school music teachers.

2008

Tyler Piebes has joined Champ Homes and The Housing For All Corp. as its development director. Tyler previously was program associate for the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod and most recently worked with Wild Care of Eastham.

Beth Neary, who received a political science degree here, went on to receive her master's degree from George Mason University with a concentration in conflict analysis resolution. She now works in Washington, D.C., for the United States Global Leadership Coalition. As part of her job, she interacts with those in the high-level political scene in Washington.

2005

Michael Ehrhardt, head of school at the Marshall School, a college preparatory school in Duluth, Minn., has been elected a member of the Virtual High School Global Consortium board of directors. The non-profit consortium is a pioneer of K-12 online learning and course design for teachers. Mike earned a master's degree in educational administration from UMass Lowell.

Sarah Wroblewski has been named weekend meteorologist for WFXT, the Fox 25 television channel in Boston. In



her new capacity, Sarah contributes to Fox 25 news at 10 p.m. on Saturdays and at 10 and 11 p.m. on Sundays. Most recently, she had been a fill-in meteorologist and environmental reporter for Fox and, before that, was a media sales engineer at Weather Services International in Andover.

2006

Audrey Bertalovitz is engaged to David Roodhuyzen, a physician assistant in the Emergency Department at Baylor University Medical Center in Garland, Texas. Audrey, who earned her bachelor's degree in nursing, is completing a master's degree in advanced practice nursing at the University of Texas. She is a registered nurse at Medical City Hospital in Dallas. A May wedding is planned.

Heather Makrez, UMass Lowell's new director of Alumni Relations, has also been appointed to the board of directors of the Young Professionals of Greater Lowell.

David Slipp, who is the new music teacher at the McAvinue School in Lowell, is currently mentoring several UMass Lowell Music Education seniors as part of their school-based fieldwork for the music methods class. He was previously a String Project teaching assistant. He was a dual performance/music education major.

2007

Danielle Bergeron is chief executive officer of the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce.

Kelly Anne Cote married Christopher Alick Yellick in November. She is employed at the Center for Asthma, Allergy and Respiratory Disease in North Hampton, N.H. The couple live in Rochester, N.H.

Victoria Denoon was awarded the Irish Top 40 Under 40 2012 Award by The Irish Echo at a ceremony at The Manhattan Club at Rosie O'Grady's in New York City on Feb. 23.

Todd Fletcher, a feisty forward for the River Hawks during his four undergraduate years, is now coach of the girls' ice hockey squad at Westford Academy.

Kyle Heagney, a third-generation police officer, has become the police chief of Attleboro. Kyle had joined the department in 1999 and worked his way through the ranks, serving most recently as acting chief. He holds a master's degree in criminology from UMass Lowell. His father had been a captain on the Attleboro force and his great uncle was a sergeant. Kyle and his wife, Paula, and their son live in Norton.

Dana Nicgorski and Lauren Mistretta '09, who were married last summer in Holyoke, now live in Stoneham. Dana

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2006



A Stretch With the Lakers

When Tim DiFrancesco '06 got the call that the Los Angeles Lakers wanted him to be their new head strength and conditioning coach, "it was absolutely surreal," says the Vermont native, who earned his doctor of physical therapy (DPT) degree at UMass Lowell. "Getting a chance to work in the NBA at all is a huge honor but the Lakers are different. When you are expected to be competing and winning a title every year, it is a really fun environment to be in."

What does he think set him apart? His degree. "Getting my DPT was not easy but it was the best thing I ever did. It has opened more doors in my career than I could have ever imagined. If I had not obtained my DPT at a school like UMass Lowell with the high level professors and expectations there, I would have regretted it for my entire career. I would not be where I am now!" —KA

NBA Photos

North Reading Police Detective **Thomas Encarnacao '01,'08** was named Officer of the Year for 2011. Thomas grew up in North Reading and first became an officer in town in 1999. He was originally hired as a reserve officer, and then as a full-time police officer soon after attending a six-month police academy in Reading. He received both bachelor's and master's degrees in criminal justice at UMass Lowell.

2009

Kristen Graham and Joshua Deveau have announced their engagement and are planning a September wedding. Kristen is a mobile graphic designer with Vlingo. Joshua is a systems administrator with Care.com.

Brandon J. McCabe has been promoted to portfolio loan officer in commercial real es-

tate at TD Bank in Worcester. Brandon, who has 10 years experience in banking and lending, joined TD Bank in 2010 as a credit analyst.

Lauren Mistretta and **Dana Nicgorski '07**, who were married last summer in Holyoke, now live in Stoneham. Lauren is a physical therapist at New England Rehabilitation Hospital and Dana is an engineer with Robert Bosch LLC. Lauren has a doctorate in physical therapy and Dana has a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

Scott Morrill and **Erin Schartner** have announced their engagement and are planning a June wedding at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Scott, a music teacher at the Raynham Middle School, earned his bachelor's degree in music



studies and, in 2011, a master of music in music education degree. Erin is a senior, majoring in music studies.

2010

Christopher Collette, upon graduating in December 2010, was promoted to Pre-College



New England Faculty Manager for Kaplan Test Prep and Admission. He started teaching SAT prep courses for Kaplan while still a student and had great success in the classroom. Once graduat-

Continued on Page 60

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2009

Ashley Dias: Taking Life One Breath, and One 'Bump,' at a Time

She has been through more in her 26 years than most people you know will face in a lifetime. And her battle is not over yet. It may never, really, be over. And yet each new challenge, for Ashley Dias, is met the same way—as just another “bump in the road.”



Born with cystic fibrosis, she has never known life without doctors and drugs. At 14, she ran out of luck for the first time, when the doctors told her she'd need two new lungs to go on living. She got them—from an aunt in Andover, where she lives, and another aunt in Georgia. (Her parents had already donated lungs, five years before, to her older sister Lindsey, who also has the disease.) Several years later her kidneys began failing; another aunt donated a kidney.

And through it all, life went on. In grade school, before her lungs failed, she went to school, played soccer, did gymnastics; in 2009, as a liberal arts major with a focus on legal studies, she graduated from UMass Lowell—all because, she says, “My parents would never allow us not to do something because of [the disease]. We just grew up with that attitude.”

She is 26 today, and it is happening again. Her lungs are failing; she needs an oxygen machine to help her breathe. She will need two new, transplanted lungs to survive. This time, the doctors have said, they will have to come from a cadaver.

In January, she spent two weeks at the Cleveland Clinic, a national leader in lung transplants, where she was evaluated for her level of need. While there are others, with greater need, in line ahead of her (“It all depends on how sick you are,” she explains), they've told her that, if all goes as hoped, she should have her new lungs in four months to a year.

Meanwhile, there is the matter of money. The cost for the double-transplant is \$650,000—plus travel and hospital care. Insurance may cover a fraction, she says, but the bulk will fall on the family.

You get the feeling, talking to Ashley, that whatever is needed will get done. “I'm definitely optimistic,” she says. “Definitely. I've been over a lot of bumps already. This is just another one. I'll get over this one too, for sure.”—GD

► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2009



The Surefire Thing

Years ago, on campus for orientation, Jared Hancock hopped on the wrong tour bus. “I went to the wrong location, but ended up starting a conversation with another guy on that bus who was, much like me, looking to pursue a career in music.” Today, that guy, Brendan Brady, has been his business partner for a decade. The pair started Surefire Music Group, which has provided production and engineering services for the likes of Under Armour, Reebok, MTV, Bad Boy Records, Def Jam Records, Nelly, Missy Elliot and Rick Ross. “We've been all over the world, reached Billboard charts multiple times per year have been nominated for Soultrain and Grammy awards together,” Hancock says. “And it all started on a wrong tour bus at UMass Lowell.”

WAYNE EDWARDS, former longtime athletic director at UMass Lowell, retired from his job as Shenandoah University's director of athletics, effective this June. Wayne had come out of early retirement to lead the Shenandoah University Department of Athletics beginning in January 2010. During Wayne's tenure, the baseball, softball, women's cross country and women's soccer teams all won conference titles. For softball and women's soccer, those programs advanced to the NCAA playoffs for the first time in school history. He says he plans to return to work as a consultant on a part-time basis, conducting athletics program reviews for universities. "One of the reasons I decided to retire now is I have two sons who are full-grown and live on the West Coast," he told a reporter recently. "I've seen my 5-year-old granddaughter twice in her life. I thought if something were to happen, this would not be good."

ed, he was given responsibility for managing all classroom instructors in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.



Barry Goers, defenseman for the Las Vegas Wranglers hockey team, is continuing his quest to collect gently used cell phones to turn into calling cards for troops stationed overseas. This year, Barry and the Wranglers teamed up with Cell Phones for Soldiers. Barry's brother is a Navy electrician who has served one tour overseas and is currently stationed on the USS Abraham Lincoln. His brother prompted Barry to start collecting donated cell phones in his senior year at UMass Lowell. In 2010-11, more than 600 phones were collected at Wranglers games.

Carter Hutton, an American Hockey League goalie who played his college hockey for the River Hawks, was named a Reebok/AHL Player of the Week in January. Carter, who plays for the Rockford Ice Hogs, won the recognition for allowing only five goals in four starts (4-0-0) during which he stopped 121 of 126 shots, giving Rockland its longest win streak of the season.

2011

Edward Flaherty recently became a great grandfather. He went into the Air Force after graduating from high school in 1965. After getting out of

the service, he went to evening school and received his associate's degree in 1976. He then went back to school and received his BLA in 2011 alongside his grandson-in-law, Eric Smith.

2012

Michael Kempestry has been appointed chief executive officer of the American Red Cross Blood Services Northern New England Region. Mike, who has 10 years of experience with Red Cross Blood Services in the Massachusetts region, will be based in Manchester, N.H.

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► CLOSE-UP CLASS OF 2011

Mohamed Omar: Found the American Dream in Lowell

In 2000, Mohamed Omar "chased the American dream" all the way from his native Somalia to Portland, Maine.



For the engineer from Somalia, that initially meant volunteering at Maine wastewater treatment plants for several months, putting his degrees in civil and environmental engineering to good use. He got his big break when he was offered an entry-level position as an environmental engineer with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in 2001.

A few years later, Omar took a job as an environmental management engineer at Harvard University; while there, he enrolled in UMass Lowell's environmental risk assessment certificate program in the Department of Work Environment. That went so well, he decided to pursue his doctorate degree in cleaner production and pollution prevention from UMass Lowell while working full time and raising a young family.

"Mohamed had to do his doctoral work at nights and on weekends for years," says Prof. Margaret Quinn. "He was a pleasure to work with, always hard working, focused, with a positive approach to his work and his life. He overcame enormous language and cultural differences."

Despite such challenges, Omar dove right into life in the City of Lowell, where he lived with his family. He was appointed commissioner of the City of Lowell Green Building Commission, and volunteered with a number of local charities, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts and City of Lowell Hunger and Homeless Commission.

All those experiences made it hard to leave Lowell, he says, but a new job as the manager of environmental protection at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia was too good to pass up.

"KAUST has a beautiful campus on the Red Sea and one of the largest certified green/LEED platinum projects in the world," Omar says, adding that he'll never forget his time in Lowell.

"My education at UMass Lowell was an amazing experience," he says. "I consider Prof. Quinn, who was my adviser, a great friend and supporter."—KA



NASA image

Roger Boisjoly '60, Who Tried to Avert the Challenger Disaster, Dies at Age 73

By Jack McDonough

Boisjoly warned Morton Thiokol of a problem that would result in “a catastrophe of the highest order—the loss of human life.”

It was cold at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1986. Unusually cold.

During the night, the temperature had dropped to as low as 8 degrees Fahrenheit. By late morning it was only in the 30s. And this posed a problem.

NASA was eager to launch the space shuttle Challenger, an event much publicized ahead of time, especially because one of the seven crew members would be a civilian, Christa McAuliffe, a high school teacher from Concord, N.H.

The launch originally had been scheduled for Jan. 22 but was postponed that day and each of the following five days because of weather and other problems. With the launch window closing and the press complaining about postponements, NASA wanted to avoid further delay.

Still, it was cold. Too cold, in the opinion of Roger Boisjoly. Dangerously cold.



Boisjoly, who earned a mechanical engineering degree at Lowell Tech in 1960, was a staff engineer for Morton Thiokol, the aerospace company that produced the solid booster rockets that would hurl Challenger into space.

In the months leading up to Jan. 28, Boisjoly had determined that extreme cold would adversely affect the rubber O-rings that formed a seal between two sections of the solid booster rockets. Low temperatures would harden the rubber, he said, making it less flexible. This condition could allow hot gases to

escape through the damaged seals, creating a potentially dangerous situation.

Boisjoly was so concerned that, six months before the Challenger launch, he sent a memo to the company's vice president of engineering to ensure that management was “fully aware of the seriousness of the current O-ring erosion problem,” the result of which “would be a catastrophe of the highest order—the loss of human life.”

On the day before the scheduled launch, NASA officials and Morton Thiokol management discussed the O-ring matter and, again, Boisjoly registered his serious concerns. Regardless, the decision was made to proceed.

At 11:38 the next morning, the Challenger spacecraft roared clear of launch pad 39B. In slightly more than 52 seconds, a “well defined intense plume” of exhaust was seen on the side of one of the booster rockets. Twenty-one seconds later, pilot Michael Smith said, “Uh oh”—the last recorded words from the crew. The O-rings had failed. Structural break-up of the craft had begun.

The crew cabin crashed into the ocean two minutes and 45 seconds later. There were no survivors.

President Ronald Reagan appointed a commission to review the disaster. Boisjoly and a colleague appeared before that body and testified regarding their opposition to the launch and management's decision to override their recommendation. The commission subsequently placed the blame for the faulty O-rings on Morton Thiokol. Company CEO Charles Locke later said the matter should have been referred to headquarters and that “we'd never have given clearance” for the launch.

Boisjoly's honesty and courage came at a price.

After testifying before the commission, he was shunned by company colleagues and managers and removed from space project assignments. He suffered from depression and took medical leave for treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The sole gesture of support came from Sally Ride, the first woman in space. She gave him a hug after he testified. “She was the only one,” he later said. “The only one.”

Boisjoly resigned from Morton Thiokol soon afterward, started his own business in forensic engineering and delivered a series of more than 300 lectures about organizational behavior, ethics and professionalism to corporate, professional and academic audiences.

Hailed as a “whistle blower” for his efforts to avert the Challenger tragedy, he received a host of accolades, including a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Lowell in 1987; a Presidential Award from the National Space Society for Professional Integrity and Personal Courage; and, ironically, a certificate of appreciation from NASA for his support in the Challenger disaster investigation.

Roger Boisjoly, born in Lowell on April 25, 1938, died January 6 in Nephi, Utah, at the age of 73. He is survived by his wife, Roberta, two daughters, and brothers Ronald, Russell '72 and Richard '73.

Russell Boisjoly, in a eulogy for his brother, said, “Roger was a close friend, a confidant, and an advisor, and he has become an icon of what it truly means to be an engineer.” ■

In Retrospect

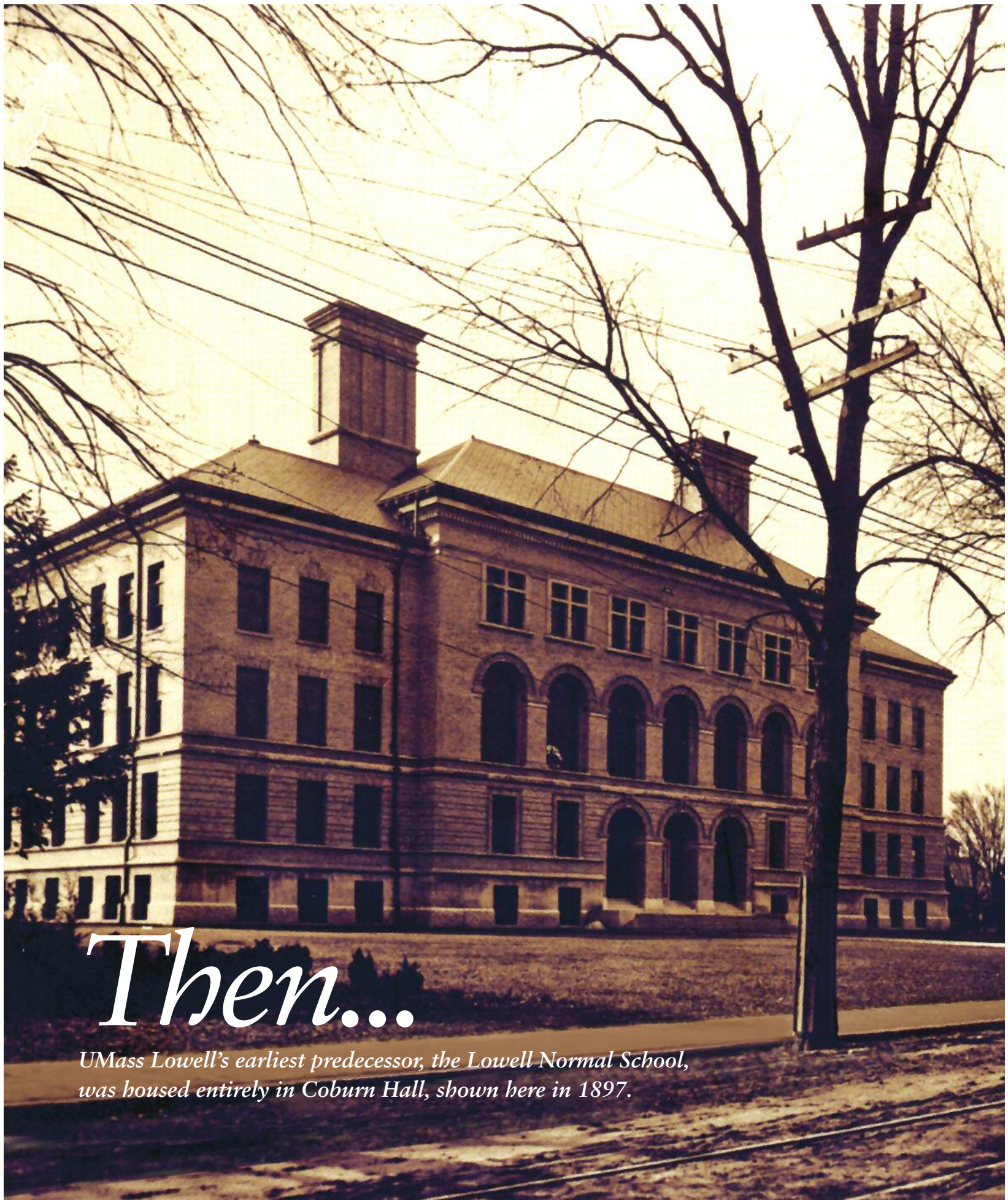
In September, the University Gallery at UMass Lowell hosted "Myths and Mysteries of the Heart, Brenda Atwood Pinardi: A Retrospective," a memorial exhibition honoring the life and career of Professor Emeritus Brenda Atwood Pinardi (1941-2010). All sale proceeds of Pinardi's work from the exhibit were donated by her husband, Enrico Pinardi, to the newly established Brenda Atwood Pinardi Scholarship. As a companion exhibition, the Art Department hosted a tribute show in the Dugan Gallery, "In Remembrance: A Tribute to Brenda Atwood Pinardi," which included donated artworks from alumni, faculty and friends. Between the two events, more than \$27,000 was raised for the scholarship.



Deceased

YEAR*	NAME	YEAR*	NAME	YEAR*	NAME	YEAR*	NAME
1927	Josephine Dimauro Delva	1953	William Hewson Jr.	1966	Roger McLeod	1979	Daniel Koch
1928	Ruth Walker Frank	1953	Robert Mulcahy	1967	Louise Cedergren Seaborne	1980	George Burnham Jr
1935	Roberta Small Lang	1953	Karl Woodman	1968	Margaret Cotter Ochs	1980	Barry Keating
1937	Mary Josephine O'Donnell Leahey	1954	Norma McCabe Macomber	1969	Diane Notini Loughran	1982	Cynthia Leavy-Feth
1939	Evelyna Anderson Davis	1955	Frances Ryan Fahy	1970	Elizabeth Dufresne	1982	Paula Legg
1939	James Patsourakos	1956	Gerald Richard	1970	Edwin Tree	1986	Ping Ku
1941	Frances Fitzgerald McGuane	1957	Edward Novick	1973	John Morley	1990	Robert Ruel
1944	Helen Garrity	1959	Paul Carroll	1973	Deborah Viens	1994	Bruce Aberle
1945	Charlotte Cronin Quinn	1960	Roger Boisjoly	1975	Gerald McElroy	1994	John Hill
1948	Peter McKone Jr	1960	Robert Surette	1975	Roger Paquette	1996	Monica Schneider Allen
1948	Kathleen Geary Morris	1961	Peter Gabriel	1977	Michael Ness	2002	Brett Romanoski
1949	Manuel Affler	1961	Kenneth Joncas	1977	Richard Proulx	2010	Charles Saulters
1950	Walter Flister	1962	Alan Kaplan	1977	Gary Rust	Faculty	Daniel Neylon
1951	William Menzies Jr.	1962	John McDavitt Jr.	1977	Anthony Silva		
1952	John Cronin	1964	Joan-Ellen Simeone Takesian	1978	Arthur Nolan Jr.		

*Year of graduation



Then...

UMass Lowell's earliest predecessor, the Lowell Normal School, was housed entirely in Coburn Hall, shown here in 1897.



An aerial photograph of the UMass Lowell campus, showing a mix of modern and historic buildings, a large white dome, a red running track, and a green field, all situated along the banks of the Merrimack River. The surrounding area includes residential neighborhoods and a bridge in the distance.

Now...

Today, the campus spans 150 acres along the Merrimack River in three campus clusters featuring:*

- *4 brand new multimillion-dollar facilities*
- *The Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell*
- *The UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center*
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