TO ENRICH AND TO SERVE
The Centennial History of the University of Massachusetts Lowell

by Mary H. Blewett
with Christine McKenna and Martha Mayo, Photography Editor

Consulting Editors: Mary McGauvran, Gordon Osborne
Love and peace were the students' fondest ideals for the Age of Aquarius in the Knoll of 1973.
The merger of Lowell State College and Lowell Technological Institute was a gleam in Daniel O'Leary's eye as early as 1956, the year he first envisioned a marriage between the two campuses. The competition over funding between the two institutions had helped stimulate his thinking about a merger that would result in shared resources. He saw the union as a logical one that would bring “an enormous amount of funds” to the newly structured university and “an enormous expansion of buildings, staffing and faculty.” O'Leary and others floated the notion of a merger regularly over the years, but it was not until 1969 that the idea first took shape in the form of legislation, sponsored by Lowell Representative Paul J. Sheehy, calling for a feasibility study of the merger.

During the six years of debate that followed, the proposed merger was usually discussed in the context of the development of some kind of a state university system. Momentum for such a system had already been building for some time. New York and California, among other states, had already established such university systems, setting a model for the rest of the country. In the early 1960s Massachusetts higher education officials were considering the creation of a multi-campus University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Lowell, Boston, and Dartmouth. In a January 2, 1964, letter to John L. Steele of the Massachusetts Department of Education, O'Leary mentioned a “State University concept” that would create a “Lowell State University” composed of Lowell State and Lowell Tech. In this early proposal, the College of Music at Lowell State would move to Boston,
merging with the Massachusetts College of Art to become Roxbury State University, as Edward Gilday had earlier urged.²

Most Lowell State and Lowell Tech faculty and students objected vehemently to what they considered a potential hostile takeover by the University of Massachusetts. Fearing that the two Lowell schools would lose their identities and autonomy as well as seeing their best and brightest—students, faculty and programs—transferred to Amherst, many at both Lowell campuses united in their fight to resist. In April 1971, the possibility of a takeover by UMass was so strong that O'Leary announced enthusiastically at a campus convocation, “The next senior class may well receive their degrees from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.”³ It would be twenty years before his prediction came true.

If O'Leary and Sheehy thought that the legislature's creation of a merger feasibility study in 1969 meant that a union was close at hand, they were disappointed. The wheels of change ground slowly. That first commission was never even funded and never met, possibly due to opposition by Lowell Tech forces with influence in the legislature. For two more years, the issue remained dormant. In May 1971, the Board of Higher Education took matters into its own hands and authorized Edward Moore, Chancellor of the Board, to conduct a study of the merger. That move sparked concern on both campuses and led to the hasty creation of several other study committees by faculty members and students at both schools.

While O'Leary, Moore, and some Lowell State faculty supported the merger, Lowell Tech administrators and most faculty expressed great skepticism, especially regarding the possibility of a merger with UMass. Lowell State was governed by the same Board of Trustees that oversaw all state colleges, but LTI was governed autonomously by its own Board and had more to lose than Lowell State. An LTI faculty study concluded that becoming a branch of UMass was “clearly undesirable,” and students voted overwhelmingly against it.⁴ A merger with Lowell State, however, seemed a better idea.

Meanwhile, Sheehy was adamant that the legislature, not the Board of Higher Education, decide the issue. He got his wish in July 1972, when Governor Francis Sargent signed into law a new bill setting up a special commission to study the merger. Sheehy was named chairman. The commission, which first met on August 21, 1972, included Joseph Cronin, secretary of education affairs; Representative Bruce Freeman of Chelmsford; Senator Joseph Tully of Lowell/Drcut; Senator Ronald MacKenzie of Burlington; Gerard Bridgham (Class of 1974), LTI student president; William Dorfman (Class of 1974), a student at LSC; Dr. Mary McGauvan, Dean of Admissions at LSC; and Professor Kenneth Piche from the University of Massachusetts.

By then, the issue of the merger was inextricably linked to the possibility of Lowell becoming a satellite of UMass, a prospect that cheered some and terrified others. Secretary Cronin supported this restructuring,
arguing that any long range planning for higher education in the state must include the formation of a single state-wide University system. But Senator Tully insisted, “If it (remains) a Lowell school, then you can go to the Legislators from Westfield and Somerville and argue that you know what is best and get appropriations approved. That same legislative give and take does not necessarily apply when you talk about the University of Massachusetts.”

At a series of public hearings on the proposed merger held during the last weeks of 1972, momentum for both the support of the merger and the opposition to joining UMass grew. Tully reported to the other commission members at one hearing that sentiment within the city “points strongly toward a merger but a merger only if a Lowell University results from the bargain.” The “political muscle” that the merger was expected to bring to the joint campuses was one strong argument in its favor.

There were other compelling arguments in favor of the merger, but surprisingly, cost savings was not one of them. A mid-December 1972 report by an educational consulting firm hired by the commission recommended the merger but cautioned that trustees should expect to spend more money in Lowell to develop new programs. The report, prepared by the Academy for Educational Development, called the merger highly desirable and pointed out that the merger would offer a more efficient way for the schools to meet the educational, vocational, and economic development needs of the community. At that time, Lowell Tech offered many part-time evening programs for employees of local industry, but Lowell State offered none. A decreasing demand for teachers and an increasing demand by area high school graduates for a wider variety of educational and job training services pointed to the need for a comprehensive university in Greater Lowell that offered more variety than was currently being offered by the separate Lowell campuses.

In its conclusion, the report argued: “Why merge? Why not just cooperate? The answer is that without a unified leadership that gives overriding priority to the creation of an organization that consolidates the operations of the individual institutions, nothing much that is new will happen. These two institutions have lived side by side for seventy-five years, and during this time under separate leadership have been quite content to go their independent ways with negligible cooperation. If a unified coordinated operation is wanted, the way to get it is to unify the institutions in actual fact, beginning with the leadership, and then extending the unification down through the rank and file of the organization.”

A survey of Lowell State faculty, presented by Professor Richard Lyons of the Philosophy Department at a hearing on December 15, 1972, revealed that eighty percent of the faculty who responded approved of the merger, believing that it would increase the prestige of the two schools, attract a better faculty, and enhance the opportunity to do research. Seventy-two percent of the faculty responding did not want the trustees of
University of Massachusetts to govern the proposed new University. Faculty members expressed their opinions at the hearing. The proposed merger would be "a picture book setup," according to Dr. Edward Gilday, chairman of the Department of Music, who had long hoped for the merger. James Ciszek of the [he was LSC] Athletic Department noted that students at LSC were "shortchanged" because they did not have the athletic facilities that would be available to them if they merged. Dr. Ethel Kamien, chair of the Department of Biology and Physical Science, pointed out that the two schools were already cooperating in science education, serving as a successful model for combining efforts in other departments.9

Some fears were expressed by faculty members at both schools during the merger study period. The LSC faculty were worried that the merger would not be a marriage of equals, while the LTI faculty expressed fear that Tech's reputation as a technology center would be diminished, not enhanced, by the addition of liberal arts and education programs. Tenure issues and curriculum changes also concerned faculty at the two schools. Students had a chance to air their feelings at the December hearings, and some of them opposed even the merger, arguing that it would cause the loss of a small college atmosphere. Said one student, "By joining the two schools, classes would be enlarged and we would lose the benefit of personal comments of professors."10

In responding to the students' concerns, Sheehy explained his own ardent support of the merger. Sheehy had graduated from LSC in 1958 and taught at the Pawtucket School in Lowell for eight years, putting himself through Suffolk Law School at night. Sheehy told a Lowell Sun reporter in late December that he came to realize that students who attended Lowell State had been in effect denied the training necessary to pursue non-teaching careers. For years, said Sheehy, "We have been in essence telling people that if you can only afford to go to a state supported school you can be a teacher and nothing else. The much needed expansion of course offerings at LSC can be initiated if the proposed merger between LSC and LTI becomes a reality."11 He also noted that all of the graduates trained as teachers could not get teaching positions and ended up in clerical or retail jobs. Sheehy recommended that the colleges survey the occupational demands of the Merrimack Valley in order to prepare area students for professions essential to the economy of the region.

On December 28, 1972, the Sheehy Commission held a seven-hour marathon executive session at the Speare House restaurant in Lowell. The next morning, Sheehy announced that the commission was officially recommending the merger of Lowell State and Lowell Tech, to be implemented between July 1, 1974, and July 1, 1975. On January 3, 1973, Sheehy and Tully filed legislation at the State House calling for the merger of the two colleges and the creation of the University of Lowell as an autonomous institution with its own Board of Trustees.

It took a full year for the proposed legislation to become law. The
House of Representatives approved the merger in October 1973 and the Senate in November. The timing of the merger had been changed by an alert Democrat who realized that his party would be losing a golden chance to influence the character of the new University should a Democrat defeat Republican Governor Sargent in 1975. The original date of implementation in 1974 would have given Sargent the authority to name all the trustees of the school. Changing the date to January 1975 assured that the next governor would have that privilege.12

A last-minute drama was played out when the bill was snatched from the governor's desk, recalled on a motion from Tully, who realized language allowing the University to award doctoral degrees had been accidentally omitted. Tully's amendment authorized the University to grant doctoral degrees, especially in the sciences, health professions, music, and law. The word law created such an uproar in the legislature that it had to be stricken to allay fears the new University would create a state law school.13 After bouncing around the State House for a couple of more days, the legislation was finally signed by Governor Sargent.

On March 15, 1974, Governor Sargent swore in the eleven members of the University of Lowell Merger Planning Board. Members included Dr. Leon Beghian, provost at LTI; Sandler Devolve, an LTI student representative; Mary Flynn, an Andover civic leader; Robert Foy, Academic Dean at LSC; Dr. Patricia Goler, Dean of Liberal Arts at LSC; Dr. Mary McGauvran, an alumna of LSC and Dean of Administration; Dr. Gerard O'Connor, a member of the English Department faculty at LTI; Pauline Riordan, an LTI alumna; and Francis Talty, a student at LTI. Lowell Attorney Joseph Donahue chaired the Board.

The Board met weekly for an entire year, working on admissions guidelines for 1975 and the academic calendar for 1975–76. The biggest task the board tackled, the task with the most significant implications for the future success of the new University, was the nuts and bolts job of shaping one integrated campus out of two previously independent campuses. From bookstores to admissions offices, from athletic departments to registrars' offices, every department and office had to be examined and merged in a way that made the best economic and logistical sense.

The board spent three to four hours every week working on these issues, according to Gerard O'Connor, who also recalled that the work of the board took up many additional evening and weekend hours. Each decision that had to be made involved a meeting with the faculty members and/or administrators involved in the decision, a discussion among the board members, and the drafting of a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. In most cases, the trustees approved the recommendation of the Merger Planning Board.14

An issue that student member Frank Talty remembered was tuition. At that time, Lowell Tech tuition was $200 per year, while at Lowell State it was $300 per year. "The students wanted a $200 per year tuition, while the
administrators wanted to raise it to $400," remembered Talty. The board settled on $300 a year, for at least the first year, which Talty labeled a "partial success" for students. Other issues requiring debate and compromise included class scheduling, grading, and student government.15

The administrative governance of the new University was one of the biggest issues the board tackled. According to O'Connor, both Olsen and O'Leary submitted parallel proposals in which everyone would report directly to each of them. After reviewing the structures of fifty colleges around the country, the merger board settled on a structure that established channels of authority. The trustees approved that recommendation.

As the reality of the merger grew closer, undercurrents of disagreements between the campuses on three issues sharpened: how inequities in salary between the two faculties would be resolved, who would sit on the new Board of Trustees, and who would be the first president of the new University.

The merger legislation sought to solve most personnel problems at the two schools by guaranteeing that no member of the institutional staff of either school would lose his or her position, but it was not that simple. Approximately eighty-six percent of the instructional staff at LTI were on tenure, while less than fifty percent at LSC were tenured. On the average, LTI faculty, especially at the higher levels, were paid much better than faculty of comparable rank and degree at LSC.

One of the thorniest problems of the merger—salary equalization between the faculties at the two campuses—was not resolved until January 1977. Salary increases for about half of the ULowell faculty were approved that month by the Board of Trustees. The increases were a part of a special $275,000 salary equalization package designed to minimize the inequities between the salaries of faculty members at North and South campuses. Pay raises ranged from as little as $50 annually to as much as $4,000. The North and South campus faculty members had voted to unify as members of the Massachusetts Society of Professors, an affiliate of the Massachusetts Teachers Association.16 On April 18, 1977, the faculty overwhelmingly accepted the administration's latest salary contract offer, killing plans to strike set for the next day.17

Much was at stake in naming the members of the Board of Trustees that would oversee the new University. Lowell State faculty were worried that the Lowell Tech Board of Trustees would take over the new University. Meanwhile, nearly forty LTI faculty members were concerned enough to petition Governor-elect Michael Dukakis to avoid political patronage in making Board appointments.

On May 16, 1975, Governor Dukakis swore into office the members of the first Board of Trustees of the University of Lowell. They were: George Harvey Chandler, business manager of Local 588 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Ming Chen, chairman of the Aerospace-Mechanical Engineering Department at Boston University; Vice Chairman Ri-
As one of its first acts, the trustees named Everett Olsen acting president of ULowell and Daniel O'Leary as chancellor. O'Leary was deeply disappointed. He had expected to be named president, since he had a Ph.D., while Olsen had only an honorary Sc.D. The search for the permanent president had sparked months of heated debate and an endless swirl of speculation. Olsen had yet to express an interest in the job, though many wanted to see him get it. Some faculty were worried about persistent rumors that Senate President Kevin Harrington would be named the first ULowell president, while others thought his presidency would bring political clout to the campus.

Harrington submitted his résumé to the board on July 23, 1975, but withdrew his name early in the fall, saying he had to devote his energies to a budget crisis at the State House. In October, Olsen sent a letter to the trustees changing his mind and announcing his desire to become perma-
ponent president, throwing the process into disarray. Explained Olsen, "I changed my mind about applying for the position because after a while, it did not seem so overwhelming as I first thought." After looking over 150 applications from around the nation, the search came down to three finalists: Charles Veyer, executive vice president at the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey; John B. Duff, then provost at Seton Hall in New Jersey; and Thomas O’Connell, president of Berkshire Community College. Olsen was seen by some as a dark-horse candidate who could keep the University on course until Harrington was ready to take over.

As the December 17, 1975, deadline for naming the president approached, speculation and uncertainty raged. As late as December 16, it was widely believed that the board would delay picking the president for at least four weeks, giving Harrington a chance to reopen his candidacy for the job. But the next night in a closed door session on South Campus, trustees voted down a motion to delay the decision. For nearly two and one-half hours, the trustees debated the merits of the three finalists as well as Senator Harrington. Ultimately, John B. Duff won the unanimous support of the board.

Born in Orange, New Jersey, in 1931, John B. Duff earned a bachelor’s degree from Fordham University in 1953, a masters’ degree from Seton Hall in 1958, and a doctorate in history from Columbia University in 1964. Attracted to Democratic politics early, he had worked on Harry Truman’s presidential campaign in 1948 as a high school senior. In 1968, he was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress from New Jersey. He was Democratic State Committee Treasurer in New Jersey and a close friend of New Jersey Congressman Peter Rodino. He rose from a professorship at Seton Hall to executive vice president and provost, before coming to Lowell at the age of 44. He had written *The Irish in the United States* and *Slavery: Its Origins and Legacy.* An outgoing, sociable man, Duff became actively involved in the social and civic life of Lowell. His commitment to the community including becoming chairman of the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission.

Duff took over the reins of the University presidency full time on April 1, 1976, and was installed on Friday, October 1, 1976, in a ceremony on
South Campus. In his inaugural address, Duff said, "The University should and must be a resource for its community and this University has some special advantages in this regard. Nothing can be done without unity. Let us all... support one another and conduct ourselves as members of the community of the University of Lowell." It would take some time before any sense of community was felt by students, faculty, and administrators, who eyed each other warily from opposite banks of the Merrimack River. Lowell Tech was now the North Campus of the University of Lowell and Lowell State the South Campus. The campuses were only a mile apart physically, but in some ways, light years apart "spiritually," noted Olsen at the time.

The logistics of the merger were overwhelming enough; the ties of loyalty to one campus or another complicated matters further. Students tried to schedule all their courses on one campus to avoid the shuttle bus that made its way back and forth across the river dozens of times a day. The registration office moved from South to North Campus, but it would be years before a true merger occurred. One student told a reporter he was "annoyed about registering for undergraduate south campus courses in the south campus registration office located on the north campus." The new school's seven-month 1975 budget took seventeen months to prepare because planners had to deal with two different sets of books. Budget requests were couched in a "we" v. "they" mentality, according to Olsen. Budget problems did not help the merger process. The combined budget of the two predecessor schools was $15.3 million, but ULowell received only $14.7 million, despite a request for $22 million. A hiring freeze went into effect, causing more headaches.

But there was good news, too. From the beginning, the new University shone brighter than its predecessor campuses had individually. On November 1, 1974, nearly 4,000 high school seniors, attracted by the potential of the new University of Lowell, swamped the campuses at an open house event that in previous years had drawn only a few hundred prospective students. In June 1975, the Lowell City Council approved a motion to change the name of Textile Avenue and the Textile Bridge to University Avenue and University Bridge in honor of the city's newly created University. On May 22, 1976, ULowell held its first commencement exercises granting degrees to 1,500 students. The first honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees were presented to Nobel Prize winner and theoretical physicist Dr.
A new designed poster
trumpets the strengths of
the University of Lowell.

Eugene P. Wigner and to psychologist and Radcliffe College President Matina S. Horner. It was a fitting culmination of years of debate, planning, politics, and decision-making.

Duff’s first annual report in May 1977, pointed with pride to a six percent enrollment increase, $1.4 million in increased research grants, and the purchase of a new $600,000 Cyber-71 computer system to handle both academic and administrative needs on both campuses. The same year the $4.6 million Durgin Hall music building was completed, including a one-thousand-seat grand concert hall. The building, named for Cyrus Durgin, principal of the Normal School and the individual who introduced the music curriculum, was the realization of the dream of Chancellor O’Leary and Dean Emeritus Edward Gilday. The University hosted a spectacular evening at the hall in early December 1976, when Sarah Caldwell conducted a performance of her Opera New England Company’s production of Puchini’s La Boheme before a sell-out audience. “Lowell has never had a night like this,” Duff beamed after the performance.

Duff put his own stamp on the new University with a reorganization of the administration, approved by the Board of Trustees in December 1976. A key element was the creation of four vice presidencies. Dr. Olsen would remain as executive vice president; Dr. William T. Hogan became vice president for academic affairs; Raymond Rigney became vice president for business affairs; and Dr. Mary McGauvran, vice president for student affairs. Roger Schinness was appointed assistant to the president. Leon Beghian, formerly provost, and Robert Foy, formerly dean, were appointed associate vice presidents for academic services and instruction, respectively. Larry Martin was named director of admissions, James Sullivan comptroller, Charles DeFilippo chief engineer, and Catherine
Quinn director of alumni affairs. Dr. Harry Rubinstein, professor of chemistry, was appointed dean of the graduate school. Dr. William E. McGrath became the first dean of the ULowell libraries. On February 16, 1977, the University said good-bye to retiring Daniel O’Leary at a Board of Trustees meeting, where he was presented with an engraved cup and the title of chancellor emeritus. During the reception that followed, Duff noted, “A great part of what the University of Lowell is can be attributed to Daniel O’Leary.”

Throughout the years following the merger, the College of Health Professions continued to grow, but not in ways that pleased everyone involved with the college. May Futrell, chair of the Nursing Department, focused on curriculum issues during the merger, assuming that organizational decisions would be made later. But O’Leary and Nursing Dean Trudy Barker had already decided to establish the College of Health Professions, which inherited from LSC the Departments of Nursing, Medical Technology, and Clinical Lab Sciences. Futrell felt strongly that a College of Nursing would have been better, and programs such as Clinical Lab Sciences should have been dispatched to the College of Pure and Applied Sciences.
A College of Nursing would have more stature, she felt, and would have kept the focus of the college more intensely targeted.28

Nonetheless the college flourished, establishing a gerontology center in 1976 and, in 1977, a physical therapy program. In 1981, graduate and undergraduate nursing programs at ULowell received accreditation from the National League of Nursing, the first time a master's nursing program was accredited. Dean Barker retired in September 1981, and Eleanor Shalhoup, chair of the Nursing Department, was named the new dean of the college. Barker had been more interested in physical therapy and other allied health programs, according to May Futrell, while Dean Shalhoup focused her energy on nursing. It was Shalhoup's dream that the college offer doctorates in nursing and public health. Shalhoup also established the Center for Health Promotions.

Meanwhile, the College of Education was undergoing major changes under Dean Margaret Shannon. In July 1978, after two years of research, the faculty of the College of Education submitted a proposal to eliminate the undergraduate program in education and transform the college into a graduate school. According to the report, "To expect undergraduates to acquire that kind of background (liberal arts) plus thirty semester hours in education to be well prepared and certified serves to squash both programs."29 Stricter admission requirements for students applying to the education program, instituted in 1971 as a way of ensuring the highest quality, had already cut the number of undergraduates by fifty percent.

In 1984 the college established the Center for Field Services and Studies, first directed by Donald Pierson, which was designed to promote partnerships between the University, business, and public education. Dean Virginia Biggy said that the new center demonstrated the University's commitment to improving education in grades K–12. Another landmark in the history of the College of Education was the creation of an independent doctoral program in 1985. Also in 1985, the College of Education moved to its new West Campus location on the grounds of the former Middlesex County Training School in Chelmsford, one and one-half miles from south campus. The property had been generously donated to ULowell by Wang Laboratories for one dollar.

The Continuing Education program blossomed after the merger. Lowell Tech Presidents Lydon and Olsen had been ardent supporters of evening and summer schools, but O'Leary was dead set against it, according to
Ernest James. O'Leary told James he did not want his faculty working summers and evenings. After the merger, however, the new Continuing Education Division exploded with activity. Courses were offered in September 1975, and included not only technical courses but also programs in sociology, psychology, political science, English, and other liberal arts disciplines. "It was a bonanza for us," said James, who ran the program for many years. "We doubled in size because of the merger." Duff, said James, "saw the opportunity in Continuing Education, not only to generate money to return to the University, but in a city like Lowell, he also saw that his great love for serving the community [could be fulfilled by making], the University a center of learning, morning, noon and night, fall, winter, summer, spring."^30

In March 1981, just short of five years since he took the job, John Duff requested a two-year leave of absence from the ULowell presidency to become the first chancellor of the Massachusetts public higher education system. He had been named to the post by the Board of Regents after a four-month search, which ironically, Duff himself had chaired. Duff's assistant, Roger Schinness, also left to work for the Regents.

Duff's legacy at ULowell was significant. Under his tenure, the University experienced tremendous growth, increased enrollment, additional faculty, and a considerably larger budget. His personal touches included the establishment of the ULowell Foundation to enhance the cultural image of Lowell. He helped shape the image of the University as an integral part of the community, forging links with the community focused on the areas of culture, education, and health. Regional economic development—a mission of the University dating back to the earliest days of its predecessor schools—was not a subject that caught his imagination. The second president of the University of Lowell—William T. Hogan—recaptured the tradition mission of the campus and updated it to meet the economic development needs of the late twentieth century.

Both Duff and Olsen recommended Hogan, then vice president of academic affairs, as interim president. The Board of Trustees subsequently named Hogan to that post for the duration of Duff's absence. Hogan had earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering at Northeastern University in 1955, and master's and a doctorate in engineering at MIT. He first joined Lowell Tech as a faculty member in 1963, was named the first dean of the newly organized College of Engineering in 1973, and in 1977, Vice President for Academic Affairs at ULowell. He had previously worked as design and development engineer for General Electric, the Army's Rocket Development Center at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, and AVCO.
Hogan brought a style markedly different from Duff’s into the president’s office. He declined to live in the elaborate house provided Duff in the Belvidere section of Lowell, preferring to remain in his Chelmsford home. He drew a line between his personal and professional lives.

On January 13, 1983, Duff officially resigned the ULowell presidency. The trustees, describing Hogan as a good manager, hard worker, and respected leader among students, faculty, and staff, named him permanent president and gave him a five-year contract. Hogan initiated his own administrative reorganization during the first months of his presidency. Robert Foy became Vice President for Academic Affairs and Leon Beghian became Vice President for Academic Services and Technical Research. In November 1983, Hogan named three new vice presidents: Thomas Costello, vice president of technical resource and development; Robert Wagner, associate vice president for academic affairs; and Paul Rahmeier, associate vice president for instruction. In January 1984, he named Frederick P. Sperounis assistant to the president and in 1987, named him vice president for university relations and development.

Three goals that Hogan felt were critical to the continuing development of the University as a first-class institution of higher learning were: 1) to earn accreditation for every college, 2) to increase the percentage of graduate students and graduate research at ULowell, and 3) to combine the colleges of Liberal Arts and Pure and Applied Science into a College of Arts and Sciences, thereby completing the merger of the two campuses in a wholly integrated way.

In June 1982, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges bestowed on the University a ten-year accreditation, the maximum allowed. The College of Management Science had grown dramatically during the early Duff years. An evening Master of Business Administration program was established. The American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business accredited the College of Management Science in 1987. The approval by AACSB came about after a comprehensive revamping of instructional programs and administrative procedures. With the accreditation of the Industrial Technology program, for the first time every program in the College of Engineering held national professional accreditation. The Graduate School grew tremendously under Hogan’s care. In 1982, the University granted 6
doctoral and 242 masters degrees. In 1994, the school awarded 63 doctorates and 720 masters degrees.

In 1987, a study group appointed by Hogan considered merging the colleges of Liberal Arts and Pure and Applied Science and strongly recommended the move. Eric Sheldon of the Physics Department, co-chair of the study group along with Robert Innis of the Philosophy Department, noted that the existing organization of the colleges was "totally ad hoc...a left-over from the original merger of Lowell Technological Institute and Lowell State College" thirteen years before.31

The committee's view of the future of ULowell was that it should be recognized not only as an institution distinguished for its superior technical training, but also as an outstanding regional university. The move was seen as a natural progression in the continuing evolution of the Lowell campuses as a comprehensive university. Said Innis, "We were asked more than once, why turn the rock now? It's not bothering anyone the way it is. Our reply was that if you don't turn the rock now, you never get rid of the Lowell State and Lowell Tech dichotomy." The official change took place in the fall of 1989. Hogan appointed Arthur Watterson of the Chemistry Department and Peter Blewett of the History Department as co-deans of the new college.32

Enhancing the athletic program at ULowell was another priority for Hogan. In fact, the 1975–1991 period may well have been the golden era of athletics for UMass Lowell. Competing as the University of Lowell after the merger of Lowell Technological Institute and Lowell State College, the school enjoyed a sixteen-year period of success. Less than three months into the first season, Vinnie Fleming won the NCAA Division Three cross country championship in one of the most dramatic finishes in NCAA history.

Irish-born Marc Linscheid (Class of 1981) won the first of his two NCAA titles in outdoor track in 1977 when he captured the Division Three hammer throw event. In 1980, he won the Division Two title. Gymnast John Alberghini (Class of 1980) gave the young institution its third title in 1979 when he won the NCAA Division Two crown on parallel bars. ULowell won its first team championship in 1979 in ice hockey under the direction of Coach William Riley and led by All-Americans Tom Jacobs (Class of 1979) and Craig MacTavish. Riley also led his team to NCAA titles in 1981 and 1982 before the program was elevated to Division One. Nine-time swimming All-American Don Jensen (Class of 1983) gave UL another individual championship in 1982 when he finished in a flat tie in the 200-meter breaststroke. Barry Sutter brought home the gymnastics gold in still rings at the 1986 Division Two-Three championships. Jane Servi-Seebruch (Class of 1988) won the indoor women's Division Two high jump championship.

Leo J. Parent jumps for a shot during the Chiefs' victory over first-place Florida State during the 1988 NCAA semifinal game, clearing the way for the team's NCAA Division Two Men's Basketball Championship. Parent and his father, Leo A. Parent, were subsequently inducted into the Lowell Athletic Hall of Fame. Photo courtesy of Mark Bogacz.
Meanwhile, the men’s basketball team was making NCAA Division Two history from 1986 to 1989. Appearing in their first NCAA tournament, the team won five straight games to win the national title. All-American Leo Parent (Class of 1988), whose father had played basketball and baseball years before at Lowell State, and guard Bobby Licare (Class of 1988) etched their names in local folklore as they led UL to wins over the nation’s number five, three, and one ranked teams before beating the University of Alaska-Anchorage, 75-72 at the Springfield, Massachusetts, Civic Center. During this sixteen-year run, six individuals won seven titles and two teams won national championships.

Over the course of both the Duff and Hogan years, the University began to amass the technology of a new era. A Computer Science program was established, supported by a series of major equipment donations from high tech firms, thriving in the Merrimack Valley, thus enabling the University to compete with other prestigious technical schools.

In the decade following the merger, 1975 to 1985, enrollment increased dramatically by fifty-eight percent. Between 1980 and 1987 ULowell received more than 7,000 applications each year and accepted about half of the freshman who applied. On-campus housing did not keep up with the explosive growth of the University in the years following the merger, but no new dorms were added. Hundreds of students were on the housing waiting lists until new housing was built in the late 1980s.

The enrollment surge was surprising in that there was a 3.8 percent drop in eligible eighteen-year-olds in the University's recruiting area in the early to mid 1980s. The University's tuition, low compared to private schools, was one factor in the surge, as was the attractiveness of the campus as a regional University with increased programs of study and growing research activities. But the local economy also had an effect. The early to mid-1980s were the boom years for the microelectronics industry that flourished in Massachusetts. Wang Laboratories set up headquarters in Lowell in 1978. By 1982, it had 5,500 people on its payroll. This re-industrialization of Massachusetts led to the development of other high tech companies in the Lowell area and a regional economic boom. The message in the endless pages of help wanted ads in the Sunday newspaper calling for engineers, managers, health care professionals, and computer scientists was not lost on prospective students and their parents. Students were flocking to these programs. Between 1975 and 1985, engineering enrollment doubled from 1,800 to 3,700 day students. Nonetheless, budget problems plagued the University throughout the 1980s, as state appropriations to the school did not keep pace with rising costs and a mushrooming student population.

Meanwhile, enrollments in the College of Music had plummeted from 500 in 1977 to barely 300 by the early 1980s. School districts throughout Massachusetts were cutting back their music education programs as a response to the budget-cutting effects of Proposition 2 1/2, the measure that limits rises in local property, taxes, the major source of funding for local
school districts. Prospective students, wary of finding jobs as music teachers after graduation, stayed away. New students were attracted, however, by the new Sound Recording Technology (SRT) major introduced in the fall of 1982. The SRT program prepares students for jobs in recording studios, broadcast sound, and sound engineering at live concerts, a growth field in the music industry. A concentration in Music Business was also established and enrollment in the college turned around.

As the 1980s gave way to the 1990s, the economy was changing fast. A deeply rooted recession beginning in 1985 decimated the computer industry in the Lowell area, along Route 128, and throughout Massachusetts. Wang filed for bankruptcy. Other companies ordered massive layoffs or folded shop altogether, causing serious unemployment. Two words changed the face of the U.S. economy: global competition. State-allocated funds for public higher education were cut, University enrollments dropped, and tuition rose. Both the region and the University faced critical challenges. The formation of a University of Massachusetts system, including campuses in Amherst, Boston, Lowell, Worcester, and Dartmouth surfaced again. This time, there was less opposition at Lowell. The time was ripe for another change.

Endnotes
5. Lowell Sun, August 27, 1972.
13. Telephone interview with Everett Olsen.
15. Interview with Frank Talty.
17. Lowell Sun, April 19, 1977.
18. Interview with Everett Olsen.
19. Interview with Everett Olsen.
22. Lowell Sun, October 2, 1976.
26. Lowell Sun, December 11, 1976
28. Interview with May Futrell.
30. Interview with Ernest James.
32. Ibid.

Students enjoy an outdoor concert on South Campus.
In 1981, the presidents gathered on the occasion of Martin Lydon's retirement. They are, from left, former Lowell Tech presidents Kennedy Fox and his wife, Eleanor, Lydon and his wife, Maria; and Everett Olsen and his wife, Mimi; former Lowell State President Daniel O'Leary and his wife, Marguerite; U Lowell President William T. Hogan with his wife, Mary; and former U Lowell President John Duff with his wife, Helen.

Student nurse Jennifer Erb and faculty member Jacqueline Dowling, RNMS, treat volunteer patient and staff member Dale Pewey in the Intensive Care Unit Lab in the College of Health Professions in 1989.
Student humor in the yearbook of the Class of 1983.
Dr. Eleanor Forsley Shalboup, Dean of the College of Health Professions from 1981 to 1991, applauds new graduates of the college.

College of Health Professions textbooks.
College of Arts and Sciences co-deans, Dr. Peter Blewett, left, and Dr. Arthur Watterson.

Dr. Mary McGawran, vice president for student affairs.

Gloria Steinem, who received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at ULowell Commencement 1990, with ULowell Board of Trustees Chairman, Alan Solomon, left, and President William T. Hogan.
In 1983, Mike Carr, center iceman, team captain, and all-time leading hockey scorer for Lowell (279 points during his college career), left, gets a pat on the back from Athletic Director Dr. James Ciszek as Coach Billy Riley, right, accepts the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championship trophy from Commissioner Scott Whitelaw.

After years as a club sport, women's crew became a varsity sport in the spring of 1983. This team includes Shelagh Donohue, third from right, who began rowing at Lowell in 1983 and went on to win a silver medal at the 1992 Olympic Games.
Students living at Fox, Bourgeois, Leitch, and North residence halls traverse University Bridge (formerly Textile Bridge) to North Campus classes. Leitch and Bourgeois were built in 1969, Fox in 1975, North (renamed Donahue in 1993) was built in 1989.

On October 4, 1989, hundreds of ULowell students traveled to the State House to protest budget cuts to public higher education.

Durgin Hall opened in 1976, housing the ULowell College of Music. In 1986, the Center for the Performing and Visual Arts, under the direction of Oliver Chamberlain, shown here with community representative Nancy L. Donahue, opened in Durgin, taking over the various performances previously sponsored by the ULowell Foundation.