

MERRIMACK

FALL 2018



DIVISION 1

MERRIMACK SEIZES ITS MOMENT

MERRIMACK

A Magazine for Our Alumni, Parents, and Friends

Fall 2018

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MERRIMACK
COLLEGE



Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

Merrimack College is 71 years old this fall, and I don't know if our community has had a more momentous year than the one we are living in right now.

We announced the College's move into NCAA Division I athletics, months after watching our men's lacrosse team earn the Division II National Championship at Gillette Stadium. We learned that we have become a top-50 school in our *U.S. News* category, and we are also one of the "most innovative" schools in the northern United States. And *Money* magazine honored us as one of the 10 "most transformative" institutions in the country.

We achieved our \$50M fundraising goal of our *Together for Good* capital campaign, thanks to the support of alumni and friends, and in September we opened the Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center, honoring one of our earliest alumni and a family that represents three generations of Merrimack education.

When we broke ground for Crowe Hall in 2016, I noted that Merrimack was replacing the promise of "we will be" with the reality of "we are," transforming years of potential into a present of achievement and a future of accomplishment.

This fall's amazing milestones are not the reason for our success. They are the results of our vision, our purpose, our mission, and the hard work of so many in our community who saw what Merrimack College could be.

Best,

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President



In this edition:

4 Merrimack Accepts Division I Bid

8 Three Generations of Merrimack Warriors

12 Boosting the Student Experience

14 Together for Good
Updates from the Campaign

34 Alumni News

“We have grown our reputation academically and athletically — a rare feat.”

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY, PRESIDENT

On the cover: Top left to right: Cody Demers '19, Football; Jessica Palmer '20, Field Hockey; Nicole Nanof '19, Softball; Juvaris Hayes '20, Basketball; Front and center: Karlee Alves '19, Basketball



QUESTIONS FOR

MICHAEL STROUD, PH.D., APPLE DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

Recently joining the ranks of Apple Distinguished Educators (ADEs) across the globe, Dr. Michael Stroud is an associate professor of psychology at Merrimack College; a co-director of the Merrimack Context, Attention, Memory, and Perception Lab; and a lifelong tech enthusiast. When the Mobile Merrimack Initiative was announced in 2015, Dr. Stroud said the opportunity to combine teaching with his interest in technology was a “dream come true,” ultimately leading him to pursue and attain ADE status.

Q: How did you become interested in the ADE program?

When Merrimack introduced the idea of providing iPads for every student, an ADE from another college gave a talk on campus, which inspired my curiosity to look a little further and eventually set it as a personal goal.

Q: What was the process of becoming an ADE like?

Applications are only accepted every two years and require a two-minute video showcasing your use of technology in the classroom. Mine focused on three themes: transformation, reaching new heights, and community collaboration. After being selected as an ADE, I attended a three-day intensive training academy, which introduced the program fundamentals. From 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., it was constant workshops and networking. I was just blown away.

Q: What does it mean to you to have earned this status?

From the original Nintendo to Apple’s first-generation iPod, I’ve always been an early adopter of new technology.

Being recognized for combining my two passions of technology and education is wonderful. Plus, it serves as assurance that what I’ve been doing is forward-thinking — really, the education of the future.

Q: What opportunities come with being recognized as an ADE?

It’s exciting to be part of a large community of people who are thinking about technology and education in new and exciting ways. If I need inspiration or have a technical question, I can post in the ADE social network and receive four or five responses within a minute.

Q: How do you think technology changes and enhances the way students learn?

We’ve all had to do presentations in class, where you just throw a bunch of text up on the screen and read it. With iPads, students can share video clips and images to make it more interactive and create work that they’re proud of. I show my colleagues the projects that my freshmen create in introductory courses, and they’re amazed.

Q: Do you find that students are more engaged with technology-driven lessons?

Absolutely. They see the content, they experience it firsthand, and then they discover how it connects to their studies. It’s great when they get that lightbulb moment — “Oh, yeah, this makes sense!”

Q: How has the use of technology changed the way you teach?

Technology allows me to utilize more innovative and engaging teaching techniques. This year, for example, I created a fully interactive website

rather than a syllabus. If I want to get the students’ input on something during class, I create a quick poll. They simply use their iPad to visit the website and tap on it to give me their opinion, and I throw the results up on the screen.

Q: In your opinion, what is the best tech invention in recent history?

The game changer for me is touch interface. Styluses have been around a long time, but to be able to interact with the technology, to be so intuitive, to be able to touch it with your finger — that’s a whole other level.

Q: What do you think teaching in the classroom will look like in 20 years?

That’s a long time in the tech world! How about five years? In the classroom, the projector and computer will be gone, as you won’t need the central focal point. Instead, it will be a collaborative environment in which everything will be delivered to personal devices. I’ll be able walk around anywhere I want because everyone will see everything.

— Kaitlyn Manigalam



UP TO THE CHALLENGE

Merrimack seizes its moment by joining Division I athletics



Merrimack's president, Dr. Christopher E. Hopey, Northeast Conference (NEC) commissioner, Noreen Morris, and Merrimack athletic director, Jeremy Gibson celebrate Merrimack's acceptance into the NEC.

Article by **John Veneziano** | Photos by **Jim Stankiewicz**

History will remember September 13, 2018, as the day Merrimack College athletics made its boldest move.

For that's when the school announced it had accepted an invitation to join the Northeast Conference, marking the Warriors' entrance into the world of NCAA Division I athletics.

Good-bye, New Haven. Hello, Notre Dame!

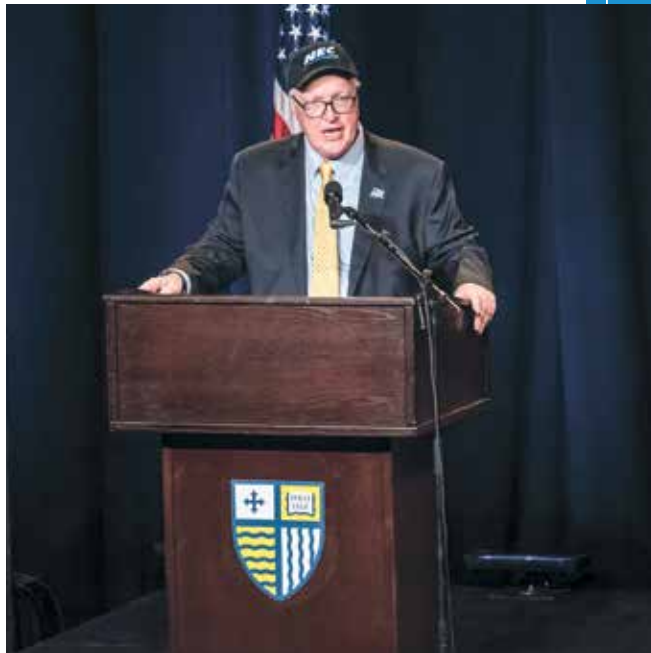
Yet such monumental decisions aren't made on a whim. Merrimack began charting this course in 2011 when Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. was inaugurated as the college's eighth president and expressed his intention to raise Merrimack's athletic profile. Soon after, that plan was put into action as part of the *Agenda for Distinction*, Merrimack's 10-year strategic initiative to shape its future.

The true inspiration for the move, however, was born well before either of those events. It came from Dr. Hopey's lifelong love of sports — he excelled in ice hockey, football, and track in high school and remains an avid outdoorsman — and through his years as a student and an administrator in higher education, where he personally witnessed the impact a vibrant athletic program can have on a campus community and a school's identity.

"I was an undergraduate at Northeastern University in the 1980s when coach Jim Calhoun and Reggie Lewis brought national attention to the men's basketball program there," Hopey said. "And I spent more than a decade in Philadelphia, where I saw the excitement that surrounded not just pro sports, but events like the Penn Relays and college basketball games at The Palestra."

When Hopey arrived at Merrimack and announced his plans — "We're going to be a Division I program," he bluntly stated — support was quick to build. Campus leaders and donors embraced the idea that a major investment in athletics, wrapped within the school's guiding principles, would expand the college's visibility and help it reach its potential.





President Hopey addresses the crowd during the campus celebration of Merrimack's achievement.

“At the end of the day, athletics is about pride and about creating memories through one’s experiences — as a competitor, as a fan, as an alum — and that’s what we’re trying to do.”

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY, PRESIDENT

- **1947** Merrimack College is founded.
- **1947–48** A group of students form an informal hockey club known as the “Blue Blades,” which eventually becomes the Merrimack men’s ice hockey program.
- **1949–50** The men’s basketball team becomes the first varsity athletics program on campus, finishing 7–2 in its first year of competition.
- **1956–57** Under the guidance of the program’s first official head coach, Jim Reynolds, the men’s ice hockey team plays its first season as a recognized varsity sport on campus.
- **1966–67** The men’s ice hockey team wins its first of seven Eastern College Athletic Conference championships, finishing the season with 13 wins.
- **Early-to-Mid 1970s** A number of women’s programs begin organized competition, including basketball, softball, tennis and volleyball.
- **1984–85** Merrimack College joins what was then the Northeast-8 Conference, replacing the University of Hartford. That same year, the men’s ice hockey team reclassifies as a Division I independent program.
The varsity women’s soccer team becomes the School’s next women’s varsity program.
- **1986–87** The women’s soccer team wins the first Northeast-10 (NE10) Conference championship in league history, beginning a run of five straight league titles, Merrimack’s first team to win a league title.

“We have grown our reputation academically and athletically on parallel tracks, a rare feat and not an easy one. But it’s one this community embraced,” Hopey said. “Merrimack is not the school it was 10 years ago. We’re not small anymore. With our enrollment and our investments across the campus, we felt we should be with schools that fit our profile.”

That made the gravitational pull between Merrimack and the Northeast Conference (NEC) a natural one. The 11-school league, formed in 1981, sponsors championships in 23 sports and consists of Bryant, Central Connecticut, Fairleigh Dickinson, LIU Brooklyn, Mount St. Mary’s, Robert Morris, Sacred Heart, St. Francis College (Brooklyn), St. Francis University (Pa.), and Wagner. Merrimack will be incorporated into NEC scheduling for the 2019–20 season and become a full member in 2023–24, upon completion of its four-year NCAA Division I reclassification process.

“We are thrilled to begin this partnership between the Northeast Conference and Merrimack College, a partnership that brings together two organizations that share the same goals and values ... to develop well-rounded and successful student-athletes who excel in the classroom, give back to their communities, and compete with respect and tenacity against the elite competition in Division I,” said NEC commissioner, Noreen Morris.

Merrimack already possesses some Division I (D-I) bloodlines. Men’s ice hockey has been part of the prestigious Hockey East conference since 1989, and women’s ice hockey followed suit in 2015. Now all 24 varsity programs — 10 men’s and 14 women’s teams — will share that D-I designation.

- **1989-90** The men's ice hockey team accepts an invitation to join Hockey East, becoming the conference's eighth member.
- **1990-91** The softball team wins the first of five straight NE10 tournament titles, beginning what would ultimately become a decade-long dynasty.
- **1991-92** The men's basketball team wins the NE10 championship for the first time, earning a second straight — and fourth overall — trip to the NCAA tournament.
- **1995-96** The men's soccer team begins a stretch of three straight league titles by taking the 1995 NE10 championship, its first conference crown in program history.
- **1997-98** The women's cross-country team wins the first of three straight NE10 championships.
- **1999-2000** Merrimack wins its first NE10 Conference Presidents' Cup, awarded to the top school based on overall athletics success in a given academic year.
- **2003-04** The women's basketball team caps off a banner season by winning its only NE10 championship and qualifying for the NCAA tournament for the second time.
- **2006-07** The football team makes history by winning the NE10 title and earning the program's first-ever appearance in the NCAA tournament.
- **2011-12** The field hockey team wins the NE10 regular season title to earn its first-ever NCAA tournament appearance.
- **2013-14** The athletic department announces that women's ice hockey will join Hockey East as a full Division I program in 2015-16.
- **2015-16** Women's ice hockey plays to a Hockey East record crowd of nearly 2,000 in the first game of its inaugural season. The field hockey team nearly wins the national title in overtime, finishing the season as national runner-up — making them the first Merrimack team to reach an NCAA championship final since the softball team's win in 1994.
- **2016-17** Carly Muscaro '17 graduates as a 12-time All-American and six-time national champion, winning the 200- and 400-meter national titles in both the indoor and outdoor seasons.
- **2017-18** A department-record seven teams qualify for their respective NCAA tournaments allowing Merrimack to go on to claim the NE10 Presidents' Cup. The men's lacrosse program is the story of the spring — with an 18-game-winning season, they secured their third Northeast-10 Conference tournament title before dominating all three NCAA championship games they played, culminating with a victory in the national title game against Saint Leo in front of thousands of fans at Gillette Stadium.
- **2018-19** Merrimack College accepts an invitation from the Division I Northeast Conference's Council of Presidents to become the league's 11th member, beginning in 2019-20.

With the move, Merrimack leaves behind the Division II Northeast-10 (NE-10) Conference, where it has been a dominating presence for the past 34 seasons. The Warriors won three conference titles last year while earning the NE-10 President's Cup for overall excellence and sent seven teams on to the NAACAs, highlighted by men's lacrosse winning the national championship.

Hopey understands there's a challenge to transferring such a high level of achievement to the next level. Yet he's also confident he's found the right fit.

"The Northeast Conference is where we belong," Hopey said. "And it's not simply an athletic designation. It's a recognition of the kind of school Merrimack is today."

To that point, the NEC increases Merrimack's visibility for prospective students, as the league encompasses seven states and stretches all the way to Pennsylvania and Maryland.

"We're already established and respected throughout New England," Hopey said. "We have great students, and expanding our athletic footprint to places throughout the mid-Atlantic and into western Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. is a way to attract more of them."

"This move gives us a bigger area to promote our brand and embrace who we are — a diverse, Catholic college that offers a lot of opportunities in many areas of study."

While growing pains often accompany such a transition, Merrimack College director of athletics, Jeremy Gibson, believes the school is well positioned for the challenges that await.

"Our teams have been building toward this for several years," said Gibson, who did much of the behind-the-scenes groundwork for the move. "We have enjoyed broad success against the programs in the Northeast-10, and our student-athletes and coaches are now prepared to enthusiastically take on their new rivals in the Northeast Conference."

The most visible sign of change has been the steady physical transformation of the school's North Andover campus, which has included upgrades to most of the athletic facilities, among them the new Duane Stadium. Expect more to come, with plans in place for an indoor turf facility, squash courts (which will house the expanding Squash Busters program with high school students in Lawrence), tennis courts, and perhaps even a parquet floor for the basketball arena.

"We've been making investments every year in athletics for the eventual transition," Hopey said. "We didn't do this blindly. We have been working on the infrastructure."

"At the end of the day, athletics is about pride and about creating memories through one's experiences — as a competitor, as a fan, as an alum — and that's what we're trying to do," he continued. "What we accomplish athletically is intertwined with academic achievement, an engaged student body, and a growing and prosperous campus. I think about all those things when I think of the success of Merrimack College."

Hopey then smiles before adding, "And there's nothing like game day." ■

A Partnership That's **THREE GENERATIONS STRONG**

Article by **Ginny Caggiano** | Photos by **Marvin Sandavol** and **Heratch Ekmekjian**



Three generations of Arcidis have walked through the doors of Merrimack College — each one making a positive impact on our community. A member of one of Merrimack's first classes, Dr. Alfred Arcidi graduated in 1953 and was followed by his three sons and four grandsons — making a total of eight Merrimack graduates from the Arcidi family.

“Dr. Arcidi set the example of love and loyalty for family, friends, faith, community, and college, for his children and grandchildren — and, we hope, for many more generations yet to come,” said President Christopher Hopey at the Evening of Gratitude, an annual event that honors Merrimack's most influential and generous donors. This year's event recognized Dr. Arcidi's many contributions to the school and officially opened the new Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center.

“My dad was a very warm, open man,” said his son Alfred “Al” Arcidi Jr. '84. “And he always lived by the Golden Rule of treating others the way you wanted to be treated,” added his son Philip Arcidi '81. “If he was with the president of the United States or if he was with the janitor at one of our facilities, he would be as gracious to any of those individuals he came in contact with.”

“In all my years, I've never met a man like him,” said his lifelong friend and brother-in-law Philip “Phil” Turrisi '57.

BUILDING A BRIGHT FUTURE FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The fourth child of an immigrant mother and father, Dr. Arcidi was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts. As a young man, he helped his father in his poultry business and would commute to Merrimack in the chicken truck following his shift.

After graduating from Merrimack, Dr. Arcidi was drafted into the Korean War and was eventually honorably discharged as a disabled veteran. Thanks to the G.I. Bill, Dr. Arcidi was able to attend the University of Buffalo dental school, where he graduated at the top of his class. He then moved back to the Merrimack Valley and founded a dental practice, which he built into a thriving business of more than 25,000 patients, the largest in the region. Although he was quite busy, he also made the time to visit a local convent every Monday to take care of the nuns' dental needs.

“His real success was having a good foundation: my mother,” said his son Philip. “She was the driving force behind him that made him tremendously successful. They got married at a young age, and she was there to support him throughout his whole life.”



President Hopey and members of the Arcidi Family participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“He practiced dentistry for more than 20 years before he got involved in healthcare,” said Al. “He had a practice that was open six days a week, and he was well known for his skills as a dentist.”

CREATING A BUSINESS EMPIRE

Driven by the desire to start a family business, Dr. Arcidi took a sabbatical from his dental practice to expand his role in the healthcare industry. In 1982, he opened two healthcare facilities, and today, his business — Whittier Health Network — has grown to 10 nursing homes, three hospitals, and an assisted living facility.

In 1985, Dr. Arcidi’s friend and licensed hospital administrator Leo Curtin came on board. “Dr. Arcidi had a great vision for healthcare,” said Leo. “And he was a true guy — no airs about him at all. Whether he was giving time or money, he was always willing to help someone out.”

GIVING BACK IN SO MANY WAYS

“If you were a friend of his, there was nothing this man wouldn’t do for you,” said Phil Turrisi, and Dr. Arcidi was a true friend of Merrimack College. Over the years, Dr. Arcidi, his children, and his grandchildren have helped Merrimack flourish in a multitude of ways.

“We think the school is a special place,” explained Al, who is also the chair of Merrimack’s Board of Trustees. “It’s been a very rewarding experience to give back, and it’s been wonderful to see the school grow and continue to develop.”

In honor of Dr. Arcidi’s legacy of generosity, the new 16,000-square-foot structure was named the Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center. Housing both the Welcome Center and the O’Brien Center for Career Development, the building features two floors and a 1,100-square-foot presentation room. In addition to serving as the new front door welcoming all students to campus, the center will facilitate their journey beyond Merrimack through internships and job placements. Dr. Arcidi was at the groundbreaking for the new center, but unfortunately he passed away in June 2018, just three months prior to the opening.

“He never looked for any recognition, so for him to be recognized by this building at Merrimack College is a great tribute to him,” said Leo.

“I’m very honored to have my grandfather’s name on a building here at campus,” explained Dr. Arcidi’s grandson Alfred “Alf” Arcidi ’06. “The fact that it’s on the Welcome Center is just perfect because you’d truly feel a warm sense of love in every interaction with him. When people enter the Welcome Center, I hope they get the same feeling.” ■



“I am honored and blessed that my brothers and I are able to carry on an important legacy — a legacy dear to my father’s heart and spirit — to support Merrimack College in its mission.”

MICHAEL ARCIDI '85

An Evening to Remember

Merrimack College opened the doors to the Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center on Thursday, September 13, as President Christopher E. Hohey cut the ribbon, surrounded by the benefactor family, the Arcidis.

The ribbon cutting preceded the College’s annual Evening of Gratitude, at which several hundred donors and friends of Merrimack came together to honor those who have supported the *Together for Good* Campaign, including the Arcidi, Gallant, and Edmunds families.

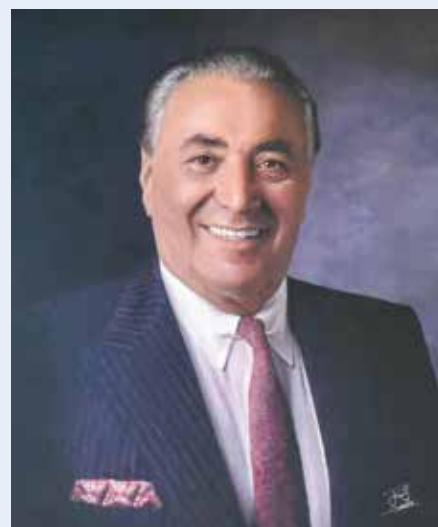
President Hohey talked about Merrimack’s progress, including recent recognitions for academics, athletics, and the transformational nature of a Merrimack education.

“Truly, we have come into our own as an institution and as a community,” he said. “These recognitions are not the reasons for our success — they are the results of it.”

Part of that success, Hohey said, is due to “the support, the vision, and the wisdom of those like the families we honor this evening — the Gallants, the Edmundses, and the Arcidi family, whose legacy now greets everyone who enters the campus.”

A short video recounted for the attendees the life and legacy of Dr. Arcidi and was followed by remarks from his sons Alfred '84, chair of the board of trustees; Philip '81, chair of the trustees’ committee on real estate; and Michael '85.

Richard H'17 and Susanna Gallant were honored for a major campaign gift to support Merrimack athletics, and the Edmunds family — children of the late Robert Edmunds Jr. '66, a Merrimack trustee — for their support of an endowed scholarship in his memory.



Top: The welcome reception area showcases a hand painted portrait of Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi.

Bottom: The Arcidi family and President Hohey preside over the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

WHAT'S NEW ON CAMPUS

The summer heat and humidity didn't slow the roar of construction vehicles or dull the smell of fresh asphalt on campus over the last few months. In addition to the newly constructed Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center, Merrimack continues to enhance the overall student experience and boost academic offerings in a variety of impactful and progressive ways.

Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center

SAKOWICH CAMPUS CENTER



Sparky's Renovation (the main dining location on campus)

- Unique flavors arrive on campus with a new Mongolian Grill station, where fresh stir-frys are prepared on request, and a new U-Cook Station puts the spatula in the students' hands as they cook their own food. A professional chef is on site to assist as needed.
- Other updates include a new breakfast area, as well as new furniture, flooring, ceiling, lighting, paint, and more!



Second Floor, Sakowich Campus Center

- Two additional studios and private workout space will round out the additional 6,000 square feet being added to the existing Anthony Sakowich Fitness and Recreation Center.
- Dedicated solely for commuters, a new lounge is sure to be the new central hub for commuters eager to kick back between classes.

SIGNIFICANT RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS



Bringing the feel of home to campus! Several updates were made to housing throughout campus to enhance comfort for students. Renovations range from new furniture, lighting, flooring, paint, TVs, shades, and re-siding of all townhouse buildings to new kitchen cabinets, appliances, and bathroom vanities. Also, over 300 students can now live at Royal Crest, with 80 apartments with kitchens, parking, and the feel of a big community.

ACADEMIC BUILDING MAKEOVERS



Sullivan Hall

- Three new learning environments and an updated student lounge
- New home for two unique centers: Liberal Arts Interdisciplinary Institute and Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

McQuade Library

- Upgraded learning common areas
- Expanded programs increasing the reach of the Academic Success Center
- Expanded support for graduate student research

MERRIMACK COLLEGE FOOD TRUCK

Gourmet food is rolling onto campus! A food truck designed just for Merrimack will offer unique daily lunch and dinner menus featuring not-your-everyday grub like burrito bowls, Thai-inspired meat and veggie skewers, a variety of Indian curries, gourmet pastas, pizza, and more. Additionally, the food truck will supply sporting events as a mobile kitchen operation and can roll up for special events and student preview days.

MORE PARKING

Approximately 125 paved parking spaces are being created along the Route 114 side of campus! Additional campus sidewalks are also being installed in designated areas throughout campus to further improve safety.

THE HUB

Student involvement found a new home at The Hub — a new central location for student activities! Two conference rooms just for student groups are also here. The Hub is located in the former Hamel Health Building.



TOGETHER FOR +GOOD+

The Campaign for Merrimack College



HEALTHCARE LEADERS

+ INNOVATING FOR GOOD

A recipient of the HANYS Distinguished Service Award and the Hospital Theodore Roosevelt Award for Distinguished Service to the healthcare community, J. Ronald “Ron” Gaudreault ’63, of Northport, NY, had an illustrious 40-year career as a healthcare executive before retiring a few years ago.

He and his wife, JoAn, have three grown children and six grandchildren, and despite all of Ron’s achievements, he has never forgotten his time at Merrimack and the foundation he earned. Last year, Ron and JoAn generously donated \$100,000 to establish a new Innovation Fund for Health Sciences and Business Interdisciplinary Programs for Merrimack students interested in pursuing a career in healthcare and business.

Originally from Salem, MA, Ron grew up with two younger sisters. His father was a first-generation American who worked as a building mover and rigger at the Boston Navy Yard, while his mother worked domestically. When Ron graduated from high school, Merrimack was still a commuter college. “The school was in its infancy, but it was within reach, both financially and geographically. Coming

from a Catholic high school, the Augustinian tradition was really appealing. I felt like Merrimack would be a good fit for me, and it turns out it was a terrific choice.”

Life at Merrimack

Ron’s first impression of Merrimack was that “it was a bit intimidating, particularly Austin Hall,” he said. “That main door seemed so large at the time, but I was anxious to get acquainted with the students.” He commuted with Frank Girard ’62, H’16 (the namesake of the Girard School of Business) and

Frank’s brother, as well as a few others from the Salem area. On campus, Ron became a member of Sigma Beta Kappa, worked on the Merrimack yearbook, and was a photography editor for the school newspaper. “I came in contact with lots of students and made many lasting friendships,” he said.

Initially, Ron majored in pre-dentistry, but after two years he transferred to the business school. “I probably wasn’t the most gifted student,” Ron admitted, “so I had to work pretty hard. But the combination of good instruction and hard work produced reasonably good results in the end.” His early interest in healthcare and business would ultimately lead him to a lifelong career in hospital administration.

A Healthcare Visionary

After graduating from Merrimack, Ron attended the University of Iowa where he earned his master’s in healthcare administration. This led to a job at Huntington Hospital on Long Island, NY, where he worked in the storeroom. After many years, he ended up in the corner office. “I was very fortunate to become involved in many healthcare boards, organizations, and advisory groups,” he said. He was chairman of a 23-hospital regional association and rose to become

the chairman of the NY state healthcare organization (150 hospitals) that introduced him to leaders across the country. “It was especially rewarding to do a great deal of lobbying on behalf of hospitals all over the country, which led me to the White House on a few occasions,” he said.

Ron’s industry vision helped forge a strategic corporate alliance with the \$7B Northwell Health System during its formative stages of development in the early 1990s; it now has 23 hospitals and 550 outpatient practices. He served on the System’s governing board for several years and, today, continues to consult through his own practice, QHC Advisory Group.

Last year Ron was invited back to Merrimack to speak to a group of health sciences students as part of the Health Sciences Professional Development Speaker Series — an opportunity for students to interact with seasoned healthcare professionals. “It was a humbling and personally fulfilling experience,” said Ron. “To come back to campus after so many years and remember my simple roots as I stood before a class of very bright, articulate students — I thought, wow.”

Returning to Merrimack after so many years made Ron realize that while so much had changed — the buildings, the classrooms, and the support facilities — the College’s commitment to Augustinian ideals was more alive than ever. “I believe these ideals are deeply transformative for students. They certainly were for me, and they served me well throughout my entire career even though I wasn’t overly religious. I also think the college’s core tradition of liberal arts provides students with a great departure point for their careers and is equally important for enjoying life’s rich offerings.”

The Innovation Fund

The one constant in Ron’s life was always JoAn. He met her in high school and dated her throughout his years at Merrimack, and the two have been together ever since. “JoAn is as equally committed to Merrimack’s continued success as I am,”

said Ron. “We both wanted to support President Hopey’s vision, and we were able to create a new and imaginative student fund.” The Innovation Fund for Health Sciences and Business Interdisciplinary Programs will foster new partnerships and programs between the Girard School of Business and Merrimack’s new School of Health Sciences, including enhanced curriculum development, teaching, and career networking and experiential learning opportunities.

Founded in fall of 2017, the School of Health Sciences offers a strong foundation in the basic sciences, mathematics, and technology, enhanced by diverse experiential learning opportunities. This student-centered curriculum fosters an active learning environment and practical experience in the healthcare and human performance fields.

The School of Health Sciences has built great momentum in its academics throughout campus, regionally, and nationally, and it is now setting the course of establishing a nursing degree in the Fall of 2019.

Kyle McInnis, Sc.D., dean of the School of Health Sciences, said, “Ron and JoAn’s gift will allow Merrimack to develop future healthcare workers who have both clinical and business acumen.”

“Given my background, I wanted to help students who were interested in a similar career track,” said Ron. My passion is healthcare. I’ve seen the difference it can make in so many lives, though we still have a long way to go in terms of quality of care and equal access for all Americans. Whenever I come across students who have an interest in it, I do whatever I can to encourage them.”

On Giving

Ron believes that the personal gratification of helping your alma mater is untouched by any other feeling in life. “I think Merrimack’s growth and development have been stunning under President Hopey’s leadership. It’s quite remarkable what

the college has been able to accomplish. Education is so much more than bricks and mortar. It’s the people and the faculty that really matter. To me Merrimack is a shining star in the constellation of colleges.”

TOGETHER WE DISCOVER EVENT CELEBRATES RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

In celebration of milestone gifts to Merrimack *Together for Good* Campaign, the College held a celebration in early May for the innovative research being performed on campus and the generous investments by benefactors all inspired to support the Standing up for Good initiatives.

+ STANDING UP FOR GOOD

Dr. Laurence M. Demers ’60, H’11 and Susan Demers ’62; The Anthony and Gladys Sakowich Charitable Foundation; and James C. Zampell ’75 and Christine M. Zampell ’75 were honored for their continuing support of research at the College. More than 100 guests attended the celebration, held in the Casey Family Engineering Innovation Center in the Mendel Science Center. The event featured interactive demonstrations and briefings on current research being done by leading faculty and students.

“I am proud to be here at an institution that does such good for so many and that attracts such thoughtful and giving people as yourselves,” said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. “Your support means so much every day.”

Dr. Demers is a distinguished professor emeritus of pathology and medicine at Penn State College of Medicine and a former chairman of Merrimack’s Board of Trustees. Susan Demers is a former chemist for Raytheon. They established the Laurence

M. Demers Professorship in Life Sciences to support scholar-researchers; it is currently held by Associate Professor of Biology Charlotte Berkes, Ph.D.

“The Sakowich name has become legendary on campus through the Sakowich Campus Center, endowed scholarships, and many gifts that have improved student life,” Hopey said. The foundation’s newest legacy includes significant endowments to create an undergraduate research center and a scholarship.

Senior Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations, Sara Jane Brazda announced that Delia Cormier ’22 is the first recipient of the Anthony and Gladys Sakowich Foundation Endowed Scholarship, established with a \$1 million endowment. The scholarship is awarded to students from the Merrimack Valley and New Hampshire Lakes Region and/or those who have enjoyed the services of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Cormier, of Laconia (New Hampshire) High School, who is president of her senior class, took part in extracurricular activities such as track, cross-country, and basketball, was named female athlete of the season, was homecoming queen, and carried a 3.9 grade point average. Cormier is a civil engineering major.

The Anthony J. Sakowich Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities will give students and faculty on-campus summer research experiences across all disciplines. The program promotes scholarly collaboration between students and faculty from mid-May to mid-July.

Jim and Christine Zampell are the founders of Zampell, Inc., an industrial manufacturing organization that specializes in engineering and construction of refractories, insulation, and scaffolding, as well as facilities maintenance and management in the commercial sector. Christine is a former trustee of Merrimack, and together she and Jim are vice chairs of the College’s *Together for Good* Campaign. On top of their generous scholarship endowments, they have endowed

Merrimack's first faculty fellowship program, The Zampell Family Faculty Fellowship, which will provide \$50,000 annually in perpetuity.

Zampell Fellowships offer professional development opportunities in the form of grants to pursue research, writing, conferences, special equipment and opportunities to grow student collaborations and research. The five inaugural Zampell Family Faculty Fellows for the 2017-18 year were on hand to meet the Zampells: Sadegh Asgari, assistant professor of civil engineering; Isabelle Cherney, dean, School of Education and Social Policy; Anne Gatling, associate professor of education; Amelia Mallona, assistant professor of education; and James Kaklamanos, assistant professor of civil engineering.

Dr. Hopey used the opportunity to report that the *Together for Good* Campaign — the largest fundraising effort in Merrimack's history, with a goal of \$50 million — has now raised more than \$20 million since its 2016 public launch.

RIBBON CUTTING OPENS THE NEW FOLEY FAMILY CROSSING

On July 31, 2018, Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., and Athletic Director Jeremy Gibson joined Vincent P. Foley Jr. '68 and his wife, Jeanne, in dedicating the new Foley Family Crossing, which provides a path from residential dormitories and parking to the athletic district.

"I want to thank you for this beautiful new crossing," Dr. Hopey said. "The official opening of the Foley Family Crossing creates the new gateway to our athletic district and our campus."



President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. (far left), and Athletic Director Jeremy Gibson (far right) joined Vincent P. Foley Jr '68 and his wife, Jeanne, to open the Foley Family Crossing.

The naming of the crossing was a touching gesture by the College, said Foley. His collegiate days include some of his happiest memories especially playing flag football with friends.

In addition to a substantial financial gift to name the bridge and support for Merrimack athletics, the Foleys have recently endowed a scholarship supporting students from Foley's hometown of Lawrence, MA.

"It's a very humbling experience for me, as you can imagine," Foley said. "When you do things in life, be aware of how you impact other people."

"Actions can have rewards or consequences on others that aren't always anticipated, so it's important to think through decisions," Foley said. "Being a benefactor to Merrimack has been a good decision."

"It's a very humbling experience for me, as you can imagine. When you do things in life, be aware of how you impact other people."

VINCENT P. FOLEY JR. '68

TOGETHER FOR +GOOD+

The Campaign for Merrimack College

TOGETHER + WE ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS

Progress Toward Campaign Goal



BUILDING FOR GOOD
GOAL \$10M

\$9.2M
RAISED

COMPETING FOR GOOD
GOAL \$6M

\$3.4M
RAISED

INNOVATING FOR GOOD
GOAL \$2M

\$1.7M
RAISED

STANDING UP FOR GOOD
GOAL \$21M

\$26.2M
RAISED

SPONSORED RESEARCH/OTHER
GOAL \$4M

\$5.1M
RAISED

THE MERRIMACK FUND
GOAL \$7M

\$5.4M
RAISED

"GOOD TO GREAT" SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE (new endowed/current use scholarships)

\$3.7M
RAISED



\$3M
GOAL



For the latest news on the campaign and how you can get involved, please visit WWW.MERRIMACK.EDU/TOGETHERFORGOOD.



The Merrimack Fund

Gifts to The Merrimack Fund empower the College to realize its vision. From creating more student learning programs on campus to making critical academic hires that will enable Merrimack's reputation to soar, your investment will touch areas related to teaching, research, and student scholarship in fundamental ways.

Make your gift today at
www.merrimack.edu/gift

- + TOGETHER WE **CAN**.
- + TOGETHER WE **STAND**.
- + TOGETHER **FOR GOOD**.



A SPOTLIGHT ON MERRIMACK ATHLETES

“MISSION MERRIMACK” UNDER WAY FOR NEW MEN’S ICE HOCKEY COACH SCOTT BOREK



It’s been just over six months since Scott Borek took the reins as head coach of Merrimack’s men’s ice hockey program — becoming the eighth head coach in College history. Since that time, Borek — a Swampscott native — has logged nearly as many hours on a plane

or in a car as he has on the ice. In fact, as soon as the introductory press conference concluded, he left for one of many recruiting trips that filled his schedule between April and October.

Not that it should come as a surprise; Borek was lauded for his recruiting at each of his prior two coaching stops as an associate head coach for both Providence College and University of New Hampshire, where his teams qualified for 13 of the 16 NCAA tournaments. The message he delivers to potential future Warriors is captured in two words — “Mission Merrimack” — a bold vision that embodies the trajectory and spirit of Merrimack College over the past eight years, recognizing that as the college has grown in scope, enrollment, infrastructure and reputation, so too has its expectations.

When flying around the country, Borek and his coaching staff don’t position Merrimack as an underdog. Rather, they boast about the incredible investments Merrimack has made in the program and the entire athletic department — with the College’s recent invitation and acceptance to join the Division I Northeast Conference serving as case in point. And they have promoted Borek’s vision from day one — Mission Merrimack, a commitment to end every day knowing that you have done something to make the program better.

NATIONAL TITLE CAPS OFF BANNER YEAR FOR MEN’S LACROSSE

As the players piled on the Gillette Stadium turf Memorial Day weekend, national championship trophy in tow, they kicked off a celebration that would last the entirety of the summer. With this accomplishment, the Merrimack College men’s lacrosse team solidified a storybook ending, not only for itself, but also for the entire College.

The men’s lacrosse Warriors completed a historic campaign that ended with the third national title in school history and the first in the history of the program. They won a school-record 18 games and secured their third Northeast-10 Conference tournament title — and first since 2010 — before dominating all three NCAA championship games, culminating in a 23–6 victory in the national title game against Saint Leo in front of thousands of fans at Gillette Stadium.

The victory put a bow on a sensational year from start to finish for the entire athletic department, which saw a department-record seven teams qualify for their respective NCAA tournaments and three programs win NE10 championships, including the men’s lacrosse team. The on-field success was further exemplified by Merrimack earning the NE10 Presidents’ Cup for the second time ever, the first time in 20 years as the conference’s top athletic program.



The successes of the lacrosse team and overall athletic program are further examples of Merrimack’s incredible trajectory. While Merrimack enjoyed another banner academic year in 2017–18, with the opening of Crowe Hall and the Arcidi Center, the welcoming of the largest-ever freshman class and continued investment in new and existing academic programs, the College’s rising national reputation has been further bolstered by its athletic accomplishments.

JOE CANNATA '12 WINS ECHL'S KELLY CUP WITH COLORADO EAGLES

Men's ice hockey alumnus Joe Cannata '12, one of the top goaltenders in Merrimack's Division I history, capped off his best professional season by leading the Colorado Eagles to an ECHL title. Cannata, who made 32 saves in the Kelly Cup's winner-take-all game 7 against the Florida Everblades, was named the second star of the game in a 3-2 victory.

A native of Wakefield, Massachusetts, Cannata enjoyed his best year as a pro goaltender, finishing the regular season with a record of 21-5-1 in net and the league's fifth best goals-against average. His .931 save percentage led the ECHL. He was equally impressive in the playoffs, playing 24 games with a 16-6-1 record, a 2.55 goals-against average, and a .913 save percentage. With the win, the Eagles won their second consecutive Kelly Cup championship and became just the fourth team in the league's 30-year history to win back-to-back titles.

During his time at Merrimack, Cannata was an All-American who earned Hockey East Goaltender of the Year honors, was named a Hockey East First Team All-Star, and helped the Warriors reach their first appearance in the Hockey East Championship Final back



Jo Cannata '12 celebrates the ECHL's Kelly Cup win with his teammates

in 2011. He is the program's all-time leader in wins, total saves, games played, and minutes played, and he is among the program's all-time leaders in goals-against average and save percentage.

A former sixth-round NHL Draft selection by the Vancouver Canucks, Cannata has played professionally every season since 2011-12, spending the majority of his first five years in the American Hockey League.

FOX '09 WRAPS UP SUCCESSFUL FIRST SEASON AS HEAD COACH OF ROGER WILLIAMS WOMEN'S LACROSSE



Success has been no stranger to Merrimack College women's lacrosse alumna Jennifer Fox '09, who has quickly climbed the collegiate coaching ranks since concluding her playing career as a Warrior. At Merrimack, Fox was a business administration major, a two-year team captain, and vice president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

After her first season as head coach at Roger Williams University (Division III/Commonwealth Coast Conference), it's safe to say she has lived up to her own lofty expectations. Fox led the Hawks to a 13-4 overall record and earned CCC Coach of the Year honors. Her team finished second in the league and reached the CCC Tournament championship game, marking the program's fourth straight championship game berth.

Fox's progression from player to head coach has taken her across all three NCAA divisions. Along the way, she served as an assistant coach at Merrimack (in 2015), Saint Francis University (D-I/Northeast Conference) Endicott College (D-III/CCC), Simmons College (D-III/GNAC), and Randolph-Macon College (D-III/ODAC), as well as head coach at Norwood (MA) High School and several club teams throughout the region. She also spent four years working at Boston Scholar Athletes, a nonprofit organization committed to supporting academic achievement through athletics.

"My journey to reach this point in my coaching career is very unique, but one that I am so thankful for," Fox said. "I've been extremely lucky to have worked alongside some amazing head coaches in all three divisions, but I wouldn't be where I am today had I not played lacrosse at Merrimack. The life skills and values I learned on that team are things that I now try to pass on to the young women I have the privilege to coach."



WALSH WRAPS UP STINT WITH IRELAND LACROSSE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM AT ELITE OPEN MEN'S FESTIVAL

Bailey Walsh '18 of the Merrimack men's lacrosse team recently wrapped up a trip to Israel, where he participated in the 2018 Federation of International Lacrosse Elite Open Men's Festival. The tournament was held

July 13–20 at the Shefayim Soccer Complex in Netanya, Israel.

After graduating this past May with a degree in sports management and marketing, Walsh played on the Éire team, which was managed alongside the Irish national team as part of

the Ireland Lacrosse National Development Team program. "It was truly amazing to represent the country my ancestors are from," Walsh said. "International lacrosse is much different than NCAA play, but playing for Merrimack prepared me for the highest level of competition. It was gratifying to have the opportunity to play at this level after the incredible spring we had on campus. It was truly special to meet players from all around the world and compete on an international stage. Finally, finishing in third place at the festival was something our team took great pride in. I had the time of my life!"

Players for the Éire team have also competed in other games and tournaments outside the festival tournaments, including the Nick Kehoe International tournament in Manchester, England, and the Heritage Cup in Providence, Rhode Island.

Walsh wrapped up his career with the Warriors on the highest note possible: a national championship. He was a key contributor on offense and played in 15 games, netting 14 goals, including a pair in the national title game. The Derry, New Hampshire, native totaled 35 games for his career and finished with 22 points (21 goals).



The Warrior Fund

+ COMPETING FOR GOOD

Gifts to The Warrior Fund allow our more than 600 student-athletes to thrive competitively on the field, in the classroom, and throughout the community.

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Make your gift today at www.merrimack.edu/gift



MERRIMACK COLLEGE WELCOMED 27 NEW FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS THIS FALL.

President Christopher Hopey, Ph.D., celebrated faculty appointments during a reception where he told faculty and their guests that they had joined a true and close-knit community, at a college that is on the rise. Provost Allan Weatherwax, Ph.D., urged them to join in the spirit of the Merrimack family and engage in all that Merrimack has to offer — and become part of the rich heritage of giving back to students, colleagues and the college.



Antonellis



Chiarelli



Clarke



Cohen



Davila



Fitzpatrick



Frame



Franckle



Frisch



Latiano



McCoy



O'Donnell Polyakov



Oh



Peacock



Rocha



Shonkoff



Stroud



Whatley Blum



Yetter

The new faculty cohort, spanning all five schools, includes:

- **Paul Antonellis**, Lecturer, Management. Ed.D., Capella University.
- **Leena Bharath**, Assistant Clinical Professor, Health Sciences. Ph.D., Oklahoma State University.
- **Yanitzia Canetti**, Lecturer, Spanish. Ph.D., Havana University.
- **Joseph Chiarelli**, Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry. Ph.D., Tufts University.
- **Patricia Clarke**, Lecturer, Marketing. M.B.A., Babson College.
- **Matthew Cohen**, Lecturer, Political Science. Ph.D., Northeastern University.
- **Maria Teresa Davila**, Lecturer, Religious and Theological Studies. Ph.D., Boston College.
- **Ellen Fitzpatrick**, Scholar in Residence, Interdisciplinary Institute. Ph.D., Michigan State University.
- **Mariko Frame**, Assistant Professor, Economics. Ph.D., University of Denver.
- **Rebecca Franckle**, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences. Sc.D., Harvard University.
- **Nicole Frisch**, Assistant Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice. Ph.D., University of Maryland.
- **Tahir Hameed**, Visiting Associate Professor, Management Information Systems. Ph.D., Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology.
- **Jonathan Latiano**, Assistant Professor, Visual and Performing Arts. M.F.A., Maryland Institute College of Art.
- **F. Dorie Mansen**, Lecturer, Religious and Theological Studies. Ph.D., Boston University.
- **Diana Marginean**, Lecturer, Compass Program. Ph.D., Brandeis University.
- **Mark McCoy**, Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry. Ph.D., University of California.
- **Lisa O'Brien**, Assistant Professor, Education. Ed.D., Boston University.
- **Emma O'Donnell Polyakov**, Assistant Professor, Religious and Theological Studies. Ph.D., Boston College.
- **Seungbin Oh**, Assistant Professor, Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Ph.D., University of Central Florida.
- **Jessica Peacock**, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences. Ph.D., Springfield College.
- **Mary-Joan Pelletier Potvin**, Lecturer, Accounting. M.S.A., Suffolk University.
- **Lauren Rocha**, Lecturer, English. M.A., University of New Hampshire.
- **Lynne Susan Sheppard**, Associate Clinical Professor and Executive Director of Nursing. D.N.P., American Sentinel University.
- **Eleanor Shonkoff**, Lecturer, Health Sciences. Ph.D., University of Southern California.
- **Rena Stroud**, Assistant Professor, Education. Ph.D., University of Massachusetts.
- **Janet Whatley Blum**, Professor, Health Sciences. Sc.D., Boston University.
- **Alyssa Yetter**, Assistant Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice. Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University.



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

1947 Society

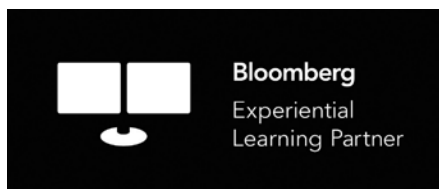
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 INSPIRE OUR COMMUNITY

Including Merrimack College in your estate plan is a simple yet powerful way to invest in the future of the College. When you make a planned gift of any size, you help strengthen the Merrimack College experience for the next generation of scholars.

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A DISTINCTIVE STUDENT ENVIRONMENT

MERRIMACK RECOGNIZED AS BLOOMBERG-CERTIFIED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PARTNER



Merrimack College was recently designated as a Bloomberg-Certified Experiential Learning Partner (ELP), a recognition that highlights the leadership role of the Girard School of Business in business education.

In order to qualify for this designation, a college must have at least three Bloomberg terminals and at least 100 students who achieve the Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) certification each year. With its 19 terminals in the Mucci Capital Markets Lab and 250 students earning BMC certification, Merrimack far exceeds these qualifications.

An additional requirement is that ELP institutions must use Bloomberg in various courses to show their continued commitment to experiential learning. Mary Papazian, finance professor and managing director of the Mucci Capital Markets Lab, integrates Bloomberg into all of her courses and requires BMC certification in each class. Other faculty members in finance, strategy, and introductory business courses also incorporate the use of Bloomberg terminals in their classes.

“Being recognized as a Bloomberg Experiential Learning Partner is a significant designation for our students and the Girard School of Business at Merrimack,” said Papazian. “Through the use of Bloomberg technology, our students receive hands-on learning through real-world applications that are common in leading financial companies across the world. We are proud to have an academic partnership with Bloomberg, which allows us to be innovative and current in our business curriculum. The strong research skills and global market awareness that students gain through their experience with Bloomberg terminals position them well, relative to other business graduates, and set them up for career success.”

MERRIMACK COLLEGE AWARDED \$100,000 FROM A CUMMINGS FOUNDATION GRANT

Merrimack’s new School of Health Sciences is one of 100 local nonprofits chosen to receive grants of \$100,000 each through the Cummings Foundation’s \$100K for 100 program. The school was selected from a total of 597 applicants.

“This generous grant will support a variety of activities as we grow this new school, including student career development, faculty–student mentored research, and program development,” said Dr. Kyle McInnis, dean of the School of Health Sciences. “Not only will it help fund the education and career development of nearly 600 undergraduate and graduate students and improve public health and healthcare in Essex County, it will also help support a new graduate fellowship to be known as the John ‘Jack’ Twomey ‘56 Graduate Fellow.”

The \$100K for 100 program supports nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. “We are indebted to nonprofit organizations like Merrimack College, which

have a meaningful positive impact on the local communities where our colleagues and clients live and work,” said Joel Swets, the Cummings Foundation’s executive director. “We are delighted to invest in their important programs and services.”

With the conclusion of this grant cycle, the foundation has now awarded more than \$220 million to Greater Boston nonprofits. In addition, this past May the foundation announced an additional \$10 million through its new Sustaining Grants, which will extend \$100K for 100 funding to previous winners for 10 more years.

Based in Woburn, MA, the Cummings Foundation was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings. It directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities in Marlborough and Woburn. Bill Cummings released his self-written memoir, *Starting Small and Making It Big: An Entrepreneur’s Journey to Billion-Dollar Philanthropist*, in March 2018. Additional information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org and cummings.com/book.



REUNION BRINGS MORE THAN 500 ALUMNI AND GUESTS TO CAMPUS

Merrimack's Reunion weekend on June 1-3 brought more than 500 alumni and guests back to campus. Alumni representing six decades — graduating class years 1953-2013 — enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect and rediscover their alma mater.

Reunion got underway Friday evening with the annual Leadership Appreciation Reception to thank alumni and friends, including all reunion class committee members, for their time and philanthropy on behalf of Merrimack. That evening's main event was the Warrior Welcome Back Celebration, which was held for the first time in Duane Stadium, the college's new multipurpose field and elite track. More than 300 guests dined on a New England-themed buffet and viewed a spectacular fireworks display.

On Saturday, after morning yoga, alumni attended interactive health sciences and technology demonstrations to explore new worlds with virtual reality headsets, diagnose mock patients in a clinical simulation suite, and examine the human body using the Anatomage 3D dissection table. Other activities included campus tours to see various points of interest — among them, the statue of Christ the Teacher, St. Ambrose Friary, the Academic Quad, Sakowich Campus Center, Cascia Hall, the Innovation Center, and the Merrimack Athletics Complex — as well as the Warrior Family Barbecue on the Sakowich patio and lawn, the annual Golden Graduate Society Luncheon at the Rogers Center for the Arts, and the Reunion Mass in the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher.

On Saturday evening, all classes assembled for a cocktail reception on the Crowe Hall patio, followed by separate dinners (by

class grouping) in the McQuade Library. The evening ended back at Crowe Hall, where everyone came together again to enjoy desserts and sip on nightcaps while dancing to live music performed by the band Massive Grove.



ARTIFACTS



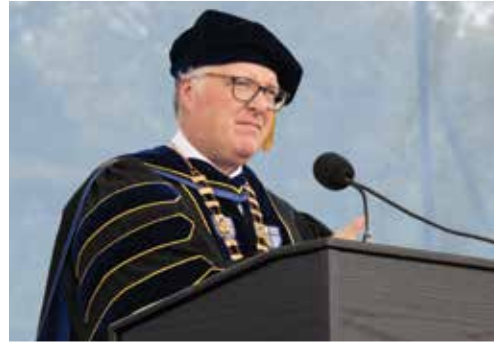
On Sunday, June 3, 1951, Merrimack College held the very first outdoor **COMMENCEMENT** ceremony in front of Cushing Hall. On May 20, 2018, after years of being held in the Lawler Rink, Commencement was once again held outdoors. This time, students processed onto the brand-new Duane Stadium, where 889 undergraduates and graduate students received their diplomas.

COMMENCEMENT RECAP

Merrimack celebrated its 68th Commencement in May and, for the first time, held the ceremony outdoors at the new Duane Stadium, graduating 889 students, including 657 undergraduates and 232 graduate students.

Highlights:

- The keynote speaker, Sonia Manzano, who is best known for her role as the character Maria on the long-running PBS Television show *Sesame Street*, where she also earned 15 Emmy Awards as a writer.
- Victoria Robbins '18 gave the undergraduate commencement address, and Brian Shea M'18 gave the commencement address representing graduate school students.
- Honorary degrees were awarded to educator and philanthropist Kerridan Crowe P'17; Liberty Mutual Insurance Group chairman and CEO, David Long; former Lawrence (Massachusetts) Public Schools superintendent and current state Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Jeffrey C. Riley; and WCVB Channel 5 public affairs director and host for *CityLine*, Karen Holmes Ward.
- The Edward G. Roddy Jr. Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award was presented to professor Kathleen Shine Cain '72.
- The Merrimack Medal for commitment to outstanding service was presented to Alfred Larsson '18, a member of the men's hockey team who was a three-time Hockey East All-Academics member with a 4.0 grade point average. He majored in mechanical engineering with a minor in mathematics and was active on campus, including volunteering as a tutor for area youth.



NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

The accomplishments and shared expertise of Merrimack's exceptional faculty

▶ Assistant Professor of Human Development **LAURA HSU** recently answered questions in *WalletHub's* piece titled "States with the Best & Worst School Systems."

▶ Merrimack's Assistant Professor of Finance **FAN CHEN** was featured in the "Ask the Experts" section of *WalletHub's* article about low-interest credit cards.

▶ **WILLIAM WIANS**, professor of philosophy, delivered the opening keynote address at the 2018 Fonte Aretusa conference in Siracusa, Sicily, on June 6. His topic was "Violence and the Origins of Beauty." Wians discussed three figures closely associated with the Greek city of Syracuse on Sicily: Aeschylus, whose play *Prometheus Bound* was produced in the city's outdoor theater around 405 BC; the poems of Empedocles, who was born in nearby Acragas; and the philosopher Plato, who spent 13 years in Siracusa in a failed attempt to produce a philosopher king out of the local ruler Dionysius II.

▶ **DAN VLAHOS**, assistant professor of visual and performing arts, was recognized as Designer of the Week by *Print Magazine* on April 10, 2018. In the article, Vlahos shares some of his work in the local community, his favorite and most challenging projects, and his plans for the future. "Three things that inspire me are graphic design history, my students, and contemporary design outside of graphic design (especially architecture)," he said.

▶ **JULIANA COHEN**, assistant professor of health sciences, was featured in a *cnn.com* article "How School Lunches Measure Up in Countries Around the World" (published April 9, 2018). "When kids eat healthier foods," she said, "this can have a really important impact on their cognitive functioning, which can then translate potentially to better academic performance." Also featured was Cohen's 2015 study, published in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, which found shorter lunch periods to be linked with less-healthy eating among children.

▶ **MELISSA ZIMDARS**, assistant professor of communication, wrote a fake news "how-to" for the Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI) as part of the U.S. State

Department's ongoing campaign to counter misinformation in Africa. YALI supports young African leaders as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Sub-Saharan Africa.

▶ **RUSS OLWELL**, associate dean of the School of Education and Social Policy, published a column in the March 24, 2018, edition of the *Eagle-Tribune* about the benefits of early-college and dual-enrollment programs, which help students earn college credits while in high school and serve to make higher education more attractive and affordable to students. "The experience of taking a college class on a college campus with a professor gives students the experience of success in college, and that can give them and their families hope," Olwell wrote.

▶ **ISABELLE CHERNEY**, dean of the School of Education and Social Policy, was quoted in a March 20, 2018, article in *Fatherly*, an online magazine for dads, about the relationship between gender and toy selection. Cherney said studies show that it is fathers, not mothers, who tend to pigeonhole their sons into choosing stereotypical male toys. "Studies, over and over, show that mothers are really open. They don't mind if their boys are playing dress-up," she said. "One of the reasons it's so hard for boys to play with more feminine toys is that the fathers are very reluctant to let their boys play with feminine toys. Some still believe that playing with feminine toys might turn a boy homosexual. There is a stigma. It's very subtle. But kids pick that up."

▶ **HE LI**, professor of political science, published two pieces: an article, "Chinese Discourse on Constitutionalism and Its Impact on Reforms," in the September 2017 issue of the *Journal of Chinese Political Science*; and a book chapter, "China's Rise in Latin America: Myths and Realities," in *China, the United States and the Future of Latin America* (New York University Press, 2017).

▶ **APRIL BOWLING**, assistant professor of health sciences, had a paper accepted for publication in *Pediatric Obesity*, a peer-reviewed medical journal covering research into all aspects of obesity during childhood

and adolescence. Her paper is titled "ADHD Symptoms and Body Composition Changes in Childhood: A Longitudinal Study Evaluating Directionality of Associations."

▶ **JOSEPH VOGEL**, assistant professor of English, published an article, "The Confessions of Quentin Tarantino: Whitewashing Slave Rebellion in *Django Unchained*" in the March 2018 issue of the *Journal of American Culture*.

▶ **JANINE LEBLANC-STRACESKI**, associate professor and chair of biology, published a paper, "A Conserved Role of the Unconventional Myosin 1d in Laterality Determination," in the March 2018 issue of *Current Biology*. The paper was an international collaboration with colleagues in Germany and France and the culmination of many years of work with LeBlanc-Straceski's students.

▶ **ISABELLE CHERNEY**, dean of the School of Education and Social Policy, published a chapter, "Characteristics of Masculine and Feminine Toys and Gender-Differentiated Play," in the book *Gender Typing of Children's Toys: How Early Play Experiences Impact Development* (2018, American Psychological Association) by Erica S. Weisgram and Lisa M. Dinella.

▶ **DEBRA MICHALS**, assistant professor and director of women's and gender studies, was interviewed for a March 9, 2018, segment on WBUR radio about a new study by researcher Richard Jantz. The study claims that bones found on Nikumaroro Island in 1940 very likely belong to famed aviator Amelia Earhart, who disappeared over the Pacific Ocean in 1937 while attempting to circumnavigate the globe. Because the new study relied on reinterpreting an original analysis of the bones more than four decades ago rather than the bones themselves, which long ago disappeared, Michals conceded that it is not likely to close the book on the case. "The mystique around the disappearance of Amelia Earhart will lead a lot of people to that conclusion — that without the real bones, how do we know?" she said.

FORWARD THINKERS

AUSTIN SCHOLARS LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITY NEARLY DOUBLES IN SIZE

The Austin Scholars living-learning community has doubled in size from 67 last year to 121 freshmen for the coming year, including commuters for the first time.

The oldest living-learning community on campus, Austin Scholars was originally funded by the Flatley Foundation for first-year students. But enthusiasm has been so great that the program has expanded each year and now includes freshman through junior classes. In 2019, it may even include seniors.

“Almost all sixty of the 67 freshmen who took part last year are continuing in the program for their sophomore year,” said program advisor Sister Jeanmarie (Sister Jeanne) Gribaudo, CSJ, who is also director of Merrimack’s City of God Program. In addition, 34 juniors will participate in the program.

In this community, resident students live together in Monican Centre and South House and take part in two hours of volunteer service each week. On Fridays, they participate in theological reflection to understand how the things they learn in the classroom mesh with what they see, hear, and experience during volunteer work. The reflections give students time to stop and find the right words to express what their service means to them.

“It’s meaningful that the students who take part in reflection can see they are not alone in an unfamiliar place,” Sister Jeanne said. “I would say it’s part of President Hopey’s *Agenda for Distinction* in that it really answers a fundamental question: What does it mean for us to be a contemporary Catholic college? This community gives me a sense of hope for the future, and I’m in awe of the way our students respond to it.”

MERRIMACK ALUMNA WORKS FRONT LINE OF MAJOR TV NEWS OUTLET



Brittany Dempsey '17

Brittany Dempsey '17 always thought working in broadcast television was an unobtainable goal. After transferring to Merrimack midway through her freshmen year and becoming

immersed in the Communication and Media Department, she saw her future in journalism taking shape.

Now a news assignment editor for WCVB-TV in Boston (an ABC-affiliated station), Dempsey — who interned at the station’s assignment desk prior to her current position — has a hand in shaping the news at one of the leading broadcast news agencies in the region. In this role, she responds to breaking news, gathers news tips, monitors police and fire scanners for emergency situations, and assists in sending news crews out to scenes. “It can be an intense work environment and incredibly time sensitive, but I love being pushed outside my comfort zone,” she said. “It is the best way for me to grow and receive a lot of on-the-job experience.”

Dempsey attributes her success to the strong academic and professional guidance she received during her time at Merrimack. Specifically, her faculty advisor, Assistant Professor of Communication Andrew Tollison, bolstered her confidence and helped pave the way to the broadcast world.

“Professor Tollison helped me prepare for my interviews and put aside extra time to work with me on my cover letter and résumé,” said Dempsey. “He also met with me if I needed assistance studying for a test in his class, and he always provided great advice and instilled confidence in me as a student.”

Dempsey envisions staying in the broadcast journalism world or in a closely related field. She received her B.A. in communication and media from Merrimack in 2017.

CIVIL ENGINEERING STUDENT SPENT THE SUMMER EXPLORING ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Leslie Lima '21, a 19-year-old sophomore at Merrimack, found a unique way to spend her hot summer days. As an electrical engineering intern for SMMA — an architecture, engineering, and design firm in Cambridge, MA — the civil engineering major attended site visits with professional civil engineers and encountered real-world issues during lengthy department meetings. Lima was one of 12 interns who participated in the first year of SMMA’s Integrated Internship Program.

During the first month, Lima shadowed the Site Department, which consists of civil engineers, landscape architects, and project managers, and worked on LEED documentation for the firm’s biggest project at the time, Somerville High School. “The shadowing phase allowed us to experience how other disciplines tie into a well-practiced design,” she said. The focus of the second month was a collaborative project in which two teams worked on separate designs for a proposed addition to the existing Somerville Public Library.

Through this experience, Lima was able to directly contribute to the advancement of SMMA’s mission by researching and recommending new software options.





Students overseeing \$118K financial portfolio meet investor Trustee Paul Mucci, P'07

“By applying their existing lighting calculation tool, I provided input on the process and began research on a new tool to be utilized by the electrical department,” she said. “After researching and testing out the new software, I concluded that it was a better fit for the department.”

After completing her undergraduate degree, Lima plans to return to Merrimack to complete a master’s in engineering management and to fulfill all necessary requirements to achieve a professional engineering license. “In between all of that, I would love to begin a civil engineering career full of growth, travel, and leadership,” she said.

\$118K STUDENT-MANAGED INVESTMENT FUND SHOWCASES MERRIMACK’S COMMITMENT TO APPLIED LEARNING

In the ultimate model of applied learning, eight Merrimack students are managing a robust \$118,000 financial portfolio through the Merrimack Investment Fund. Launched in February 2017 with \$100,000 in seed money from Merrimack Trustee Paul Mucci, P’07, it is the college’s first-ever student-managed investment portfolio.

“The students run the Merrimack Investment Fund like a regular company. They are very professional, and it takes a lot of initiative,” said Mucci. “I’ve always believed that this kind of hands-on learning is very important, and, after seeing the results thus far, I feel proud of what’s being done here. It makes me feel good about investing in Merrimack, because I know it makes a significant impact.”

Through the fund, student money managers execute trades and are overseen by faculty and an executive advisory committee. They conduct investment research in Merrimack’s Mucci Capital Markets Lab, a state-of-the-art facility established through the generosity of Mucci and his wife, Joyce, and equipped with the latest investment tools.

“The Merrimack Investment Fund allows students to control real money in a fast-paced environment,” said Marc Biega ’17, M’18, the fund’s portfolio manager.

“We are actually making money or losing money, and that is such a powerful experience to have while still in college.”

Moving forward, Merrimack is looking to grow the fund program by increasing the number of student participants taking equity and bond analyst roles, attracting more donations to increase the size of the fund, and participating in competitions with other student-managed funds. As part of this effort, the college has launched a challenge campaign to inspire donors to match Mucci’s \$100,000 investment. Those interested in participating in the matching campaign are asked to contact Ryan Irwin, assistant vice president, Office of Development and Alumni Relations, at Irwinr@merrimack.edu or 978-837-3475.



Connor Jennings '19

MERRIMACK SENIOR EARNS FIRST \$10,000 PCAOB SCHOLARSHIP

Senior Connor Jennings '19, of Salem, MA, is the first Merrimack student to receive a \$10,000

scholarship from the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB).

Professor Donald Levis nominated Jennings for the scholarship based on his track record in class. “He was a very diligent student and had done well in my classes, so I was eager to nominate him,” Levis said. When Jennings returned to school from his co-op job at Daigle & Associates in Stoneham, MA, in early May, Levis pulled him out of his advanced accounting class to tell him about the nomination. Then, in late June, the PCAOB notified Jennings that he had earned the award.

“It’s definitely great news. I didn’t expect it to be that much,” Jennings said. “The joy in accounting comes from working with the numbers and seeing how life circumstances affect what people do with their money. I also like how accounting is used in all forms of business, allowing for a wide range of job opportunities in many different fields.”

After he graduates, Jennings plans to attend graduate school at Merrimack and then earn his CPA. “Merrimack is a great place to study,” he said. “I like the small community environment. I didn’t want to go to a bigger school and be a number in every class. Also, I’m close enough to home, not too far away.”

FACULTY FORGING PATHS



Left: Professor Warren Kay stops for a photo during his 500-mile pilgrimage.
Right: Students use the “eye tracker” to study a subject’s visual attention.

PROFESSOR WARREN KAY COMPLETES 500-MILE PILGRIMAGE IN SPAIN

In August 1968, 15-year-old Warren Kay and a friend completed a 250-mile run in four days, from Midland Park, New Jersey, to Washington, D.C. Now a professor of religious and theological studies at Merrimack, Kay recently commemorated the 50th anniversary of that achievement by trekking more than 500 miles along the northern coast of Spain as part of a pilgrimage to the city of Santiago de Compostela.

Kay’s wife, Nancy, joined him for this 32-day religious journey. Hiking every day, through rain and shine, they rested and refueled at hostels and eateries open only to those taking part in the pilgrimage. As Kay describes it, the trip was challenging. “In addition to walking 10 to 20 miles per day, we were hiking through a mountainous part of Spain, carrying backpacks that weighed close to 20 pounds. There was a lot of rain at the beginning of our trip, and that often turned the paths into rivers — or at least long patches of wet, deep mud. But even worse were the days when it wasn’t raining, as we walked along roads and paths that sometimes lasted for miles in a gradual uphill climb, with the sun beating down on us.”

In the end, the couple found the experience to be life-changing, spiritual, and liberating. “We had to carry all that we needed on our backs, and we discovered that we didn’t really need much,” he said. “We learned to be thankful for the little things that we normally take for granted, like relaxing in a

bed after eight hours of walking in the rain. And with all the walking we did every day, we each lost about 15 pounds!”

EYE TRACKER TECHNOLOGY UNCOVERS WHAT PEOPLE FIXATE ON

Faculty and students at Merrimack College are using a sophisticated tool — the eye tracker — to evaluate various eye movements. Specifically, they are conducting research that assesses when a person enters a “flow,” which is a state of being fully immersed in a visual task such as reading.

Participants in this research read a special passage featuring a manipulated color font that helps to induce a state of flow. Once they reach that state, researchers attempt to determine if they can measure where an individual’s attention is most heavily focused. The eye tracker, which consists of a small desk-mounted camera, uses complex algorithms to determine the exact eye position when participants read on the screen.

Merrimack’s eye tracker research is led by Michael Stroud, associate professor of psychology, whose expertise focuses on visual attention. “The eye tracker is truly a unique piece of research equipment that allows us to explore questions in a way that’s simply not possible through other experimental means,” he said. “Having access to this tool allows for a variety of interdisciplinary collaborations.”

Ray Lavoie, assistant professor of marketing at Merrimack and an expert in

flow, credits the eye tracker for expanding his research capabilities. “By using the eye tracker, we are trying to capture the relationship between visual attention and the major aspects of flow. We want to look at visual attention over time in a process, and we plan to build on this foundation to look at the downstream effects of flow on visual attention.”

This fall, Stroud and select students plan to use the eye tracker to gather data on eye movements involved in playing video games and in areas of business marketing.

MERRIMACK PROFESSOR’S STUDY PUBLISHED IN AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE



Juliana Cohen, Sc.D.

A study conducted by Juliana Cohen, Sc.D., assistant professor of health sciences at Merrimack, was recently published in the June issue of the *American Journal of Preventive*

Medicine. Cohen’s research, which addressed sugar intake during pregnancy, found that pregnant moms and their offspring should limit added sugars in their diets to protect childhood cognition.

“The aim of our study was to examine associations of pregnancy and offspring sugar consumption (sucrose, fructose) with child cognition,” said Cohen. “Additionally, we examined associations of child cognition with maternal and child consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages, other beverages including diet soda and juice, and fruit.”

The study determined that poorer childhood cognition occurred, particularly in memory and learning, when pregnant women or their offspring consumed greater quantities of sugar. Substituting diet soda for sugar-sweetened versions during pregnancy also appeared to have negative effects. However, children’s fruit consumption had beneficial effects and was associated with higher cognitive scores.

This research was supported by grants from the U.S. NIH (R01 HD34568, K24 HD069408, R01 ES016314).

GRANT SUPPORTS RESEARCH ON CHILD WELLNESS, TECHNOLOGY



April Bowling

Assistant Professor of Health Science April Bowling and her collaborative team of public and private institutions have received a \$200,000 grant for the GameSquad Wellness Program for Neurodiverse

Youth, studying whether exergaming paired with virtual health coaching can motivate children with mental health disorders and autism to increase their exercise for its health benefits.

Bowling is the lead investigator in the collaborative that includes UMass Medical School, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Boston Medical Center Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Clinic, and Marblehead Public Schools' Therapeutic Intervention Designed for Educational Success Program.

Funding is being provided by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau in Washington, D.C., through UMass Medical Center's Healthy Weight Research Network.

Children with mental health disorders and autism suffer from chronic diseases like diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure at higher rates than other children. That is in part because they are more inactive, Bowling said. "Even children who don't face these challenges generally don't get enough exercise in our country today. Now imagine a child who struggles with sports or who regularly doesn't feel well enough to play."

The goal isn't to have the children, ages 12 to 17, lose weight, just to get them more active. However, this particular intervention has proven to help obese children lose weight in a past study, Bowling said.

Children in the study use an Xbox-type of controller to play games such as "Just Dance" that require them to get up and move around to advance to the next level, much like the popular Wii games but more appropriate for older children.

"We're trying to turn the tables and find a way to get healthy with something they like to do already," Bowling said. "They are actually getting a workout while they play the game."

Children wear a Fitbit to track their movement so results can be analyzed.

ON THE RISE

Merrimack College has risen to 50th place in *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Regional Universities in the North for 2018. The category includes 197 institutions.

Merrimack was also ranked as the 11th most innovative school in the Regional Universities North category. The college landed at 52 for Best Value on the same list and cracked the Top 100 for Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs nationally.

The north region stretches from Maryland to Maine, including Pennsylvania and New York.

The ranking follows on the heels of *Money Magazine* naming Merrimack one of the top 10 "most transformative" institutions in the country based on student outcomes, such as graduation rates and post-commencement salaries.

In 2010, Merrimack was ranked 174 in its *U.S. News* category.

CREATE YOUR IMPACT PANEL DISCUSSION

On October 18, a panel of distinguished leaders participated in *Personal HERstories*, the first *Create Your Impact* event of the academic year.

In the second-floor lounge of the Arcidi Center, more than 120 female staff and faculty gathered to listen to the personal and professional journeys of President Christine Riordan of Adelphi University, Superintendent Cynthia Paris of Lawrence Public Schools and Merrimack College's women's ice hockey head coach Erin Hamlen. The program was moderated by Trustee Marybeth McInnis H'17, who guided panelists through a list of questions submitted by attendees prior to the event.

Topics ranged from personal experiences such as "who inspired you the most?" and "describe a daily habit" to professional experiences including "how do you know when to push or walk away?" and "who took a chance on you, and who did you take a chance on?"

Panelists provided thoughtful and personal responses about themselves, their decision making and how they navigate the balance between their personal and professional lives.

To start the discussion McInnis asked each panelist to share the name of her favorite book and why. Hamlen said "The Boys in the Boat" resonated with her due to the story of personal grit and determination against unimaginable odds. Paris said the children's book "Stellaluna" was her favorite as she reflected on parts of the story that represented resilience amongst adversity. Riordan described how the human behavioral insights in Viktor Frankl's "Man's Search for

Meaning" have helped her as she leads and manages a complex organization.

The event was capped off with a reception, which allowed attendees to network with each panelist.

Personal HERstories is a programming element of *Create Your Impact*, an initiative created by the Office of the President



FIVE FACULTY MEMBERS AWARDED TENURE

President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., recently announced the awarding of tenure to five members of the faculty.



Bannon



Bilev



Kaklamanos



Stuetzle



Yan

CHRISTOPHER STUETZLE, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Computer Science

Dr. Christopher Stuetzle joined the computer science department at Merrimack in 2012. His scholarship focuses primarily on interdisciplinary projects in political

BRYAN BANNON, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Philosophy

Dr. Bryan E. Bannon is associate professor of philosophy and director of the environmental studies and sustainability program at Merrimack. His research focuses on how conceptualizations of nature shape our normative responses to the environment. He has published essays in journals such as *Environmental Ethics*, *Environmental Philosophy*, *Ethics & the Environment*, and *Ethics, Policy, and Environment* and is the author of *From Mastery to Mystery: A Phenomenological Foundation for an Environmental Ethic* (Ohio University Press, 2014) and is at work on a manuscript tentatively entitled *Being a Friend to Nature: Building a More Hopeful Relationship with the Earth*. Bannon is a believer in public scholarship and active pedagogy, striving to create engaging community experiences to facilitate students' learning of how ethical principles inform approaches to real-world problems.

GAVRIL BILEV, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Political Science

Dr. Gavril Krassimirov Bilev was appointed assistant professor of political science at Merrimack in 2012, where he has been teaching comparative politics and political science methods among other courses. One part of Bilev's research explores the challenges of democratization in post-communist countries, with particular focus on the role of legislative bodies. Bilev, who was born and raised in Sofia, Bulgaria, graduated from the American College of

Sofia, an American high school, in 2000 and earned a B.A. in political science from Whittier College in Whittier, California, in 2004. He then earned an M.A. in political science from Brown University in 2006 and a Ph.D. in 2012. Bilev was fortunate to be awarded a research fellowship — the International Dissertation Research Fellowship — to conduct year-long field research on executive-legislative relations in the Russian provinces.

JAMES KAKLAMANOS, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Civil Engineering

Dr. James Kaklamanos, associate professor of civil engineering, joined the Merrimack faculty in fall 2012. He specializes in geotechnical engineering, and his primary area of research is on the improvement of models for predicting earthquake-induced ground motions. At Merrimack, Kaklamanos has taught courses in geotechnical engineering, foundation engineering, earth retaining structures, seismological and geotechnical aspects of earthquakes, engineering mechanics, and engineering probability and statistics. Kaklamanos has been named as one of the Top Ten New Faces of Civil Engineering by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and he is a recipient of the ASCE ExCEED New Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. He obtained his degrees in civil and environmental engineering from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts (B.S.C.E. 2008, M.S. 2010, and Ph.D. 2012).

science, geographic information science, and user interface design. His ongoing project, a collaboration with Dr. Gavril Bilev in the Political Science Department, involves designing and testing computer simulations of democratization. As several of his other avenues of research come to a close, Dr. Stuetzle is now shifting focus toward smart city design and traffic algorithms that utilize traffic information systems to inform city planners of where resources could be best allocated to alleviate areas of heavy congestion. Stuetzle received a B.A. in computer science and mathematics from Wheaton College and a Ph. D. in computer science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

ZI YAN, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Health Sciences

Dr. Zi Yan joined Merrimack after she received her Ph.D. in exercise and sport sciences (with a concentration in sport and exercise psychology) and a concurrent degree of master of public health from Oregon State University in 2012. Prior to that, she grew up in southwest China and was an undergraduate psychology major in Beijing. She received her master of education in developmental kinesiology from Bowling Green State University in 2008. During her years at Merrimack, she has received more than \$100,000 in grants as the primary investigator and published 21 peer-reviewed manuscripts across the fields, from public health, exercise science, and psychology to pedagogy. In addition, she has been serving as the editorial board member for *American Journal of Health Promotion* since 2013 and was awarded SHAPE America Research Fellow in 2017.

THREE FACULTY MEMBERS PROMOTED TO FULL PROFESSOR STATUS, FALL 2018

Congratulations to **Kevin Finn '02**, Ed.D. (School of Health Sciences), **Christina Hardway**, Ph.D. (School of Liberal Arts), and **Janine M. LeBlanc-Straceski**, Ph.D. (School of Science and Engineering) — all of whom are being promoted from associate professor to full professor this fall 2018. The appointments were made by President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., on recommendation from Provost Allan T. Weatherwax, Ph.D., and in collaboration with the Faculty Senate committee on appointment, rank, and tenure.

MORE ABOUT THE PROFESSORS

Kevin Finn Promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor of Health Sciences

Kevin Finn, Ed.D., is the associate dean of the School of Health Sciences. He earned his B.S. in sports medicine from Merrimack College in 2002, master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Fairfield University, and Ed.D. in curriculum and teaching from Boston University. Finn is also a Massachusetts-licensed athletic trainer, a certified strength and conditioning specialist, and a fellow at the National Science Foundation's Initiative Science Educations for New Civic Engagement and Responsibility.

He focuses much of his research on the promotion of physical activity and STEM learning in children; he works closely with schools and their after-school programs in order to implement strategies for increasing physical activity while improving academic performances of students. He is the co-investigator for the national program Active Science, being developed with funding by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which brings together physical activity, technology, and academic achievement in schoolchildren.

His research also includes the effects of pedagogical tools used in college classrooms to promote student learning and perceptions in science. As part of his research, Finn has had students use personal response systems and peer-led team learning in science courses to improve student knowledge and attitudes. Joint research has shown that students who

take an integrated lecture and lab course earn better grades on average and have fewer incidents of dropping the classes than those who take a lecture and lab on separate days. Results of the research were consistent for lower-level and upper-level courses.

Finn, who joined the college as an assistant athletic trainer in July 2002, is the internship coordinator for the Health and Sciences Department.

Christina Hardway from Associate Professor to Full Professor of Psychology

Christina Hardway, Ph.D., is chair of the Psychology Department. She attended the University of Chicago as an undergraduate and earned her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Prior to joining Merrimack, she was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University.

In addition to researching interventions that help individuals overcome anxiety, she has also researched practices that promote better learning and intellectual engagement. These aspects of her research include investigating contextual factors (such as the environments in the home, workplace, or the classroom) that help individuals approach knowledge acquisition in a positive and engaged fashion.

Her research and work in the classroom have led her to believe that learning is most enduring when students actively engage new material and find ways to make it relevant to their own lives. When students are challenged to integrate new knowledge with their existing ideas about the world, they retain that information in a more meaningful way.

She is devoted to improving pedagogical practices and committed to helping individuals develop a better understanding of their own intellectual endeavors and how these are related to their larger personal and professional goals. She has also served as a faculty fellow for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and examined ways to help students improve their metacognitive skills.

As part of her focus on engaged learning, she has earned qualification as a

mindfulness teacher and seeks to integrate the practice of mindfulness in all aspects of her work. In 2015, she received Merrimack College's George Roddy Outstanding Teacher of the Year award.

Janine M. LeBlanc-Straceski from Associate Professor to Full Professor of Biology

Janine M. LeBlanc-Straceski, Ph.D., is chair of the Biology Department. She earned her undergraduate degree from Tufts University and her doctorate with a focus in developmental biology, molecular biology and biochemistry from Wesleyan. Before joining Merrimack, she worked as a research associate for Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Department of Cell Biology and Department of Genetics from 1991 to August 1994.

Her research is focused on the HHMI SEA PHAGES project, in which freshman biology majors assist by collecting soil samples and then isolating, characterizing, and naming new and unique bacteriophages so that DNA can be sequenced before students in genetics annotate. She is also researching left/right asymmetry in vertebrates and investigating the role of molecular motors in them, as well as creating polymorphic markers from microsatellites of *Poecilia latipinna* to use in paternity and other forensic testing.

LeBlanc-Straceski has designed her research laboratory to give undergraduate students quality research experiences during which they can make meaningful contributions to the scientific literature. Many of her students have gone on to complete their doctoral work, three are professors at major universities, and others work in the biotechnology industry or at medical schools.

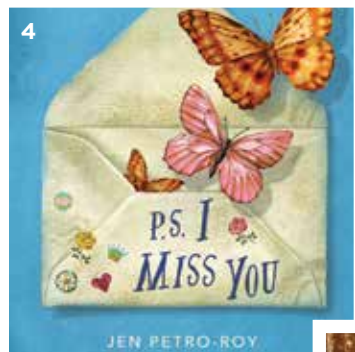
LeBlanc-Straceski's professional experience includes working as an instructor at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Science Education Alliance (SEA), serving as president of the Merrimack College chapter of scientific research society Sigma Xi, the past HPA for the Health Professions Advising Committee, and past director of the Center for Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences.

ALUMNI NEWS



1950s

▶ **LAURENCE “LARRY” PALMISANO ’57 P’82 ’85 ’87 ’90, GP’16** was awarded the 2018 Alumni Award for Philanthropic Leadership in Support of the Mission of Central Catholic High School located in Lawrence, MA.



1970s

▶ **ELIZABETH “BETTY” HARVEY ’71** was named diversity recruiting program manager at North Texas Leaders & Executives Advocating Diversity.



▶ After a satisfying 35 year career as a software engineer at Digital Equipment Corporation and at OAG Flightview, **MAUREEN HOGAN ’75** put her coding pen down and went after her passion — real estate! Now working with an amazing team of agents at Williams Realty Partners of Keller Williams Coastal Realty. [5]

▶ **WILLIAM “BILL” LEAHY ’76**, former trustee of Merrimack, was recently appointed to the REACH Georgia Foundation Board.

▶ **JOSEPH VOCI JR. ’77** retired from his position as principal of the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School in Barlett, NH.

▶ **DANA SKINNER ’78** retired as the athletic director of UMass Lowell.

▶ **WILLIAM “BILL” BARLETTA ’79** has a new position as combined facilities director, Town of Sudbury & Sudbury Public Schools in Sudbury, MA.

1980s

▶ **STEVE DIPIETRO ’81** retired from Deloitte.

▶ **LISA (DOHERTY) LUDWING ’83** won her age division at the 2017 Mt. Washington Bicycle Hillclimb Race — one of the toughest hillclimbs in the world. Lisa accomplished this after spending two years in recovery/rehabilitation from a severe head injury. [6]

▶ **TIMOTHY “TIM” MURPHY ’88 H’14** former trustee, has been named chief executive officer, The Stepping Stones Group.

1990s

▶ **KARLEEN OBERTON ’91** was promoted to chief financial officer, Hologic.

▶ **KEVIN RHODES ’91**, trustee, was named chief financial officer at MarkForged, Inc.

▶ **GREGG MONASTIERO ’92, P’14** has been named senior vice president of worldwide sales at Mi9 Retail.

▶ **NICK SOGGU ’96** and his company, SilverTech, Inc., acquired Bitwise Solutions, a website design and development firm based outside of Indianapolis, Indiana in March 2018.

▶ **JENNIFER GIZMUNT ’96** was named chief executive officer at Salter Healthcare.

▶ **RICHARD GAROFALO ’98** has been named vice president of origination and senior loan officer at NewFed Mortgage.

▶ **JOHN MCVEIGH ’98** was selected as winter coach of the year by the *Eagle Tribune*.

▶ **BRIAN KEEFE ’98** has been named vice president of sales at Complete Payroll Solutions.

2000s

▶ **JENNIFER (CLANCY) PETRO-ROY ’05** recently published her debut novel with Macmillan Children’s Publishing/Feiwel and Friends. *P.S. I Miss You* is a middle-grade novel about sisterhood, faith, and discovering who you truly are. [4]

▶ **RACHEL HADDAD ’06** was awarded the degree of master of science in health administration from Regis College in Weston, MA, this past May. [3]

▶ **AMANDA ADAMCHECK ’09** graduated from Fordham School of Law.

2010s

▶ **SAMANTHA (GOODROW) WARD ’11** married Winston Ward in October 2017 in Waterville Valley, NH. Three generations

SHARE YOUR NEWS! Tell us what you’ve been up to, and we’ll share your news here! Email your news and photos to alumnirelations@merrimack.edu.

of Merrimack alumni were in attendance! Left to right, Karin (Riley) Ameral '76, Zig Ameral '77, Ken Goodrow '84, Michele (Goodrow) Gilliatt '83, Sue Grady '84, Tom Halley '11, Gretchen (Goodrow) Lothrop '86, Fawn (Cote) Goodrow '84, Jerry Smith '11, M'12, Paul Giancioppo '11, M'16, Janet (Coppinger) Goodrow '57, Jill Ameral '11, Samantha (Goodrow) Ward '11, Lauren (Gillingham) Xavier '10. [8]

▶ **ALEXANDRA PICARDI '13** earned an MS in corporate and organizational communication from Northeastern University.

▶ **JAMES WEGMAN '17** recently became client engagement associate at Nickerson People Relations in Boston.

▶ **FAITH KREFFT, M '18**, Merrimack College master's in education with a fellowship in community engagement, has accepted a position at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York, as the assistant director of service and immersion in the Office of Mission and Ministry. She is excited to be following her passion of service and community engagement at Iona College and hopes to help college students find their passion for service as well! [7]

▶ **MATTHEW LAROVERE '14** and **KRISTEN CONNOLLY '15** were married on October 21, 2017, by Father Ray Dlugos. The ceremony took place at the Church of Christ the Teacher on Merrimack's campus and was followed by a reception at the Barn at Gibbet Hill in Groton,

MA. Many members of the Merrimack community were in attendance, from Massachusetts to California. [1]

▶ **GABRIELA (VEGA) MCFADDEN '15, M'16** and **MATTHEW MCFADDEN**, were married on November 17, 2017. They met on campus through each being on the soccer team and were friends from the start. Matthew proposed in Gabriela's graduate year, and the rest is history. They had a beautiful wedding filled with Merrimack friends. Merrimack will always be home for them! [2]

IN MEMORY

John Ford '52
Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi '53
Nicholas Rizzo Jr. '54
John "Jack" Carney Jr. '54
Joseph Hackney '58
Walter Morin '58

Aurelie Amante '58
Patricia Hogan '58
Morris Piccolo '59
Richard "Dick" Spence '62
Mary Coyle '63
Carol R. LaPorte '63
Harry Augevich '64
Louise Gosselin '64
Maureen Nevin '65
Roberta Guccione '67
Ronald Hayes '68
Armand Berard '68
Phillip House '69
Mary Wiest '70
Richard Faucher '74, P'94
Nancy Lynch '74
Henri Seymour Jr. '75
Wayne Lima '76
Rosemary Klueber '79
Helen Faye '79
Marie Lynch '80
Mina O'Brien '81
Susan Morrison '83, P'21
Brian Boulay '07
Craig Maxfield '17



Join us for our annual

Christmas Celebration

November 30, 2018

THE FOUR SEASONS HOTEL • BOSTON

www.merrimack.edu/christmas

SAVE THE DATE



Alumni, faculty, staff, and friends enjoying the Annual Christmas Celebration at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston in 2017.

NOVEMBER

30 Annual Christmas Celebration
7:00 p.m. • Four Seasons Hotel, Boston

DECEMBER

02 A Christmas to Remember: Deep Blue C Studio Orchestra
A holiday season performance that will include traditional and contemporary Christmas music with soulful vocals, grand orchestrations, and even a chance to sing along.
3:00 p.m. • Rogers Center

04 Celebration of Light and Hope
5:15 p.m. • Lawler Rink

09 A Merrimack College Christmas, Featuring Merrimack's Concert Band, Concert Choir, and Jazz Ensemble
3:00 p.m. • Rogers Center

10 A Festival of Lessons and Carols
7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

JANUARY

15 McCoy & Thagaste Galleries
McCoy: David Raymond
Thagaste: Keven Salemme Exhibitions
Rogers Center

27 4th Annual Faculty Concert
3:00 p.m. • Rogers Center

FEBRUARY

06 Think Globally/Act Locally: Feed Your neighbor
Merrimack Valley Interfaith Meal
Packing Day of Service
11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Sakowich Campus Center

21–23 Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson
7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

23 Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson
2:00 p.m. • Rogers Center

26 “Where We Dwell Together” 16th Annual Interfaith Prayer
Rev. Raymond Dlugos OSA presiding.
Guest sermon by Cantor Vera Broekhuysen
7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. • Cascia Hall

MARCH

02 “Ball in the House”
17th Annual A Cappella Night Featuring Boston Jazz Voices
7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

05 Gosite
The popular and multi-award winning quintet from Ireland.
7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

06 Spring Career Fair
O'Brien Center for Career Development
2:00 p.m.–4:40 p.m. • Multipurpose Room, Sakowich Campus Center

14 McCoy Gallery
Luba Lukova Exhibition Opens

28–29 Junior Professional Development Retreat
O'Brien Center for Career Development
8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Hotel Commonwealth, Boston

30 McCoy Gallery
Luba Lukova Reception
6:00 p.m. • Rogers Center

APRIL

03 Atrium Performance
12:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

04–06 Lucky Stiff
A Drop Dead Funny Musical Comedy
7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

06 Lucky Stiff
A Drop Dead Funny Musical Comedy
2:00 p.m. • Rogers Center

10 Atrium Performance
12:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

10 Religion, Science and Ecology Conference
Under the auspices of Cardinal Sean O'Malley
3:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. • On Campus

11 Graduate Networking Reception
5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. • Arcidi Center

15 McCoy & Thagaste Galleries
Student Work Exhibition Opens
5:30 p.m. • Reception

13 A Far Cry
This conductor-less chamber orchestra is a tight-knit collective of 17 young, professional musicians.
7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

14 Sound of Music Family Sing-A-Long Parade
1:30 p.m. • Rogers Center
Movie
2:00 p.m. • Rogers Center

15 My Song Is Love Unknown: A Festival of Readings and Songs for Holy Week
7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

17 Atrium Performance
12:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

19 Health Science Networking Reception
5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

24 Atrium Performance
12:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

ALUMNIEVENTS merrimack.edu/alumnievents 978-837-5703

ATHLETICS merrimackathletics.com 978-837-5341

ROGERS CENTER merrimack.edu/rogers 978-837-5355



Save the date for

Reunion Weekend 2019

May 31 – June 1, 2019

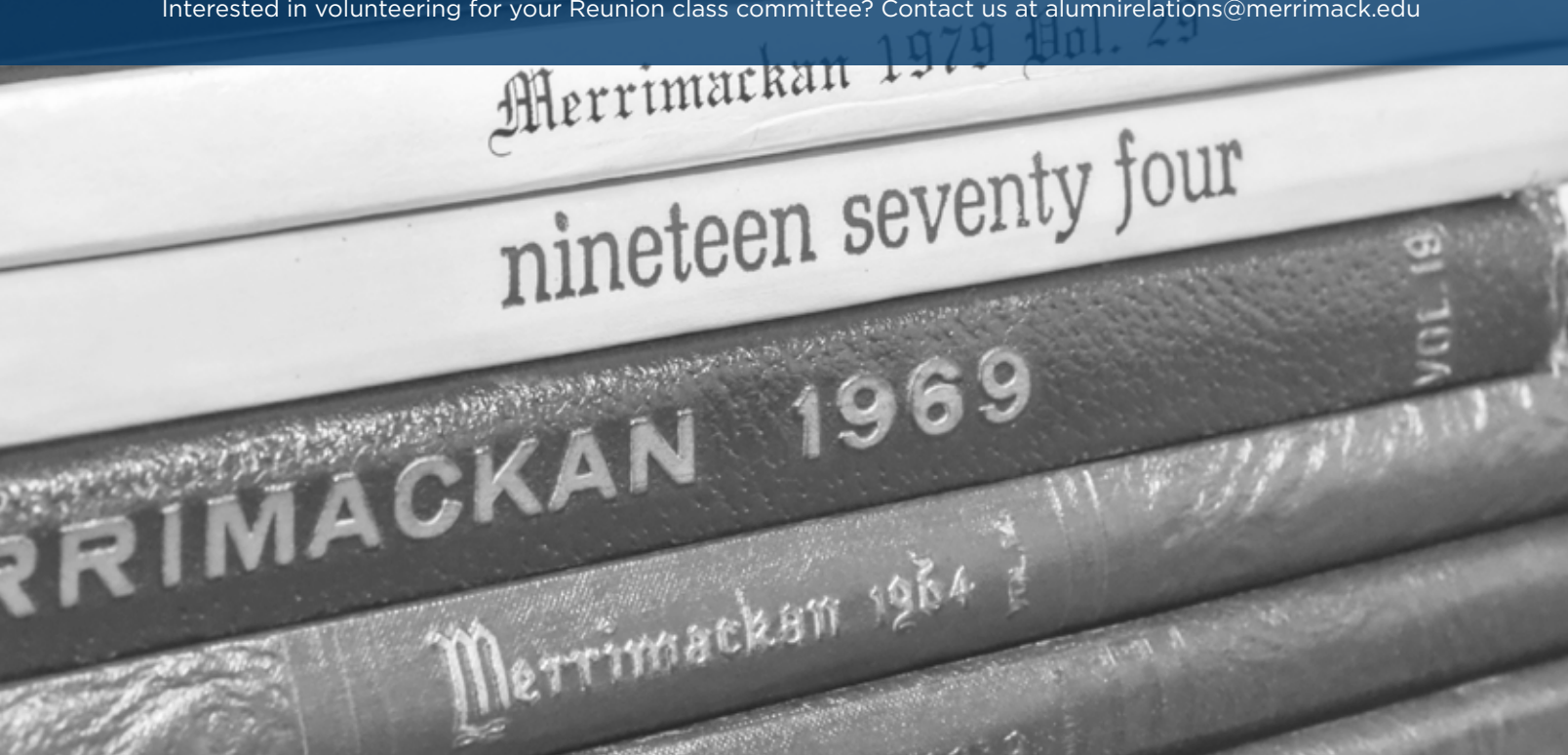
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1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014.

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