



ALUMNI **Points of Pride**

2002-03

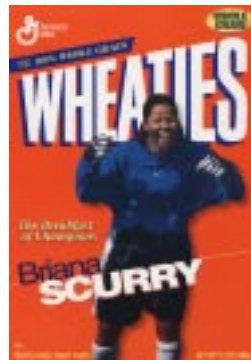
the University of Massachusetts Amherst



UMass alumni are high achievers. They count among their ranks an astronaut, a Nobel Prize winner, Pulitzer Prize

winner, four MacArthur "Genius" award recipients, state and federal lawmakers, Olympic athletes, several Fortune 500 CEOs, and scores of influential scholars, scientists, and engineers. They've served the Commonwealth and the commonwealth for more than 130 years. A select few of them are noted here.

Norm Abram '72 (below) is "America's most famous carpenter," thanks to his appearances on two popular PBS programs, the long-running *This Old House* and his own *New Yankee Workshop*. He studied engineering at UMass.



Briana Scurry '95 won worldwide acclaim—and a place on the Wheaties box—as the goalie for the gold-medal U.S. Women's National Team at the

1996 Olympic Games, where she started and played every minute of the team's five matches and conceded only three goals. She went on to help the U.S. team beat China for the 1999 World Cup.

Edwin L. Thomas '69 heads MIT's largest defense effort, a \$50 million study of how nanotechnology, an innovative melding of molecular chemistry and engineering, can be applied to better outfit tomorrow's soldiers and firefighters. Thomas earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at UMass and was once a member of the University's renowned Polymer Science and Engineering faculty.

Jack Canfield '73G, author and editor of the phenomenally best-selling "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books, has been called "America's expert in self-esteem." He received his master's degree in education from UMass.

While a UMass graduate student in physics, **Russell Hulse '72MS, '75PhD** joined with his professor,

Joseph Taylor, in constructing a sensitive radio telescope (using, among other things, chicken wire and government-surplus parts). They used it to discover a celestial oddity called a binary pulsar, and went on to win the 1993 Nobel Prize in physics.



Legacy Records

Before becoming an enduring favorite on the folk and blues music scene under the name **Taj Mahal, Henry St. Clair Fredericks '63** (above) spent his formative years in Springfield, Mass., and at the Stockbridge School at UMass Amherst. Of late he's been featured on several movie soundtracks, and Columbia/Legacy has reissued his recordings from the late '60s and early '70s.

Bruce MacCombie '67, '68G, former dean of the Juilliard School and Boston University's School for the Arts, was recently appointed director of Jazz at Lincoln Center. He still proudly cites his experience as "Taj Mahal's keyboard guy when I was in college at UMass."

The president of Costa Rica recently joined with that nation's Ministry of Farming and Agriculture in recognizing **Frank Guidara '68**, president and CEO of the Au Bon Pain chain of bakery cafés, for the company's continuing support of Costa Rica's coffee-growing industry.

Noted writer and world traveler **Paul Theroux '63**, who has written more than 40 highly acclaimed books and numerous articles and short stories, was one of the nation's first Peace Corps volunteers.



Evan S. Dobelle '70G, '87EdD became president of the University of Hawaii in July 2001 after having served as president of Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., for six years. He

holds bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in education and public policy from UMass. His wife, **Edith "Kit" Dobelle '72**, has among other things served as chief of staff to Rosalynn Carter and as U.S. Chief of Protocol.

Adam Lavine '91 and **Dennis Chen '90** co-founded FunMail, a hugely successful Web site offering animated and visual messaging for wireless messaging, and Specular, an Amherst-based 3D-animation software company whose customers included CNN, Industrial Light and Magic, and Disney.

William Manchester '46 is one of the great biographers of the past 50 years, having written widely praised studies of John F. Kennedy, Douglas MacArthur, and Winston Churchill. A UMass English major, his studies were interrupted by World War II service in the Marines, during which he fought at Guadalcanal and was wounded in combat.



Considered by many insiders to be the best drummer in rock music, **Kenny Aronoff '75** (above) has backed everyone from the Rolling Stones to Bob Dylan. He credits UMass with helping him shape his raw skills and enabling him to watch another great artist at work—UMass basketball legend **Julius Erving**.

Attending UMass before it had a women's swimming team, **Dorothy Donnelly (Leonard) '40** worked out with the men's team in distance events. She went on to earn a place on the 1940 U.S. Olympic Team and acclaim as her era's finest swimmer, male or female.

The three **Mahoney Brothers** of Springfield, Mass., all majored in chemistry at UMass before going on to distinguished careers in industry or banking: **Richard '55** is the retired CEO of Monsanto, **William '55** is vice chairman and chief operating officer of Witco, and **Robert '70** is president and CEO of Citizens Bank of Massachusetts. (Below, from left: Bill, Bob, Dick.)



Robert Meers '66, former president and CEO of Reebok International, brought the company to \$3.5 billion in annual sales in 1999—up from \$13 million when he arrived 15 years earlier.

George "Trigger" Burke '56—his nickname bestowed in honor of his quick shooting on the basketball court—has distinguished himself as a scholar, athlete, and philanthropist. A former attorney and state legislator, he served as one of JFK's campaign managers and has often asserted that the \$50 tuition he paid as a UMass student was the bargain of his life. His UMass jersey, No. 32, is on display in the Mullins Center.

As U.S. director of the African Development Bank, **Cynthia Shepard Perry '72EdD** is one of 18 authorities who decide which African nations will receive some part of the millions of dollars the bank lends each year. Perry is former U.S. ambassador to Burundi and Sierra Leone.



Carl M. Allen '14, the University's longest-lived alumnus, died Dec. 8, 2001, at 108. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from what was then Massachusetts Agricultural College. Applying what he had learned at "Mass Aggie," he began his long and productive career during World War I, analyzing the contents of unexploded German artillery shells and testing gas masks. Shortly before his death he received France's highest national award, the Legion of Honor.



Talented, affable **Bill Pullman '80MFA**, who has risen from character actor to star in such films as *Lucky Numbers*, *Lake Placid*,

The Thin Red Line, *Zero Effect*, *Lost Highway*, and *Independence Day*, recently helped UMass kick off a fundraising initiative to upgrade and renovate the Rand Theater.

Unita Blackwell '83MRP, a regional planner who entered graduate school at 48, became president of the National Conference of Black Mayors in 1990. She has received a MacArthur grant, as have three other UMass graduates: **Maria Varela '83MRP**, **Nancy Folbre '79PhD** (now a UMass economics professor), and **Wesley Charles Jacobs Jr. '84MRP**.

GM chief **Jack Smith '57** is one of America's most formidable executives, a man of whom the *Detroit Free Press* has written, "A sea change is well under way at General Motors, and Jack Smith is the guy who set it in motion." In the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, his "Keep America Rolling" car-sales campaign did much to bolster consumer confidence.

During her voyage aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia* in October 1995, Lt. Col. **Cady Coleman '91PhD** (below) worked on 30 different experiments, applying some of what she learned earning her UMass doctorate in Polymer Science and Engineering.



Madeleine M. Kunin '56, former three-term governor of Vermont, U.S. deputy secretary of education, and ambassador to Switzerland, is currently Bicentennial Scholar in Residence at Middlebury College. As U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland, she facilitated the return of Swiss bank account funds to Holocaust survivors. As governor, she scored significant gains for the environment, education, and children's services.



Jeff Corwin '02G (above) co-created, produced, and hosted the Disney Channel's popular series *Going Wild With Jeff Corwin*. He is currently working with Animal Planet on a new wildlife adventure series, *The Jeff Corwin Experience*.

USA Today has named **Helena Horak '02** to the First Team of the All-USA College Academic Team. At UMass she pursued a double major in biochemistry and biology and a double minor in chemistry and anthropology.

Robert C. Guinness '32, former president and vice chairman of Standard Oil (now Amoco), earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from UMass. He helped create the University's Guinness Engineering Student Center in honor of his father, UMass engineering professor Christian Guinness.

Kenneth R. Feinberg '67 has been named special master of the federal compensation fund for victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. *The New York Times* praised his appointment, citing his ability to adjudicate complex cases. Feinberg, a Washington lawyer, has adjudicated claims in cases involving asbestos, Agent Orange, and the Dalkon Shield. He graduated from the UMass Department of History and has been its consistent benefactor, having created an endowed professorship and a fund in support of excellence in the field.



Two UMass graduates held key positions on NASA's Mars Pathfinder mission: lead scientist **Matthew Golombek '78MS, '81PhD** and **Nathan Bridges '97PhD**. The mission's "rock czar," Bridges assigned whimsical names to many of the rocks and analyzed the images and chemical data transmitted by Pathfinder.

Vespoli USA, the largest U.S. manufacturer of racing boats, or "shells," was founded two decades ago by **Michael Vespoli '74G**. He was an Olympic rower in 1972, an Olympic coach in 1980, and an Olympic television commentator.

Miriam Zoll '84 is the founding co-producer of the internationally acclaimed Take Our Daughters to Work campaign, sponsored by the Ms. Foundation for Women. She was also instrumental in designing and implementing a new program for preventing gender violence at U.S. Marine Corps bases worldwide.

Kevin Cullen '81, a reporter for *The Boston Globe* since 1985, opened the *Globe's* Dublin bureau in August 1997. He has covered Northern Ireland for more than a decade.



Mary Chaffee '83 (above), commander of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, is deputy director for the Navy Medicine Office of Homeland Security, a position created in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Jess Kane '70 co-founded Project Stretch, under which a volunteer cadre of dentists has ministered to nearly 15,000 underprivileged children in the U.S. and abroad. Kane is a principal in Kane Tesini Associates, an orthodontics firm, and president of the UMass Alumni Association.

After beginning his career as a mathematics teacher, **Steven M. Gluckstern '74EdD** became an investment banker at age 30 and eventually moved into international

finance. He recently pledged financing to create two endowed professorships at UMass, one in Education and one in Physics.

National Public Radio reporter **Michael Sullivan '82** has been based since 1998 in New Delhi, tracking a beat that includes everything from the Caspian to Cambodia. His recent coverage in Afghanistan has won him much acclaim.

Charlie Sennott '84 was the Jerusalem-based Middle East bureau chief of *The Boston Globe* from 1997 to 2001. Author of *The Body and the Blood*, a book about the Holy Land's Christians at the start of a new millennium, he has won numerous prizes for excellence in journalism and is now the *Globe's* European bureau chief.

Herbert P. Bix '60 won a Pulitzer Prize in 2000 for his controversial best-selling book, *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan*.



James Kallstrom '66 (below) is currently director of New York State's newly formed Office of Public Security. While assistant director in charge of the FBI's New York division he led the investigation into the crash of TWA Flight 800. He calls his four years at UMass "the greatest time of my life."



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