

MERRIMACK

SPRING 2021

CELEBRATING A



OF CHANGE

MERRIMACK

A Magazine for Our Alumni, Parents and Friends

Spring 2021

President

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.

Executive Editor

Bethany LoMonaco

Managing Editor

Hannah Ketchen M'14

Writers

Doug Baulf

Ginny Caggiano

Devon Capizzi

Kaitlyn Manighalam

Margaret Popper

Design

PBD Partners

Photographers

Bill Averette

Webb Chappell

William Cherry

Mark Connolly

Leise Jones

Scott Grau

Tom Kates

Bruce Preston

Kelli Readey '16

Kevin Salemme '95

Mary Schwalm

James Stankiewicz

Editorial Offices

Merrimack Magazine

Box A-8, Merrimack College

315 Turnpike Street

North Andover, MA 01845

www.merrimack.edu

facebook.com/merrimackcollege

twitter.com/merrimack

[@merrimackcollege](https://merrimackcollege)

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MERRIMACK COLLEGE



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Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,



For many, the past year has been a time for reflection. A time to consider the struggles we have faced, and a time to look ahead with renewed appreciation for how far we have come.

It just so happens that the COVID-19 pandemic, something I never thought would occur within my lifetime, coincided with the 10th year of my presidency. 2020, a year that was anticipated to be a

celebratory milestone, suddenly brought about unimaginable challenges and uncertainty, sadness and pain for so many within the Merrimack and global communities.

Times were tough, but we made it through by banding together. We held steadfast in our belief in the strength and resilience of this institution. The heart of Merrimack—its vibrant, passionate community of students, alumni, parents, faculty and staff and friends—is what allowed us to move forward and is what continues to propel us towards a bright future ahead. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

This community is truly the reason why I do what I do, and we have much to be proud of. More than ten years ago, we embarked on a bold journey to embrace an innovative vision for what Merrimack could become. By preserving the College's fundamental values while striving for growth at every level, the Merrimack community has accomplished more than I ever dreamed was possible. The work we have done is significant; but the journey doesn't end here.

Now, with the impending launch of the *Agenda for the Future*, the College's new strategic plan, we have great things to look forward to. The *Agenda for the Future* focuses on critical initiatives that address areas of opportunity for the College, including enrollment, reputation and financial health through and beyond the year 2026. This community-created plan is designed to align Merrimack's rising reputation and enrollment success with a desire for affordability, accessibility and opportunity in higher education.

As we approach this new turning point in Merrimack's history, I want to thank you for being a part of this incredible community. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish over the next ten years—and beyond.

Sincerely,

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President

“The heart of Merrimack — its vibrant, passionate community of students, alumni, parents, faculty and staff and friends — is what allowed us to move forward (through COVID-19) and is what continues to propel us towards a bright future ahead.”

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY, PRESIDENT



CELEBRATING AN

ERA

A decade after **Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.**, was named president of Merrimack College, the institution has been transformed at every level.

Article by Ginny Caggiano and Bethany LoMonaco

In 2010, Merrimack College was at a crossroads. In a higher education landscape marked by economic challenges and shifting demographics, the College was facing unique challenges that threatened its future. Declining enrollments, shifting demographics in the Merrimack Valley and competition from state colleges and universities began to take a toll in the early 2000s. Across the region, small, private, liberal arts colleges began to struggle and decline, meaning Merrimack needed to change in order for its future to be bright.

Recognizing the imperative for change, Merrimack embarked on a bold journey that would completely alter the trajectory of the institution. This shift began the day President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., was announced as the eighth president of Merrimack College.

1.4 MILLION+

**SQUARE FEET OF
NEW AND RENOVATED
CLASSROOM, ATHLETIC
AND RESIDENTIAL SPACE.**

LAUNCHING A NEW COURSE

A strategic leader and bold visionary, President Hopey wasted no time in setting a new course for Merrimack. Under his leadership, the College created the *Agenda for Distinction*, an ambitious plan aimed at revitalizing the institution at every level.

The *Agenda* outlined five strategic goals:

- Create a modern, academic enterprise grounded in innovative teaching, learning and scholarship
- Develop a contemporary Catholic mission
- Create an intellectually vibrant, socially engaged, entrepreneurial student experience
- Inspire and engage our people, culture and community
- Strengthen our value proposition and competitive position

During the 10 years following the *Agenda's* launch, the Merrimack community worked together, bolstered by the College's Augustinian Catholic mission, to enhance academic offerings, increase student enrollment and improve the on-campus experience—renewing optimism, ownership and pride felt by all who set foot on campus. To keep pace with the institution's academic growth, the College broke ground on 10 new buildings—including Crowe Hall and the Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center—and renovated more than 1.4 million square feet of academic and residential space.

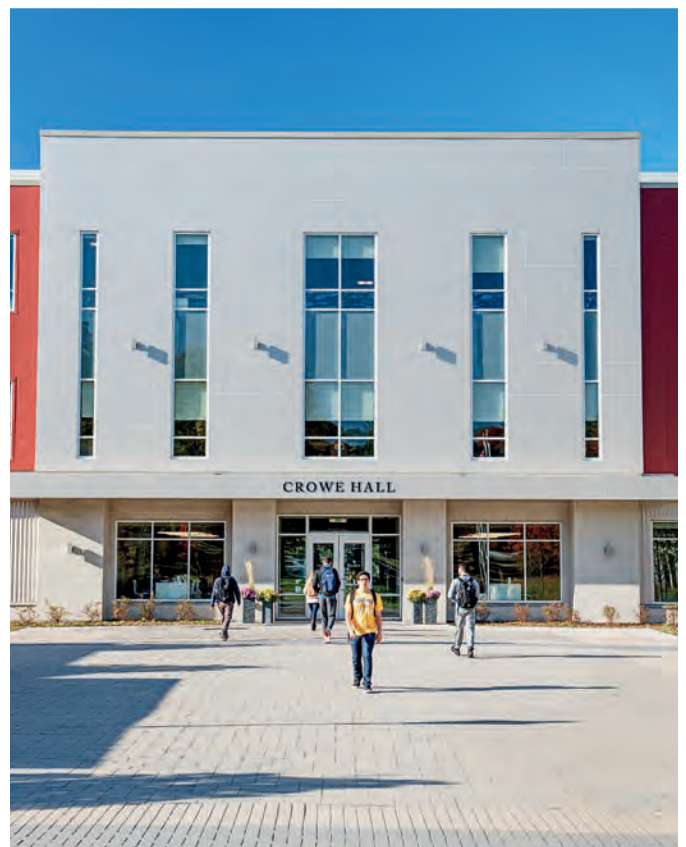
“Our goals were ambitious, but our community's energy and passion for a better future for Merrimack College were strong and united,” President Hopey said. “The *Agenda for Distinction* helped us confidently drive toward our vision of creating a highly ranked, internationally respected, selective masters comprehensive Catholic college.”

\$63.5 M

**RAISED THROUGH
TOGETHER FOR GOOD**

220+

FULL-TIME FACULTY





4,008
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS

COMING TOGETHER FOR GOOD

Institutional transformation on the scale enjoyed by Merrimack requires more than vision alone. Much of the accomplishments of the last decade were funded in large part by the second part of President Hopey’s ambitious plan—the *Together for Good* Campaign.

The largest capital campaign in the institution’s history, *Together for Good* launched publicly in fall 2016 with the goal of raising \$50 million. Bolstered by the support of alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and other members of the greater Merrimack community, the effort exceeded all expectations—raising an unprecedented \$63.5 million to support the College’s students, academic initiatives, athletics and community service programs.

“Launched amidst a challenging economic landscape, the *Together for Good* Campaign’s goal of \$50 million seemed wildly ambitious to most,” President Hopey said. “But together, we exceeded all expectations, propelling the College to achieve one of its most significant goals.”

EMBRACING GROWTH AT EVERY LEVEL

Spurred by the *Agenda for Distinction*, Merrimack launched more than 40 new undergraduate and graduate programs—including the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, the institution’s first foray into health care—and saw record applications at the graduate and undergraduate levels, bringing enrollments to 4,008 undergraduates and 1,268 graduates. The College additionally welcomed 160 new faculty members and expanded campus research efforts, with faculty-student collaborations receiving financial support from national foundations, such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and NASA.

“When I started teaching at Merrimack, we had no physical space for research at all,” said Merrimack Psychology Professor Allison Seitchik. “Now we have offices, lab space, a sleep lab and cubicles for class and research purposes. It’s amazing.”

2010

SINCE 2010
 1.4 million square feet of new and renovated space



2011

Inauguration of Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., eighth president of Merrimack College

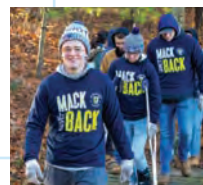
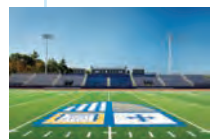


- Compass Program
- The *Agenda for Distinction* Advancing Merrimack in the 21st century
- 100+ Academic Programs
- 50+ student-led clubs and activities



- Midnight Madness
- Mack Gives Back
- Campus Development
 - Residential Village
 - Merrimack Athletics Complex
 - Academic Innovation Center

2012



2013

- Writers House
- D1 Women’s Ice Hockey
- Forbes Top College



1,268

GRADUATE STUDENTS

On the athletics front, Merrimack made the leap to Division 1 in 2019, completed the new multiuse, 3,500-spectator-capacity Duane Stadium, and expanded the Merrimack Athletics Complex, in concert with the regional Islanders hockey program.

The men's lacrosse team is just one program that has benefited from this transformation. "We were a nice program, with a good reputation, which is where I feel Merrimack was 10 years ago. Since then, we've been on an upward trajectory, and the College has, too," said Head Men's Lacrosse Coach Mike Morgan. "A few years ago, every outdoor team practiced on a single turf field. Now we have Duane Stadium—a state-of-the-art venue with an eight-lane track and multipurpose turf field."

The *Together for Good* Campaign also created opportunities for new community partnerships. Alongside the Augustinian parish St. Mary of the Assumption in Lawrence, the College launched Hands to Help, a neighborhood resource center that provides after-school tutoring, tax assistance, ESL classes and other valuable services. Merrimack also began offering college classes to students in Lawrence's honors high school, Abbott Lawrence Academy. Through the newly launched Pioneer Scholars Program, up to 10 of these students are offered a full scholarship covering tuition, room and board, fees and books to Merrimack College each year.



AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE 2021-2026

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

While the accomplishments achieved by President Hohey and Merrimack College over the last decade have been remarkable, the work is far from done.

“As the leader of this esteemed and exciting institution, I am extremely proud of our many accomplishments,” President Hohey said. “We have shattered goals, ignited pride, revitalized our campus and forever changed the trajectory of the institution—positioning Merrimack College for even greater levels of achievement in the years to come. Put simply, our work has just begun.”

In the fall of 2019, the College embarked on the next phase of its strategic planning process. The focus: competing and flourishing in today’s challenging academic environment—while creating the experiences necessary to ensure that every student can be successful.

By building on the momentum created by the *Agenda for Distinction* and *Together for Good*, Merrimack students, faculty and staff came together through campus-wide meetings, brainstorming and discussions that has resulted in the College’s new bold strategic plan, the *Agenda for the Future*.

“The next step for the future of Merrimack College requires further investments in academic offerings and the residential experience,” said President Hohey. “We are in a position of strength, but as COVID-19 has taught us, the unpredictable can happen. Establishing and executing on this bold vision will future-proof the College while building on the achievements we have reached together.”

The *Agenda for the Future* focuses on critical initiatives that address areas of opportunity for the College, including

enrollment, reputation and financial health through and beyond the year 2026. The community-created plan is designed to align the Merrimack’s rising reputation and enrollment success with a desire for affordability, accessibility and opportunity in higher education. ■



For more information about the College’s new strategic plan, the *Agenda for the Future*, please visit <http://www.merrimack.edu/AFF>.

2018



736 Graduate Students / 3,664 Undergraduate Students

First Outdoor Commencement in Duane Stadium

Division II National Champions in Men’s Lacrosse

Women’s Field Hockey | 2018 NE10 Conference Winners

Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center

2018 Money Magazine

Top Ten Most Transformative Schools in the Country

2018 U.S. News and World Report Best Regional Universities/North



2019

Apple Distinguished School

Nursing Program

Northeast Conference Accepted Division I invitation

Men’s soccer wins the NEC regular-season championship

Division II National Champions in Men’s Lacrosse



2020



Winston School of Education and Social Policy

COVID-19 Response and Testing Center

Men’s basketball wins the NEC regular-season championship

Awarded Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement Marching Band

2021

Launch of the *Agenda for the Future*



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



2018-19

TOP 10

Most Transformative Colleges

MONEY MAGAZINE

2018-19

BEST COLLEGES

MONEY MAGAZINE

2019

America's

TOP COLLEGES

FORBES

2020

TOP 10 MOST INNOVATIVE

Regional Universities

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

2020

BEST REGIONAL

Universities, North (#46)

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

2020

BEST NORTHEASTERN

Regional Colleges

PRINCETON REVIEW



NURTURING RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

for Health Sciences Students

Assistant Professor of Health Sciences **Leena Bharath, Ph.D.** is on a mission — not only to improve the human “healthspan” through her cutting-edge studies but also to create opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in the research process.

A STRONG FOCUS ON RESEARCH

Dr. Leena Bharath began her academic career with a strong focus on research. After earning a Ph.D. in food science from Oklahoma State University, Bharath completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, followed by another postdoc at Boston University.

She recalls, “During my time at Boston University, I really got into studying inflammation and aging—that’s when my research solidified.” After spending two years at the university as a postdoctoral fellow, Bharath began to look for opportunities to merge her interests in research and teaching, particularly at the undergraduate level.

She explains, “I started thinking, why not go to an undergraduate institution, establish a lab and introduce undergraduate students to the research process? By providing them with training at an early point in their academic career, if they later pursue an advanced degree, they will have already gained the knowledge and skills needed to provide them with a head start.”

“Leena and her students are engaged in critical, timely research that I believe will help advance our understanding of aging, including dementia conditions ...”

JACK PASINI '73



MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT MERRIMACK

In 2018, Bharath was hired as an adjunct lecturer in Merrimack’s School of Health Sciences. She began by teaching one course on nutrition and soon thereafter was offered a position as an assistant professor. Quickly delving into this role, she worked to progressively build a new campus lab for biomedical research.

Fast forward three years and Bharath now teaches several courses on microbiology and nutrition. With the assistance of undergraduate student researchers, she also conducts an array of research projects focused on human inflammation. Under this overarching theme, her research can be divided into two main branches. The first branch of research concentrates on inflammation in the context of aging—specifically, how to prevent the progressive increase of inflammation in the body to extend a person’s “healthspan” or the length of time they can live a healthy life without the onset of disease. The second branch focuses more closely on diabetes and obesity, particularly in working to understand the changes in immune cell mitochondria throughout the development and progression of these metabolic syndromes. She then looks at how best to prevent these syndromes through targeted therapeutics, lifestyle changes, or a combination of both.

True to her mission, Bharath involves undergraduate student researchers in the entire research process from hypothesis, data collection and analysis to publication and each step in between.

RECENT RECOGNITION

Recently, Bharath’s work was recognized in a big way when she was named to the prestigious Pasini Professorship in Health Sciences and became a recipient of funding from the Pasini Health Sciences Undergraduate Research Fellowship. The Pasini Professorship provides funding for critical lab supplies and equipment, while the Pasini Fellowship grants paid research opportunities for undergraduate students to work with Bharath in her lab year-round.

When asked about the impact of these awards, she shares, “It means a lot, not just to me, but to our students because it’s a symbol of encouragement. I have students that have been volunteering in my lab since 2018, and now that they have the opportunity to be paid for the work they are completing—it’s a big deal. When I told them we received the fellowship, they were excited and honored to be able to call themselves Pasini Fellows.”

Merrimack board member Jack Pasini ’73, whose support established the Pasini Professorship and Fellowship, states, “I’m thrilled Dr. Bharath was selected as the Pasini Professor in Health Sciences and that her students will be able to further their research with funding from the Pasini Health Sciences Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Leena and her students are engaged in critical, timely research that I believe will help advance our understanding of aging, including dementia conditions, and develop methods that will allow us to lead healthier lives for longer.”

LOOKING AHEAD

What’s next for Bharath? She looks forward to continuing to advance research opportunities for undergraduate students at Merrimack and expand the influential work done in her lab.

She concludes, “Undergraduate students can and do successfully complete complex biomedical research—we just have to give them the opportunity. We need to work with them, be present with them and train them. They excel at understanding a question, interpreting data and thinking on their own. Merrimack has a great pool of students interested in research, and once we create the opportunity for them to flourish, they do fantastic.” ■



Merrimack College Awards Tenure to Twelve Faculty Members

President Christopher Hopey and Provost Condon recently announced the awarding of tenure to twelve members of the Merrimack faculty. The following faculty members were promoted over the last few months. Please join us in congratulating the following newly tenured faculty:

TRACI ALBERTI, PH.D.

Associate Professor in Health Sciences

- Earned her Ph.D. in Nursing and Health Promotion from University of Massachusetts at Lowell
- Her research focuses on health literacy, health education and the relationship to health
- Certified family nurse practitioner with more than 20 years of advanced nursing practice

FAN CHEN, PH.D.

Associate Professor in Finance

- Earned his Ph.D. in Finance from Louisiana State University
- His research focuses on the ownership and organization structures of mutual fund companies
- Awards and honors include: recipient of the Outstanding Paper Award from the Southern Finance Association in 2010 and 2012

ROSELITA FRAGOUDAKIS, PH.D.

Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering

- Earned her Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Tufts University
- Her research focuses on the modeling and optimization of automotive suspension systems
- Awards and honors include: under a grant by the Greek Office of the General Secretariat of Research and Technology (GSRT) and in collaboration with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Greek automotive industry, Dr. Fragoudakis has been examining the microstructure and fatigue life of steel leaf springs in order to optimize the development and manufacturing of high-performance leaf springs

LAURA KURDZIEL, PH.D.

Associate Professor in Psychology

- Earned her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- Her research focuses on the neurological and behavioral functions of sleep

- Awards and honors include: recipient of the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award from the Society for Research in Child Development in 2015; recipient of the Young Investigator Award from the Pediatric Sleep Medicine in 2013; recipient of the Vincent G. Dertier Award for Scholarship and Service from the Neuroscience and Behavior Program at UMass Amherst in 2012; recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award from UMass Amherst in 2010; 2019 and 2021 recipient of the Sakowich Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Grant; 2019–20 and 2021 recipient of the Zampell Family Faculty Fellowship

KATELYN KURKUL, ED.D.

Associate Professor in Human Development and Human Services

- Earned her Ed.D. in Human Development from Boston University
- Her research focuses on children's early-learning experiences across sociocultural contexts
- Awards and honors include: recipient of the Distinguished Research Award in Counseling and Human Development from the American Educational Research Association; 2019 and 2021 recipient of the Sakowich Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Grant

BRIAN PROVENCHER, PH.D.

Associate Professor in Chemistry and Biochemistry

- Earned his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Brandeis University
- His research focuses on organic synthesis of biologically active compounds (medicinal chemistry) and chemical education
- His research has resulted in the development of new laboratory curriculum that has been incorporated into two eBooks used in the organic chemistry sequence
- 2019–20 recipient of the Paul E. Murray Fellowship

ALLISON SEITCHIK, PH.D.

Associate Professor in Psychology

- Earned her Ph.D. in Psychology from Northeastern University
- Her research focuses on motivation and performance
- Awards and honors include: recipient of the Faculty Development Grant from Merrimack College in 2018 and recipient of the Student Research-based Experiential Learning Micro-Grant from the Interdisciplinary Institute at Merrimack College in 2018; 2019–20 and 2021 recipient of the Zampell Family Faculty Fellowship

RORY TANNEBAUM, PH.D.

Associate Professor in Education

- Earned his Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Clemson University
- His research focuses on effective means for transferring scholarship conducted within academia to undergraduate students seeking to become K-12 teachers
- Awards and honors include: recipient of the Faculty Fellowship from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Merrimack College in 2017–18 and recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Fellowship from Clemson University in 2014–15; 2021 recipient of the Sakowich Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Grant; 2021 recipient of the Zampell Family Faculty Fellowship

JOE VOGEL, PH.D.

Associate Professor in English

- Earned his Ph.D. in English from the University of Rochester
- His research focuses on contemporary American literature, film studies, popular music, popular culture, environmental studies and the 1980s
- Awards and honors include: recipient of the Russel B. Nye Award from the Popular Culture Association (PCA) in 2016

ELAINE WARD, ED.D.

Associate Professor in Higher Education

- Earned her Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership from University of Massachusetts at Boston

- Her research focuses on civic engagement in higher education, faculty development, faculty rewards, promotion and tenure, institutional change and transformation, student affairs preparation and teaching and learning preparation
- Awards and honors include: awarded Dissertation of the Year from the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement in 2010 and granted the Schmitt Award for Excellence in Graduate Research from the New England Educational Research Organization in 2009

MELISSA ZIMDARS, PH.D.

Associate Professor in Communication and Media

- Earned her Ph.D. in Communication Studies (Media Studies) from the University of Iowa
- Her research focuses on analyzing the influences, overlaps and connections between media texts, media industries, communication policies, technologies, audiences and culture
- Awards and honors include: recipient of a Fellowship from the Marion Jasper Whiting Foundation in 2017; recipient of the Ramona Tomlin Mattson Fellowship from the University of Iowa in 2015; recipient of the Ballard and Seashore Fellowship from the University of Iowa in 2014; received top student paper in the Mass Communication Division from the National Communication Association in 2014; received Top student paper at the Global Fusion: A Global Media and Communication Conference in 2012; 2021 recipient of the Zampell Family Faculty Fellowship

In addition to the above named faculty, the College recently hired:

SHANNON BUTLER-MOKORO, PH.D.

Professor of Social Work

- Earned her Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies from Georgia State University
- She has over 20 years of experience in higher education as a faculty member, administrator, and student affairs professional
- She serves the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) as the Co-Chair for the Council on the Status and Role of Women in Social Work Education and is a Board member for the African Community Center of Lowell

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

The accomplishments and shared expertise of Merrimack's exceptional faculty

RODRIGO BANDEIRA DE MELLO, PH.D., associate professor of strategy in the Girard School of Business, was interviewed in Folha de S.Paulo, the largest national newspaper in Brazil. Professor Bandiera de Mello's interview was about the engagement of businesspeople in politics.

BANDEIRA DE MELLO's book chapter "Corporate Political Strategies" was published by Oxford University Press.

RICKEY CALDWELL, PH.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering, was interviewed by Zippia.com about engineering job market trends. He offered tips on where new engineering graduates can find work as well as his thoughts on the impact of the pandemic and how technology will affect the field over the next five years.

KAREN HAYDEN, PH.D., professor of criminology and criminal justice, recently published two books: "Society and Law" (2020), a textbook for classes in society and law and sociology of law, and "The Rural Primitive in American Popular Culture: All Too Familiar" (2021).

Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies **DEBRA MICHALS, PH.D.** was quoted in an article in The Nation, based on her research on feminist federal credit unions. The article examines what such credit unions from the 1970s might teach lenders in the pandemic.

An April 27, 2020, article in CreditDonkey features Associate Professor of Marketing **JOSEPH STASIO** as an expert source on people's shopping habits. Stasio, who studies entrepreneurship, discussed how people behave when looking at products in person and online.

The Winston School of Education and Social Policy's **DR. ELAINE WARD** was recently invited to speak (virtually) to a coalition of universities in Australia on her experiences as one of the co-PIs leading an international pilot of the U.S. Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement in Ireland. Twelve Irish universities participated in the project and Dr. Ward presented on the challenges and benefits of using a U.S.-centric framework to assess civic and community engagement in another country.

WARD also recently served on the planning committee for the symposium Advancing Equity through Publicly Engaged Scholarship: Transforming Faculty Rewards Policy & Practices, sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) and Campus Compact. Dr. Ward coordinated and moderated the closing session with female faculty and community-engaged scholars of color who spoke on issues of equity and promotion and tenure. Dr. Ward currently serves as the external evaluator on a related DHE grant to three state universities to advance equity for faculty of color in academic work and specifically in the promotion and tenure process.

KATHRYN WELBY, ED.D. '01, assistant professor of practice, education, and community standards in the Winston School of Education and Social Policy, was featured in an article on WalletHub examining states' school systems.

Merrimack Announces Three New Board Members

Merrimack College has announced the appointment of three new members to its Board of Trustees: **Kevin Routhier '99**, founder and CEO, Coretelligent; **Stacey Dion '98**, head of global government, The Carlyle Group; and **Peter Caulo '83**, trader, Fidelity Asset Management.

All three alumni are highly accomplished in their respective fields and bring diverse, relevant expertise to Merrimack. In their new roles, they will collaborate with fellow Board members and work closely with President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., to provide strategic leadership and thought partnership and oversee fiduciary responsibility for the College.

→ **Get to Know Our Newest Board Members:**



KEVIN ROUTHIER '99 | Coretelligent

As founder and CEO of Coretelligent, Routhier leads the charge at the intersection of business, technology and finance. He founded Coretelligent in 2006 to help clients effectively maximize their IT investments. As CEO, he leads the strategic development and implementation of practical IT solutions and manages a team of experts who serve as trusted advisers to their clients.

Among his many professional accomplishments, Routhier was named a Boston Business Journal 40 Under 40 leader in 2013. In addition, Coretelligent has earned numerous accolades, including being named one of the Boston Business Journal's "Fast 50" five years running and an Inc. 5000 fastest-growing company for eight consecutive years.

Routhier earned a bachelor of science in business administration and computer science from Merrimack College in 1999.



STACEY DION '98 | The Carlyle Group

As a managing director and head of global government affairs for The Carlyle Group, Dion leads global government relations and public policy functions, collaborating with senior executives and investment professionals to shape Carlyle's global legislative and regulatory activities.

Prior to joining Carlyle, Dion served as vice president of corporate public policy for The Boeing Company. She has also worked extensively in government, holding positions including policy adviser and counsel in the Office of the Republican Leader and tax and pension policy adviser in the Office of the Majority Leader. Prior to that, she worked in the Employee Benefits Security Administration in the U.S. Department of Labor.

Dion earned her bachelor of arts from Merrimack College in 1998 and her juris doctor from The Catholic University of America.



PETER CAULO '83 | Fidelity Asset Management

Caulo is a trader in the fixed-income division at Fidelity Investments, a leading provider of investment management, retirement planning, portfolio guidance, brokerage, benefits outsourcing, and other financial products and services to institutions, financial intermediaries and individuals. In this role, he is responsible for executing trades for the municipal money market funds.

Prior to joining Fidelity in 2003, he worked as an institutional salesperson for municipal money markets in the investment management division at Goldman Sachs and at Lehman Brothers as an associate in the tax-advantaged area.

Caulo has worked in the financial industry since earning his bachelor of arts in economics from Merrimack College in 1983.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE WELCOMES THREE NEW MEMBERS TO THE COLLEGE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Merrimack College is pleased to announce the addition of three new members to its College Leadership Council: **Henriette McNiff Girard GP'17**, founding trustee and member of the board of directors at The Academy at Penguin Hall; **William “Bill” Leahy '76**, retired AT&T Southeast regional president; and **Amy McDonough '97**, managing director and general manager of Fitbit Health Solutions at Google.

About the New CLC Members:



Henriette McNiff Girard GP'17

Founding Trustee and Member of the Board of Directors at The Academy at Penguin Hall, an

all-girls college preparatory high school in Wenham, Massachusetts

McNiff Girard has over 30 years of experience in real estate, including negotiating transactions for investment properties and site selection/sales in the hospitality market throughout New England. She is the founder and former president of The McNiff Company Inc., a commercial real estate firm previously headquartered in Boston. Prior to founding The McNiff Company, McNiff Girard served as a vice president of Ryan Elliott & Company, a commercial real estate firm with a concentration in the downtown Boston office market.

McNiff Girard has been involved with the Steering Committee of New England Women in Real Estate, the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers (Appraisal Institute), the Children's Museum and the Greater Boston Real Estate Board, and is a former member of the Boston Chamber of Commerce.

A resident of Gloucester, Massachusetts, Henriette and her late husband, Frank Girard '62, H'16, GP'17, namesake of the Girard School of Business, have been loyal supporters of Merrimack College.



William “Bill” Leahy '76

Retired AT&T Southeast Regional President

Leahy has served in a variety of

marketing, finance, corporate strategy and regional president positions for over 40 years with AT&T. Prior to his Southeast position, Bill directed AT&T's legislative and public affairs strategy for the 50 states and US territories. These efforts focused on deploying advanced wireless and fiber technologies to businesses and consumers throughout the country.

Leahy served on the boards of several organizations, including the National Governors Association and the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, and most recently was board chairman of the Georgia Chamber and director of the Georgia Governor's Economic Council.

Leahy has been involved at Merrimack for many years and previously served as a member of the Board of Trustees. He earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Merrimack College and master's in business administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He resides in Amelia Island, Florida.



Amy McDonough '97

Managing Director and General Manager of Fitbit Health Solutions at Google

McDonough

leads the team working with employers, health plans and health systems to design solutions and programs focused on engagement, positive return on investment and health outcomes. Before her current role, McDonough took on several key positions leading Fitbit's business-to-business-to-consumer efforts. Prior to Fitbit, McDonough held strategic roles at CNET Networks, including director of audience and content development for the Community Division and director of strategic partnerships for the network.

McDonough earned her bachelor's degree in English from Merrimack College and a Professional Certificate in Integrated Marketing Communications from the UC Berkeley Extension program. She resides in Lafayette, California, with her husband and two sons.

DR. JOHN “SEAN” CONDON APPOINTED PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



After serving as Interim Provost for one year, Dr. John “Sean” Condon has been appointed Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Merrimack College.

A member of the Merrimack community since 2005, Dr. Condon has held numerous leadership roles, including President of Faculty Senate, Vice Provost for

Undergraduate Education and Faculty Affairs from 2019–2020, and interim Dean of Liberal Arts from 2016 to 2019. A history professor who has developed and taught courses ranging from race and slavery in the early modern Atlantic world through an environmental history of North America, he also served as chair of the History Department and Director of the International Studies Program. His historical research has centered on the ways that people strive for dignity, autonomy and community in times of

profound social, economic and political change. Rising from the ranks of assistant professor to provost, Dr. Condon has been an advocate to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in terms of curriculum, hiring, supporting, and retaining top faculty and staff, and attracting and retaining a diverse study body.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Condon served a vital role as the College’s academic offerings pivoted to hybrid learning and has proven his leadership ability by working with faculty, students and external partners to deliver quality, innovative education.

Dr. Condon’s career as an exceptional academic who understands and has a long history in Catholic higher education; a deep understanding of the fundamentals of the liberal arts and a commitment to the development of student success; and a deep understanding of the culture and uniqueness of Merrimack and all it can offer to the world; makes this an exciting appointment for the College.

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



Merrimack Awarded \$500,000 through Cummings Grant Program

Merrimack College joins the ranks of 140 Massachusetts organizations as a recipient of the Cummings \$25 Million Grant Program. The program awards annual funding to community-facing institutions based in Middlesex, Essex and Suffolk counties.

On May 17, 2021, Merrimack was awarded an annual grant of \$50,000 for 10 years through the Cummings \$25 Million Grant Program. The Program supports up to 140 Massachusetts nonprofits and local institutions each year, all of which meet the needs of communities in Middlesex, Essex and Suffolk counties.

“The Pioneer Scholarship and Early College programs are an important part of achieving Merrimack’s mission to work alongside local communities and enrich the lives of all deserving students,” said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. “The Cummings Foundation grant will help ensure the longevity of these groundbreaking, innovative programs and further advance the impact of the partnership between community partners and Merrimack College.”

Funding from the Cummings Foundation will go towards hiring a director for the Early College and Pioneer Scholarship Programs who will lead and grow programming for both matriculated Pioneer Scholars as well as students in Merrimack’s Early College Program (ECP). With the addition of this role, Merrimack will build the capacity to exponentially increase student enrollment and student access to key networks of support.

“We aim to help meet the needs of people in all segments of our local community,” said Cummings Foundation Executive Director Joel Swets. “It is the incredible organizations we fund, however, that do the actual daily work to empower our neighbors, educate our children, fight for equity and so much more.”

As of 2019, only 10% of Lawrence adults hold bachelor’s degrees. The ECP works closely with Lawrence High School and the Abbott Lawrence Academy to offer valuable exposure to college for students who may not get the opportunity otherwise. Participating students must complete the program application, maintain a GPA of 3.3 or higher, take a menu of rigorous courses at Merrimack and receive the endorsement of their Lawrence High School principal. Currently, there are 150 students enrolled in the ECP (75 juniors



and 75 seniors), all of whom are eligible to receive one of 10 Pioneer Scholarships awarded each year.

From the Lawrence High School Class of 2019, 94% of ECP students have matriculated at college within 6 months of graduating high school versus only 47% of their peers. Students who completed the program have been accepted at colleges including Merrimack, Harvard, Brown, UMass Amherst, UMass Lowell, Northeastern and elsewhere.

The new director will ensure these numbers continue to grow by investing in community partnerships, working closely with Merrimack Admission, the Winston School of Education and Social Policy and the O’Brien Center for Career Development to expand professional development opportunities for students and developing a long-term strategic plan. The director will lead collaboratively at Merrimack and in the broader community to continually increase access to higher education and provide the guidance, academic rigor and life skills students in Lawrence need to succeed.

The Cummings Foundation grant will support the College’s Pioneer Scholarship Program, which awards full scholarships to ten students from the Abbott Lawrence Academy each year.

Grant recipients were celebrated virtually on Thursday, June 10, via Zoom. The grant will officially be awarded on Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

\$50,000

annual grant for 10 years

150

students enrolled in the ECP

94%

of ECP students have matriculated at college

10

Pioneer Scholarships awarded each year

NEW UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS



Merrimack is proud to continue expanding its offering of dynamic, career-focused degree programs and concentrations. This year, the College has added one new major and two new major concentrations to its already diverse array of academic programs: the bachelor of arts in economics/finance, the hospitality management concentration, and the concentration in entrepreneurship and small business management. The development of these programs was led by Merrimack faculty to align with students' interests and prepare them with the skills needed to achieve both personal and professional success.



ECONOMICS/FINANCE

A collaboration between the School of Liberal Arts and the Girard School of Business led to the creation of the bachelor of arts in economics/finance. This new major offers students a unique opportunity to develop a strong foundation in economics and finance while examining financial markets and the economic system from the business and liberal arts perspectives.

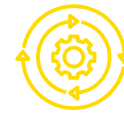
This unique, blended major incorporates elements from Merrimack's School of Liberal Arts and the Girard School of Business, allowing students to participate in hands-on learning opportunities in the Mucci Capital Markets Lab and the Financial Capability Center.



HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

Within the Girard School of Business, Merrimack has added two new concentrations to the business administration major. In the first, the hospitality management concentration, students explore the diverse areas of the service industry through courses in marketing, tourism, hospitality, human resources, leadership, emotional intelligence, organizational behavior and more.

The Girard School of Business hospitality management concentration curriculum is business focused, driven by the hospitality industry. Students graduate prepared to launch a career based on world-class excellence as a hospitality leader.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

In the second new concentration, students take their small business ideas off the ground as business entrepreneurs. The curriculum of the entrepreneurship and small business management concentration helps students develop skills in business planning, financials, management and business growth.

Applied learning, or learning by doing, is at the core of this concentration. Students have the opportunity to learn firsthand about successful entrepreneurs, what it means to be in the workforce, and what it takes to survive and thrive in the industry.

MERRIMACK STUDENTS WIN SECOND PLACE IN Student-Managed Fund Investment Competition

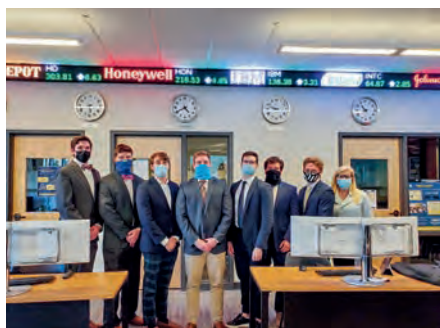
Merrimack investment students took home second place at this year's global financial conference, GAME Forum. Students competed with a brand new team, Fixed Income, and managed over \$300,000 in funds through the Mucci Capital Markets Lab.

For the third year, a team of students from the Girard School of Business competed in the Global Asset Management Education (GAME) Forum. Typically held in New York City, the GAME Forum is the largest student-run financial conference in the world, welcoming both undergraduate and graduate students from over 45 states and more than 150 colleges and universities.

The 2021 conference was held virtually on Friday, March 26, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After 2020 cancellations last March, students, faculty and industry experts were excited to reconvene online for a robust lineup, having fully adapted to a virtual platform. GAME X marked the program's 10th active year since its inception in 2011 and featured keynote speaker panels, breakout room discussions on key topics like portfolio management, equity analysis and investment banking, and the global portfolio competition.

In past years, Merrimack has performed well in competition through The Merrimack Investment Fund, a student-led group that manages a fund of over \$300,000 year-round at the Mucci Capital Markets Lab. In

On March 26, students from the newly established Fixed Income Fund had the opportunity to present to industry experts where they showcased their overall portfolio performance.



the group's very first year of competition in 2019, they took home first place in the Growth category.

"The first year competing was a real whirlwind," says Mary Papazian, Girard professor and director of the Mucci Capital Markets Lab. "We had been to the conference five years prior to actually competing. Once we had real funds to manage through joint donations from both alumni and friends of the College, we spent the year building a team, creating an investment policy and implementing an overall investment strategy."

After the big win in 2019, the team re-entered the competition in 2020 and took home second place in the Core category. This year, students from the newly established Fixed Income Fund had the opportunity to present to industry experts, showcasing their overall portfolio performance. It was their first time both presenting and competing at the conference, and they came in second place in the Small Fund category.

"It was exciting to place second in the Small Fund category in our first year of eligibility. Considering how the world has changed drastically over the last twelve months it was great to participate in the GAME Forum this year," says John Gagnon, a senior at Merrimack and the president of the Merrimack Investment Fund. "The team had worked diligently throughout the year to provide the return that we did and our group was proud of what we were able to accomplish. The cherry on top was knowing that we were able to place in a competition against colleges and universities globally."

The Fixed Income team was thrilled to place for the third year in a row and carry the torch of past Merrimack competitors. The teams' consistent performances at the conference speak volumes to the commitment Merrimack students have shown to managing real-life funds, utilizing the resources and tools in Mucci Lab and putting financial theory to practice.

From Marathon Races to Running Vaccination Sites

How one Merrimack alumnus is helping organize the Massachusetts COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts

For **DAVE MCGILLIVRAY '76, H'12**, founder and president of DMSE Sports and member of Merrimack's College Leadership Council, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about numerous unforeseen challenges—but has also presented new opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others.

For decades, many have known McGillivray as the race director for the Boston Marathon and an exceptional endurance athlete, renowned motivational speaker and successful business owner.

Since founding DMSE Sports in 1981, McGillivray and the company have managed or helped in the management of over 1,400 large-scale athletic events, including the Boston Athletic Association Boston Marathon, Goodwill Games, ITU Triathlon World Championship, US Women's Olympic Marathon Trials, Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk and several events on Merrimack's campus, including the DMSE Sports Classic and Homecoming.

After all of DMSE's 35 scheduled events for 2020 were canceled or moved to a virtual format in the wake of the pandemic, McGillivray and his team quickly recognized the need to pivot their business model. Faced with an inability to conduct events in their typical format, the company pressed on.

Looking back, McGillivray recalls telling himself, "People are sick, people are dying, — your skillset is versatile. There are other things you can be doing to help others during this time."

Throughout the pandemic, McGillivray maintained an optimistic mindset, seeking a way to move forward and turn the negative course of events into something positive. Then, a single phone call came along that changed everything.

McGillivray and the DMSE team were approached by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts along with CIC Health, a Cambridge-based health technology company, to assist with the operations and logistics management for two of the state's mass COVID-19 vaccination sites.

Immediately jumping at the chance to help make a positive impact through their work, McGillivray explains, "There were so many bright things about this opportunity. It was about having an impact on keeping people healthy and saving lives."



Dave McGillivray '76, H'12
founder and president
of DMSE Sports

Since then, DMSE has helped organize and execute logistics at the vaccination sites, ramping up from vaccinating 500 guests per day when the sites first opened to nearly 10,000 guests daily. DMSE's role focuses on managing the safety and efficiency of site operations to ensure that the maximum number of people possible get the shot each day.

McGillivray notes there are many direct parallels between producing a race and conducting operations at these sites. Similar to a marathon, guests register for their appointment, show up at the "starting line" of the site at the appointed time, move through the "course" to receive their shot and are then directed to the "finish line" or final observation area to be monitored for any post-vaccination side effects.

In addition to applauding the state's push to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine, McGillivray also commends his alma mater on its efforts to keep students safe with on-site COVID-19 testing. "It's been impressive to see the tremendous amount of work Merrimack has put forth to keep students, faculty and staff safe and secure in their return to campus. The extensive testing protocol implemented by the College is a great example of its investment in the overall health and safety of the campus community."

Merrimack Graduate Student Named Newman Civic Fellow



Tevin Monroe, a graduate student in Merrimack's Master of Education in Community Engagement program, received the Newman

Civic Fellowship. Monroe will join the national cohort of student fellows for the 2021-2022 academic year as he works to complete his degree entirely online.

Campus Compact, a national network of colleges and universities, awards annual fellowships to community engaged students across the country. Since 2018, Merrimack students have been recipients of the fellowships, with focus areas ranging from international resource sharing and translation, to youth development and access to education in underrepresented communities. This year, Merrimack is pleased to announce graduate student Tevin Monroe has been named a Newman Civic Fellow for the 2021-2022 cohort.

Monroe attends his classes remotely from Kentucky as one of the first fully online students in the Community Engagement master's program in the Winston School of Education and Social Policy. Both at Merrimack and in the broader world of higher education, Monroe's work has deep ties to community building, student engagement and leveraging personal experience to inform his professional development. In addition to being a graduate student at Merrimack, he is

also the Assistant Director of Campus and Community Engagement at Transylvania University (Transy) in Lexington, Kentucky.

"Tevin is an active member of Merrimack College's Graduate Students of Color Association and he is also an informal mentor for students of color and LGBTQ students at Transylvania University," President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., states in his letter nominating Monroe for the Fellowship. "He seeks to advance strategic partnerships between colleges and communities to foster student development and retention; diversity, equity and inclusion on college campuses; and stronger and healthier communities."

As an AmeriCorps Vista alum as well as in his current role with Transy, Monroe says he enjoys working closely with students. Much of his work is focused on helping students and undergraduate student groups expand their understandings of what community means and how they can have an impact.

Audrey Falk, director of the community engagement program, spearheaded Monroe's nomination and praises his commitment to his coursework, his classmates and the students he works with at Transy. Falk will also serve as Monroe's mentor during his fellowship year.

"Tevin is extremely professional and extremely committed to community engagement and social justice," Falk says. "He has a lot of lived experience that's very relevant and I think he connects with the students that he works with at Transylvania University very well. He is very passionate

about supporting diverse students and underrepresented students."

As for Monroe, he feels honored to be awarded this prestigious opportunity and looks forward to networking with fellow student leaders across the country. He sees the fellowship year as a chance to collaborate and learn from one another.

"It's a huge honor to be chosen for this," he says. "I think it'll be great to hear from the undergraduate students in the cohort and hear what they're doing on their campuses...to see them as colleagues and see what work is happening within undergrad student communities."

While Monroe has yet to set a specific focus for his fellowship year, he has developed an interest in theory through his coursework at Merrimack. He says he would be interested in thinking through ways of making theory more accessible to those outside of academia.

"I find I really enjoy theory, which is kind of funny. I've never really seen myself as an 'academic,'" Monroe says. "Reading a lot of feminist theory and theory of community engagement has been really eye opening to me, and I think in the ways that feminist theory can include everyone of all genders and racial identities and sexualities. I'm interested in how it can be accessible to people who don't have advanced degrees or lots of formal training."

After an initial orientation period this spring, the fellowship period will officially begin in fall 2021.

AUGUSTINIAN UPDATE



l-r: Br. Jeremy, Br. Bill and Br. Sam

Congratulations to DEACON JEREMY HIERS, O.S.A., DEACON BILL GABRIEL, O.S.A. of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova and DEACON SAM JOUTRAS, O.S.A. of the Chicago Province who were ordained on Saturday, January 16, 2021 by the retired Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, IL, Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon at St. Jude Parish in New Lenox, IL.

Please pray for Br. Jeremy, Br. Bill and Br. Sam as they continue their journey.

GROWTH OF GRADUATE EDUCATION

How Merrimack is mastering the art of practical, affordable graduate programs

In 2010, Merrimack was home to 94 graduate students. Fast-forward 11 years and that number is now 1,268 — and counting.

Over the past decade, the College has doubled its investment at the graduate level, launching new programs, hiring top-tier faculty, and expanding online and hybrid options, all while dramatically increasing its student population — even amid a global pandemic.

While the COVID-19 pandemic significantly altered the landscape of higher education, it served as a catalyst for unprecedented enrollment numbers across Merrimack's 44 graduate degree and certificate programs.

Whether looking to advance their career amid a wave of economic uncertainty, looking to pivot to a new field entirely, or simply seeking a new opportunity to sharpen their skill set, an increased number of individuals sought admittance to the College's master's degree and certificate programs.

A year later, and the momentum of Merrimack's graduate programs shows no sign of slowing down.

"Merrimack is moving forward rapidly," said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "Much like our move to Division I athletics, the expansion of graduate studies has made us a bigger, better, stronger institution."



So what is Merrimack's key to graduate success? INNOVATION.

INNOVATING AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL

Since 2011, the College has introduced 28 new master's programs — including seven online degrees. The expansion has been targeted at developing programs that prepare students to meet today's evolving market demands.

Recent additions include master's degree programs in biology, social work, communication, engineering management with a concentration in product management and a new hybrid management program. The College expects to add several more graduate programs over the coming year.

Merrimack's clinical mental health counseling and school counseling master's programs have proven to be two of the most popular programs offered at the graduate level. Launched three years ago, these degrees have seen a steady rise in application numbers and continue to be in high demand.

The College's one-year teacher education program is also thriving. The flexibility of evening classes and the option to study full or part time helps students prepare for a rewarding career in education on their own terms.

"Our curriculum and formats are designed in response to the latest trends in both industry and higher education," President Hopey said. "Our goal has always been to position Merrimack — and its students — for the future."

In addition to offering practical degree and certificate programs across a broad range of disciplines, the College has stood out by offering students flexibility in both course modality and scheduling — all at a competitive cost.

INCREASING ACCESS

With courses available through on-campus, online and hybrid formats, students can select the modality that best fits their needs and lifestyle — and that level of flexibility has helped set Merrimack apart from peer institutions.

“I think the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us the importance of offering more flexible course formats,” shares Courtney Johanson, vice president of marketing and chief marketing officer. “We used to think of our graduate programs as either purely online or on-campus — strictly one or the other — and we’ve seen that students want the ability to switch between an online course and a campus-based course.”

In addition, the College has committed to keeping graduate education costs affordable. With competitive tuition, generous scholarships and widely available fellowships, Merrimack offers graduate degrees at a cost that’s generally comparable to that of public universities.

“I think we have worked really hard to give access to many more students than ever before. Whether that be through affordable pricing or flexibility in scheduling and modalities, it opens up new avenues for students that we may not have reached before,” shares John “Sean” Condon, provost.

FUNDING FUTURES WITH FELLOWSHIPS

The expansion of Merrimack’s robust fellowship program has been key to attracting a wide variety of graduate students. Half- or full-tuition fellowships combine classroom instruction with practical fieldwork — providing valuable professional experience and enabling students to make a seamless transition into the workforce.

To promote opportunities across the academic landscape, Merrimack offers fellowships in a range of subjects including K-12 teacher education, civil engineering, accounting, health and wellness management, and clinical mental health counseling. Two hundred and sixty fellows were enrolled across all graduate programs in spring 2021, working in partnership with Merrimack College offices, local K-12 schools, community organizations and more.

In the higher education fellowship program, fellows work on campus and are closely mentored by Merrimack staff. Professor Susan Marine, Ph.D., director of the higher education program, comments, “With our growth, we’re able to offer a wide variety of diverse fellowships within the field of higher education. It’s created a very rich program.”

DOUBLING DOWN ON A MERRIMACK EDUCATION

As Merrimack’s graduate offerings expand, Warriors, both past and present, are turning to the College to continue their studies through the new and improved Double Warrior program — an offering that makes it easy for Merrimack students to earn their graduate degrees.

“I think we have worked really hard to give access to many more students than ever before... it opens up new avenues for students that we may not have reached before.” ISABELLE CHERNEY

Available to both alumni and current students, the program offers benefits such as tuition discounts and abbreviated admission requirements. In addition, Merrimack undergraduate students can get a head start by completing up to two graduate courses during their senior year.

For Double Warrior Liz Hopley ’11, M’12, continuing her education at Merrimack was an easy choice.

“During my senior year, I had an internship at the Boys & Girls Club in Lawrence, so I was interested in continuing to work with kids and families in that area,” Hopley said. “Through Merrimack’s master of education in community engagement program, I was able to spend my year essentially doing social work right in Lawrence. It allowed me to spend more time in a community that I had learned to love.”

Today, Hopley remains committed to that work as the teen director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Carlsbad, California. “I’m proud to come from a college that cares about its students and wants to empower them to make a difference,” Hopley said. “As Merrimack grows, it’s giving students and alumni more opportunities to do what they want to do in the world.”

CHARTING A NEW TRAJECTORY

As Merrimack looks to the future, President Hopey reports that the commitment to graduate education is here to stay. The growth seen over the last decade is more than a phase — it’s a fundamental institutional shift.

With plans to increase physical spaces on campus for graduate student use, expand professional development and advising resources, and invest in new research-based programs, Merrimack is committed to growing its vibrant, diverse graduate community.

“With the expansion of our graduate offerings, Merrimack is on a great trajectory,” President Hopey said. “From our world-class online programs to our top-tier graduate-level faculty, I’m confident about where we’re headed. No matter where you look, our future is bright.”

WARRIOR TOP 10



Merrimack Winter Sports Return to Play

The Merrimack College women's and men's ice hockey programs and the women's and men's basketball teams returned to competition this winter as the first Warrior programs to play in the 2020–21 academic year. The ice hockey squads played a full Hockey East schedule, while the basketball programs competed in an entire Northeast Conference (NEC) slate. Highlights included victories on the ice over Holy Cross and UMass, multiple prolonged winning streaks for each basketball program and even an appearance on SportsCenter's Top Ten plays for freshman basketball student-athlete Malik Edmead.



Women's Cross Country Shines at NEC Championship

The Merrimack College women's cross country program enjoyed an impressive performance at the NEC Championship meet in February. Led by all-conference selection Julia Dempsey, the Warriors finished in fourth place overall. Individually, Dempsey also finished fourth in the 58-runner field as she enjoyed a 32-second improvement from the race that preceded the conference championship meet. Samantha LiPetri (15th) and Ava Mahoney (16th) also claimed top-20 times to boost Merrimack. LiPetri crossed the line in 18:53.9 to set a considerable PR, while Mahoney clocked in at 19:00.2 for another personal best time.



Athletics Diversity Committee Makes Campus-Wide Impact

The Athletics Diversity Committee was formed by student-athletes to create a community within the athletics department where we better understand one another, celebrate our differences and welcome diversity. During the fall semester, they conducted a pair of events: an Injustice T-Shirt event (Sept. 24) and a Kneel in Solidarity event (Oct. 26) to create awareness surrounding issues like racial injustice and police brutality in addition to unifying campus with these efforts.



Sam Cooper '19 and Jovan Grant '20 Sign NFL Contracts

Merrimack football alumni Sam Cooper '19 and Jovan Grant '20 signed contracts in the National Football League in May. Cooper, Merrimack's starting left guard in 2019, inked a deal with the Baltimore Ravens while Grant, the Warriors' starting safety in 2019, joined the Los Angeles Rams. Cooper was a force on the offensive line, helping Merrimack to have the second best rushing attack in the Northeast Conference two years ago. Grant was the team's second leading tackler that season, totaling 49 stops over 10 games. The duo join an impressive list of alumni with professional football experience including Tony Johnson '12, Shawn Loiseau '12, James Suozzo '12, Isaiah Voegeli '13 and Dillon Salva '18.



Women's Hockey Alumnae Shine in NWHL

Four alumnae of the Merrimack College women's hockey program played in the National Women's Hockey League's Bubble season in Lake Placid, New York. Paige Voight '19 played for the Metropolitan Riveters. Dominique Kremer '19 suited up for the Buffalo Beauts, and the duo of Mikyla Grant-Mentis '20 and Sam Ridgewell '19 took the ice for the Toronto Six. Grant-Mentis particularly impressed in the professional ranks, being named the league's Most Valuable Player and Newcomer of the Year, receiving Toronto's Foundation Award and was one of the Fans' Three Stars of the Season honorees.

Jordan Minor Earns NEC Hardware as Part of Strong Start to the Season

Sophomore forward Jordan Minor emerged as one of the top players at Merrimack and across the NEC this winter. In January, he was named NEC Co-Player of the Week following a pair of double-doubles in two wins for Merrimack. Minor was among Merrimack's scoring leaders and one of the conference's top rebounders during the season. He also became the first Merrimack student-athlete in nearly two decades to record four consecutive double-doubles.



Merrimack Adds Stephanie Kazmierczak and Ashley Durepo as New Head Coaches

The Warriors added two new head coaches during the academic year. Stephanie Kazmierczak joined Merrimack last summer as head coach of the women's volleyball squad. Prior to the 2021 season, Ashley Durepo was named the Warriors' new women's lacrosse coach. Stephanie and Ashley take over programs that entered their second year at the Division I level in the NEC.



Mejail Profiled as 'Outstanding NE10 Individual' for Sustained Excellence

Head women's soccer coach Gabe Mejail P'15 was named as one of the 40 Outstanding Individuals in the Northeast-10 40th

Anniversary Celebration for his decorated career building the Merrimack women's soccer program. Prior to Merrimack's transition to the Northeast Conference and the NCAA Division I level, Mejail guided the Warriors to 34 winning seasons over 35 years at the Division II level, winning 71 percent (267-99-31) of their NE10 matches since 1985. Mejail won 14 total conference titles and advanced to 11 NCAA Tournaments during the team's Division II history.



Women's Lacrosse Starts NEC Play Strongly

The Merrimack College women's lacrosse team played its first NEC game of the spring this March and burst onto the scene with a 14-10 win over Saint Francis University. The win marked the home debut of first-year head coach Ashley Durepo and saw student-athletes Ally DaCosta and Meg Dzialo post 6 assists and 5 goals, respectively, to lead the offensive charge.



Men's Hockey Makes History in NHL Draft

For the first time in program history, two players were selected before the fifth round in the same draft, as sophomore Zach Uens (fourth round, Florida Panthers) and freshman Alex Jefferies (fourth round, New York Islanders) came off the board in quick succession during the late afternoon. Uens was taken 105th overall, while Jefferies was selected with the 121st overall pick. Both players have enjoyed strong performances this winter. Uens has 7 points over 12 games and is tied for second on the team in assists (6). Jefferies is second in Merrimack in both goals (4) and points (10).



Your support of **THE WARRIOR FUND** allows our nearly 700 student-athletes to compete against the best in the nation.

Visit **MERRIMACK.EDU/GIFT** to make a gift today!

MERRIMACK LAUNCHES A NEW LOOK AND EMPHASIS ON PLANNED GIVING



THE 1947 SOCIETY

In 2016, Robin Smith '66 returned to Merrimack for the first time in 50 years.

"I couldn't believe how much it had changed. I knew it wasn't still one building, but I was so impressed by the new laboratories and the science and engineering facilities," she recalls.

Blown away by Merrimack's progress, Robin has since made generous gifts in support of students studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and has added a bequest for a planned gift through her will. These investments have established the Muriel A. Smith Memorial Endowed Scholarship in memory of her mother, who worked three jobs to make ends meet and encouraged her daughter to pursue college. "Everything I have today is because of her kick in the pants. I wanted her to be remembered, and I felt confident about associating her name with Merrimack because I know the school is going to be around for a long time," Robin concludes.

"As we look forward to the 75th anniversary of the founding of Merrimack, now seems like a good time to consider the many ways all of us can ensure the next 75 years and beyond."

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY, PRESIDENT

Robin and scores of others have chosen to specify their future support for Merrimack and become members of The 1947 Society, which recognizes donors who have established future gifts through their estate and financial plans. These planned gifts often fulfill the legacy dream of donors, in Robin's case, her commitment to financially assist young women pursuing higher education in STEM.

According to President Hopey, "At this moment in the history of Merrimack, loyal alumni, parents and friends can join Robin and other members of The

1947 Society by creating their own personal legacies that will continue the transformation of the College." As he explains, these planned gifts can be designated to any program or area at Merrimack. Such planned gifts will not only solidify the transformation that has already taken place but will reinforce an already strong foundation upon which the future will be built. "Though Merrimack is and will continue to be one of the fastest-growing institutions in the country, we can never take our eyes off of our Augustinian mission to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives. As we move forward, we are committed to this generation as well as the ones that follow. Planned gifts from generous donors will ensure that future," he states.

Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Leila Rice comments that considering a planned gift is within reach for most alumni, parents and friends who believe deeply in Merrimack and the role it plays in raising up young lives. "When you establish a planned gift, you don't have to turn around and write a check. You are making a pledge to yourself, your family and Merrimack that when the time comes, your assets will be distributed in line with your wishes, with Merrimack included. Should circumstances change, you can always amend your plan. And you need neither great wealth nor gray hair to establish a planned gift," she states.

"As we look forward to the 75th anniversary of the founding of Merrimack, now seems like a good time to consider the many ways all of us can ensure the next 75 years and beyond," Hopey concludes.

To learn more about planned giving visit MERRIMACKLEGACY.ORG or contact Leila Rice at RICELC@MERRIMACK.EDU or (978) 837-5997.

ALUMNI NEWS

1960s

▶ **JOHN COLLINS '61** has honored veterans by sounding Taps at over 6,500 veterans' funerals.

1970s

▶ **TERRY MONAHAN '72** celebrated 48 years as a sports writer in San Diego on Feb. 22. During the 2020 pandemic, Monahan received six writing awards for stories published in 2019, including two third-places from the California Newspaper Publishers Association, a first-place and a third-place from the Society of Professional Journalists and a second-place and an honorable mention from the San Diego Press Club.

1980s

▶ **LEE SLATTERY '81** was recently announced as a member of an eight-member advisory board of business

leaders to help build the profile and impact of the FedExCup Playoffs event, which returns to New Jersey in 2021.

▶ **DEBORAH DISANZO ELDRACHER '82** was named president of Best Buy Health for Best Buy Co. Inc. In this role, she is responsible for the company's health strategy, with a particular focus on bringing health technology into the home to help people live better, safer and more independent lives.

▶ Connolly Brothers, Inc., a construction management firm, announced that **MICHAEL CULLEN '85** has joined the company as chief financial officer (CFO).

▶ **MIKE CRITTENDEN '86**, owner of Bradford RF Sales based in North Andover, Massachusetts, celebrates being in business for 15 years. With five employees, Bradford RF Sales is a manufacturer's representative

firm for microwave/RF components and subsystems and services for the defense and telecom markets in New England.

▶ **VINCENT JAMES RAGUCCI III '86** has been promoted to chief strategy officer at Energy New England.

▶ **DR. KIM (MORSE) ROUND '86, P'12** has been appointed associate dean at Western Governors University (WGU) Teachers College. WGU Teachers College is one of the largest in the country. Kim and her husband, Bruce Round '84, are the parents of two grown sons and reside in Deerfield, New Hampshire.

▶ **JOHN SHAHEEN '87** is employed at Focus Technology Solutions, Inc. in Boston as an inside sales representative. He completed and ran the 2019 Boston Marathon and just completed his 15th season of officiating college baseball as well as high school football.



▶ **LYNDA LUSARDI '89** was recently promoted to east region AVP of sales – fiber acquisition at AT&T.

1990s

▶ **LYNNE CHASE '90, P'23** was promoted to Chief Accounting Officer at WinnCompanies and named to WinnCompanies' Board of Directors. [1]



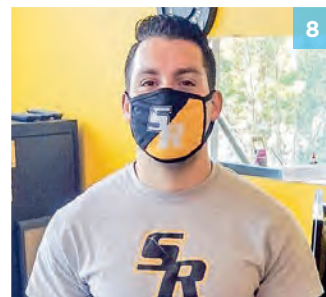
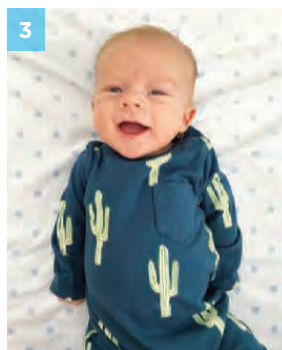
MERRIMACK COLLEGE

JUNE 10-12, 2022

REUNION 2022

Celebrating the Class Years of 1951, 1952, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017.





▶ **KARLEEN OBERTON '91** was appointed as a new director of AMETEK, Inc. Oberton serves as chief financial officer of Hologic, Inc. (NASDAQ: HOLX), an innovative medical technology company primarily focused on improving women's health and well-being through early detection and treatment systems.

▶ **DEREK DOO '92** received the 2021 Five Star Wealth Manager award.

▶ **PETE DAVIS '93**, longtime youth coach, has been integral to the success of the Franklin, MA youth lacrosse program. Since 2010, Franklin youth lacrosse has developed more than 45 collegiate lacrosse players, and Davis is a big reason why.

▶ **JESSICA MICHALAK '93** founded a 501(c)(3) charity, Partner in Lyme, which exists to carry the burden of Lyme by providing financial gifts of \$1,000 to residents of Connecticut in treatment for Lyme Disease. Jessica serves as founder and executive director.

▶ **KARA (EUSTACE) PRIFTI '96** has started a new job as the media center specialist at Literacy Leadership Academy K-8 Charter school in Tampa, FL on August 1, 2020 and is pursuing a permanent teaching certificate.

▶ **MAURA FITZPATRICK '96** was appointed vice president of product management and marketing for 908 Devices headquartered in Boston. Maura will be responsible for long-term roadmaps and strategic prioritization of new product opportunities across 908 Devices' full portfolio.

▶ **ERIN GUZZO '97** was recently named marketing, proposals and communications manager for Halfacre Construction Company, a Lakewood Ranch-based commercial construction company.

▶ **AMY MCDONOUGH '97** was named managing director & general manager at FitBit Health Solutions at Google.

▶ **ANITA SANTOS '97** has been named as vice president of marketing of LabMinds, Inc., a next-generation robotics company focused on solution preparation.

2000s

▶ **JAMES RIVIEZZO '00** joined Briza as head of business development and will focus his efforts on expanding relationships with insurance carriers, MGAs and brokerage partners seeking to develop digital distribution solutions for commercial insurance.

▶ **MARC LOMBARDO '04** was elected to a 6th Term in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, representing the town of Billerica.

▶ **DR. ANDREW WAITKEVICH '04** was named one of the five best chiropractors in Philadelphia by "Kev's Best" list.

▶ **NICHOLAS APOSTOLIDES '06** announced his upcoming role as Leon in Resident Evil: Infinite Darkness (2021).

▶ **KRISTIN '08** and **NICK FAIVRE '08** welcomed their first child, Violet June, on August 2, 2020. Mary (Dennis) Anderson '81 is one proud grandmother.

▶ **KRISTINA (TEEBAGY) WAKEFIELD '09** married Nathan Wakefield on August 29, 2020. Alumni in attendance: **Cassie Burke '09**, **Kyle McMullen Nicotera '09**, **Kate Mulcahy '09**, **Jessica Bavuso Walsh '09**, and **Tara Murphy '19**. [2]

2010s

▶ **CHRIS ORECHIA '10** and his wife Brynn welcomed Chase Christopher Orechia to their family on December 10, 2020. [3]

▶ **LAUREN DONOGHUE '11** from Wilmington has been named the sixth coach of the WHS Volleyball program. [4]

▶ **MARYROSE MAZZOLA '12** was recently named senior advisor to Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu's mayoral campaign. Prior to this role, she served as chief of staff to Massachusetts State Senator Barry Finegold. MaryRose will receive her law degree from Northeastern University in May.

▶ **EMILY DE LACOSTE '13** has joined The Castle Group as an account director. The Castle Group specializes in offering fresh perspectives and talent from agency life, the newsroom, the client-side and the world of podcasts.

▶ **DANIEL SAUD M'13** recently joined the Office of International Programs as director of undergraduate international admissions, recruitment & marketing at Washington State University.

▶ **TAYLOR TOGNACCI '16**, with her mother, created one of the year's biggest and unexpected hits: WinniOpoly, a super-local Monopoly-style game with Lake Winnepesaukee, NH at its center.

▶ **TIM OTERI '16** former Merrimack College lacrosse player of Andover, Massachusetts is a strength and conditioning coach at Northeastern University. [5]

▶ **BRETT SENEY '17, M'18** has re-signed a one-year contract as forward with the New Jersey Devils. [6]

▶ **LUCAS KAESTNER '18** graduated from the Lowell Police Academy on Friday, December 11, 2020 and has joined the Melrose Police Department as a police officer.

▶ **ROBY DESCHENES '18** joined the Rockport police department after graduating from the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Training Alliance Reserve Police Officer Academy.

▶ **JUAN LOPEZ '18** is currently a psychiatric nurse after completing an accelerated program the fall. [7]

▶ **JACOB HOWES '19** recently moved to Washington, D.C. and was promoted to national marketing manager for Golfzon America, the largest virtual golf company in the world. He also coaches lacrosse for a private club and runs a marketing consulting business.

▶ **BEN ROSNER M'19**, joined The College of Saint Rose Athletic Department as a full-time strength and conditioning coach. This is the first time in Saint Rose Athletics history that the student athletes have a full-time conditioning coach. [8]

▶ **KENNEY TRAN '19** joined TCP Global as the director, training and sustainability.

IN MEMORY

James E. Angelo, Sr. '51
William F. Daly '51
Gerald W. McCall '52
Gino J. DiGirolamo '53
William G. Countie '54
Gordon W. Schwaner '54
Mary A. D'Emanuele '56
Frederick J. Maloof '56
Lorraine M. (LeBlanc) Ruderman '57
Mary F. (McHale) Leavitt '58, P'90
Frank G. Nolan, Jr. '58
Maryscott Harrington '59
Richard F. Preadible '59
Philip G. Salem, Jr. '61
Thomas E. Humphreys '62, GP'23
Mary (Butler) Horan '62, P'92
Judith M. (Patten) Humphreys '62
James F. Troop, Sr. '63
Christine (Fournier) Adamson '64

Anne Louise (Cretella) Glynn '65, P'92
Vivienne M. (Gardella) Main '65
Richard J. McCartney '65
Thomas Nolan '65
Deanne (Baril) Leontovich '66
John P. Malia '66
Barbara M. (McLean) Uresky '66
Edward Camara, Jr. '67
Hugh McCabe '67
Thomas M. Allen '68
Barry C. Hutchinson '69
Mary F. (Coleman) Kochman '69
Warren H. Reeves '70
Joseph E. Smith '70
Joseph Y. Chan '71
Mary E. (McCormack) Maddox '71
Roland R. Bishop '75
Christina A. (Dobrzynski) Hitchcock '76
Walter C. Meyer '78, P'10
Laura M. Chmielecki '82
Catherine A. Flynn '82
Elaine Z. Nichols '83
Donald G. Juliano '84
Michael R. Douglas '86
Edward Christopher Roche '87

SAVE THE DATE OCT. 1-3, 2021

HOME COMING WEEKEND 2021

merrimack.edu/homecoming



EAMON WHITE '13

During his time at Merrimack College, one word best describes Eamon White: focused. A member of Merrimack's football team and a digital design major, White worked diligently to achieve his goals in both athletics and art.

Since graduating with his bachelor's degree in 2013, White has maintained this strong sense of focus while pursuing a career as an educator. Currently working as a special education technician at Scarborough High School in Maine, White has also coached football, basketball and lacrosse, allowing him to stay connected to his students in the classroom and on the field.

In addition to teaching and coaching, White has found success in another passion — art. Since his days of studying digital design at Merrimack, several of his art pieces have made the news, both locally and nationally.

White uses his art to “create emotions and tell stories.” He explains, “I want to create conversation pieces, things that will really make you talk.”

Looking to unite people in conversation about Black Lives Matter, White created a portrait of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man killed during a May 2020 arrest in Minneapolis. The portrait garnered the attention of many — including former Boston Red Sox designated hitter and first baseman David Ortiz. When Ortiz shared the image with his Instagram followers, it went viral and was liked more than 38,500 times.

“My proudest accomplishment right now is my George Floyd piece. I did not think it would reach and help so many people,” White says. White's portfolio also includes inspiring portraits of Breonna Taylor, Muhammad Ali, Maya Angelou, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Kobe Bryant.

In addition to his portraits, he recently completed a project that joined two of his specialties — art and athletics — as part of the NFL's “My Cause My Cleats” campaign. For that initiative, White was selected to hand-paint a pair of cleats for New York Jets safety J.T. Hassell. At Hassell's request, White designed the cleats to bring attention to the Lucky Fin Project, an organization that promotes education and awareness of limb differences. Hassell wore the cleats during a January game between the Jets and the New England Patriots.

Through it all, whether pursuing excellence in art, teaching or coaching, White applies the values he learned at Merrimack and thinks fondly of those who helped push him to succeed. “Merrimack really taught me about lasting connections. The experiences from my friends, professors and coaches at Merrimack helped me to get where I am today.”

photo: Samantha Jamison of S. Jamison Photography

STUDENT POEM

MENDEL POND

By: Ciara LiCausi '22

You know they often say the quiet ones know the most and what can I say as a pond I can be pretty quiet. You see, I am always there as the students walk over my bridge day and day again. Some days they are happy, some days they are sad, sometimes they are loud and sometimes they are very quiet. I have been here a long time and I have seen many students and faculty come and go, I have seen their styles change and watched as they built more and more around me. I have seen many celebrations with many smiling faces and heard chants of excitement. I just sit back and watch, as the seasons change, as the community grows bigger and older. My water freezes then melts, leaves fall in and a new set of faces arrives each year. Before I know it, when the sun blazes high in the sky, a fierce group dressed head to toe in black emerges. They are all people I have gotten to know over the past few years and out of the corner of my eye I see them as they march the roads. That is the last time I ever see most of them, I do not know where they go once they leave. Then something happened, one day people stopped gathering around me. They stopped walking by in groups and for a while didn't walk by at all. When they returned I could not see their smiling faces anymore because they were hidden behind a piece of cloth. What once was a place for friends to catch up in between classes is now very quiet and lonely. I will stay patient as I hope you will too, so one day we can all be together again and I can watch as you march down the road dressed head to toe in your black armor.

THE MERRIMACK FUND

During the past 10 years under President Hopey's leadership, an unprecedented transformation has taken place at Merrimack. These are just a few of the extraordinary outcomes.

REGIONAL RANKINGS CLIMB IN
U.S. News & World Report

2020 Rank
#46

Up from 2011 Rank: **#178**



1.4M square feet

of new and renovated academic, residential, athletic and student services space



10x increase

in funding for health, safety and wellness initiatives



99%

of undergraduates receive financial aid

Financial Aid Growth: \$20M → \$92M



100+ UNDERGRADUATE
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
AND 20 MASTER'S DEGREE
PROGRAMS



25+

academic courses with a
Service Learning component

**UNDERGRAD
STUDENTS**

1,879

4,008

**GRAD
STUDENTS**

60

1,268

■ 2011
■ 2020

Apple Distinguished School



100%

of students receive iPads for
academic work

24

NCAA
Division 1
sports



3x

increase in
club and
intramural sports



86%

of undergraduates
complete an **internship**
or **co-op**

96%

of undergraduates are
employed or in **graduate**
school within nine
months of graduation



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