

# MERRIMACK

WINTER 2023



**GREAT FUTURES** START HERE



**MERRIMACK  
COLLEGE**

**75  
YEARS**

# MERRIMACK

A Magazine for our Alumni, Parents and Friends

Winter 2023

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MERRIMACK COLLEGE

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## Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,



December not only marked the close of another calendar year, but also the conclusion of Merrimack's *Because We Believe* 75th anniversary celebration. The celebration united folks across the Merrimack community and provided an opportunity to reflect on the College's immeasurable growth over the past several decades—and what we hope to achieve in the future. Looking back across 75 years of

Merrimack's history, I remain in awe of just how much the College has accomplished in a relatively short amount of time.

And Merrimack's momentum shows no signs of slowing down. Guided by the road map laid out in the *Agenda for the Future* and backed by the strength of its dedicated community, Merrimack continues its emergence as a leader in higher education. Within the past year alone, the College has added innovative new programs to its academic catalog, hired 24 additional faculty members and increased physical space on campus with the opening of the new Center for Innovation and Research in Engineering and Computational Sciences.

This magazine is the third, and final, edition of our yearlong *Because We Believe* 75th anniversary celebration series. As a fitting conclusion to the series, we have chosen to highlight some of Merrimack's most recent accomplishments, including the record-breaking growth of new student applications, incredible new faculty research, a look into the College's Athletics Hall of Fame and more.

Words cannot express the extent of my gratitude for your continued engagement with the College. Whether you connect with fellow Warriors through social media, participate in a community event, volunteer on behalf of the College, visit campus or make a gift to Merrimack, your involvement contributes to the school's vibrant, thriving culture and helps create an environment that our students are proud to be a part of. Without your support, Merrimack would not be the institution that it is today.

Thank you for joining in the celebration of Merrimack's milestone 75th anniversary. We have much to be proud of and even more to look forward to as the next chapter of Merrimack's history unfolds.

God bless,

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.  
President



**MERRIMACK** | **75**  
**COLLEGE** | **YEARS**

# ACTIVATING INNOVATION

**New programs and support at Merrimack  
for research-oriented faculty**



**Concussion treatment. Diversity in STEM. Childhood nutrition.** Merrimack faculty members are tackling these critical topics with funding from the Strategic Academic Research Trajectory (START) cohort program. In line with Merrimack’s strategic plan, the *Agenda for the Future*, investing in research efforts like START help the College make strides in three key directions: growth, mission and impact.

Research is critical to Merrimack College, enhancing its reputation, diversifying the College’s revenue streams and helping attract the best and brightest students and faculty. By pioneering innovative projects with real-world implications, faculty researchers are advancing Merrimack’s mission to make a difference in the community and make an impact on the world at large.

“Research ties together mission and impact in a tangible way—one of the reasons it’s so critical to pay attention to research growth at Merrimack,” said April Bowling, associate vice provost of research.

## **Let’s Get STARTed**

The START program provides seed funding for faculty to advance their research and ultimately position their projects to receive external grants. “It’s a competitive process,” Bowling explained. “Faculty members submit comprehensive packages that outline their research plans and the grants they intend to apply for.”

Serving as mentors, experienced researchers guide START participants as they develop pilot projects that can provide proof of concept for larger studies. By publishing these initial studies, Merrimack faculty are better positioned to apply for—and secure—larger grants from public and private foundations.





## COMING SOON:

### Expansion of Research Facilities

Cutting-edge research requires state-of-the-art scientific equipment — and that's where Merrimack's inaugural Shared Instrumentation Facility (SIF) comes in. Currently planned for newly opened space in Palmisano Hall, the SIF is designed to support faculty and student research efforts by providing shared access to specialized tools for conducting in-depth biological, biomedical and chemical research.

Designed in a modular fashion, portions of the facility are scheduled to open by fall 2023. As clusters of researchers coalesce around specific techniques and technologies, new equipment will be added to accommodate their needs. To help facilitate faculty and student research, the SIF will be staffed with technicians who can operate the equipment for multiple projects and conduct full-service processing and analysis.

“Research can be very labor intensive,” explained Bowling. “The SIF brings together the equipment and the staff to get the research done, efficiently and cost effectively.”



Katelyn Kurkul, associate professor of human development and human services, described the progression required to secure a major grant. “Findings from our pilot study will be used to seek funding from the National Institute of Health’s Small Grant Program. If that’s funded, another phase of pilot data collection will be used to inform a larger grant that will test the scalability of our model.”

Bill McDowell, associate professor of biology, has been accepted into next year’s START cohort to develop his research on microplastics in aquatic environments. “The START program represents an opportunity for me to branch out into a new, emerging field in ecology,” he explained. “In today’s competitive funding environment, this program allows me to get my research off the ground, train undergraduate and graduate students, collect preliminary data and pursue external funding through the United States Geological Survey and the National Science Foundation.”

As part of a multidisciplinary cohort, START researchers meet biweekly to provide feedback on each other’s projects, troubleshoot problems and forge academic and personal connections. “I hope every member of my START cohort will obtain significant extramural funding for their projects within five years,” said Brandi Baldock, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry. “And that the professional bonds we form with one another last throughout our careers.”

#### A Supportive Home for Research

The establishment of START and the nascent Shared Instrumentation Facility (see sidebar) are two concrete projects that mark the emergence of Merrimack as an institution where research-oriented faculty can build their careers. “We’re able to tell faculty that we can support their research if they choose to come here,” said Bowling. “That’s a critical component to recruiting faculty members with diverse expertise and research portfolios.”

# START COHORTS

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**Brandi Baldock, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry*

**RESEARCH FOCUS:**

Developing strategies for engaging and retaining diverse learners in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) courses

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**Laura Kurdziel, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor, Psychology*

**Allison Seitchik, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor, Psychology*

**RESEARCH FOCUS:**

Using electroencephalograms (EEGs) and other physiological instruments to examine the relationship between concussions, executive function and sleep

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**Azam Noori, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor Biology*

**RESEARCH FOCUS:**

Understanding the fate of PFAS in the environment and in plants to develop phytoremediation techniques to remove them from contaminated water

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**Lisa O'Brien, Ed.D.**

*Assistant Professor Education*

**RESEARCH FOCUS:**

Capturing novice teachers' racial literacy to disrupt the systemic racism that underlies educational inequities

---

**Eleanor Shonkoff, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Clinical Professor, Nutrition and Public Health*

**RESEARCH FOCUS:**

Conducting a free intervention program to help families who are facing food insecurity and have at least one child who is overweight

---

**Christian Kronsted, Ph.D.**

*Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow Honors Program*

**RESEARCH FOCUS:**

Developing a new experimental method to investigate the use of space in embodied social sensemaking in group learning and creativity

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**Kilhoe Na, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor Communication and Media*

**RESEARCH FOCUS:**

Testing the effects of emotion and social media virality metrics on misinformation acceptance, spread, and debiasing on social media

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**Tunde Szivak, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences Program Director, M.S. in Exercise and Sport Science*

**Alyssa Yetter, Ph.D.**

*Director, Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Program Assistant Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice*

**RESEARCH FOCUS:**

Investigating how Merrimack's Police Academy impacts cadets' quality of life and career sustainability

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**Christopher Duston, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor Physics*

**RESEARCH FOCUS:**

Creation of the Merrimack College astronomical research group to gather photometric data of transient astrophysical sources

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**Ruth McKenzie, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor, Human Development and Human Services*

**Kate Kurkul, Ed.D.**

*Associate Professor, Human Development and Human Services*

**RESEARCH FOCUS:**

Developing a storytelling-based intergenerational intervention for those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic — children under age 5 and older adults

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**Aaron Mansfield, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor Marketing and Sports Management*

**RESEARCH FOCUS:**

Clarify the relationship between sports fandom and physical health outcomes and highlighting opportunities to maximize consumer well-being

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**William McDowell**

*Associate Professor Biology*

**RESEARCH FOCUS:**

Developing a new technique for assessing microplastics in water sources





Among the newest additions to the Merrimack faculty are Christian Kronsted, Alvin Morton and Melissa St. Hilaire. Their varied interests represent the breadth of work being pursued at the College.

Kronsted studies human decision-making and behavior in large crowds such as concerts or protests. Just as we recognize that flocks of birds can move together without a single leader, Kronsted said he is “thinking of crowds as emergent, intelligent, collective agents without centralized leadership.” His proposed research will study groups that collectively create dance choreographies.

Morton’s research focuses on reducing health disparities—such as hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and obesity—by promoting physical activity in underserved communities, primarily those of Black men, who have historically not been well studied. “Unlike biological determinants of health, known social determinants like economic stability, access to education and health care access and the built and

social environment can be altered with time and action,” explained Morton.

Coming from Harvard Medical School, St. Hilaire combines experimental and computational approaches to study how insufficient sleep and disruption of circadian rhythms affect health, safety and performance. Currently, identifying an individual’s circadian clocks requires studying an individual in a controlled lab environment for several days. However, St. Hilaire believes that “machine learning approaches will help us to identify a way to estimate someone’s internal circadian clock as easily as other clinical tests, like blood samples.”

Faculty members are enthusiastic about the College’s investments in research initiatives and building a research-

oriented community. “Merrimack’s research portfolio is on a growth trajectory,” said St. Hilaire. “The new data science major provides a great opportunity for students and faculty to engage in exciting cross-departmental research projects and answer complex questions using novel methods and applications.”

The collaborative nature of Merrimack’s research community is a strong draw for new faculty members. “Merrimack is so collegial. We tend to get researchers who are open to working with different folks on their projects,” said Bowling. Morton agreed: “The focus on increasing research activities was vital to my rationale for coming to Merrimack.” ■

**“Research ties together mission and impact in a tangible way — one of the reasons it’s so critical to pay attention to research growth at Merrimack.”**

**APRIL BOWLING,  
ASSOCIATE VICE PROVOST OF RESEARCH**



**Merrimack faculty are making valuable contributions across many areas and disciplines. A selection of recent publications can be found here.**





# ENROLLMENT ON THE

# RISE



**13,175**

**Undergraduate applications**



**4,586**

**Number of applications from students with a 3.6 GPA or higher**



**1,182**

**Largest first-year class in Merrimack's history**

**As the COVID-19 global pandemic waned and restrictions loosened, Merrimack College was at the forefront of prospective student recruitment and engagement, leading to the largest incoming class in the College's history.**

Stymied by lockdowns and travel restrictions during the height of the pandemic, the Merrimack College admission team was more than ready to get back to the in-person meetings, events and interviews that are so critical to its work.

And when those restrictions started to ease, Merrimack College led the way in getting its admission team back on the road, and getting prospective students back on campus.

"We used that time as an opportunity to reach out to more students and build personal relationships," said Darren Conine, vice president for enrollment and dean of admissions. "Our counselors were able to meet with students via Zoom and email during the pandemic, but there is no replacing that in-person connection."

This semester Merrimack reaped the benefits of that diligence, as the College saw its highest number of applications, largest incoming class and highest number of transfer students in history.

More than 13,000 undergraduate applications were received for fall 2022, resulting in a record-breaking incoming class of 1,182 freshmen and 109 transfer students—all of which is a testament to key investments across the College, including academic programming, campus infrastructure improvements and personalized support services.


This application and enrollment trajectory stands in stark contrast to the country, with many colleges and universities failing to fill class sizes for the academic year. "One million fewer students are enrolled in postsecondary education than before the pandemic," Conine explained. "Merrimack is definitely an outlier."

The total number of applications Merrimack received is a 26 percent increase from fall 2021. The nursing program was the most popular major





 **925**  
Austin Scholar  
applications

**26%**   
Increase from fall 2021  
undergraduate applications

**264**   
Honors Program  
Applicants Admitted

among this year’s applicants with 1,300 applicants, followed by psychology and undeclared liberal arts.

“Merrimack College’s reputation as a premier higher education institution continues to grow across the country,” said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. “Students are responding to the College’s commitment to offering an academically rigorous and service-focused college experience that will prepare them to be leaders in their fields and solve future challenges.”

As the admission team got back on the road and the College was able to invite prospective students and families to campus for in-person marquee events, such as open houses and admitted student days, which have also had record registration and attendance, Conine says prospective students spoke highly of Merrimack’s personalized outreach.

“We heard from a lot of students about how our responsiveness and engagement didn’t make them feel like a number, but a person,” Conine said. “And that is at the core of our work. Being able to have the experience where students will have the same admission counselor through the entire process made them feel special at a time when they were anxious and nervous. They were going through the college selection process and in many cases were unable to visit the colleges they were interested in.”

Among those students who ultimately applied to Merrimack, there was a significant increase in students who had a 3.6 GPA or higher in high school, with 4,586 in 2022 compared with 3,424 in 2021.

Merrimack saw an increase in applicants from states such as Maryland, Illinois and Tennessee. After New England, the most applications came from the mid-Atlantic region. Despite travel and safety restrictions in place around the world due to the pandemic, the College continued to see steady interest from international students.

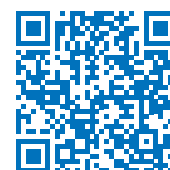
Recognizing the myriad of challenges high school students faced and are still facing as a result of the pandemic, Merrimack College adjusted its application process to better accommodate students by introducing rolling admissions. This flexible, “we’re ready when you’re ready” approach is designed with students’ needs and timelines in mind and will remain a signature element of Merrimack’s admission process. Merrimack believes in a holistic review of applications and has been a test-optional institution for almost 10 years but made the decision to waive standardized test score requirements for nursing students as a result of the pandemic.



The College is already seeing high levels of interest for next year’s incoming class, but Conine stressed Merrimack needs to stay ahead of the curve.

“A lot of the colleges that were slow to get back out there are now looking at Merrimack and saying ‘What are they doing?’,” Conine said. “We are off to a great start this year, and we are continuing to show that the Merrimack brand is strong and growing.”

The influx of applications demonstrates prospective students, and their families’ recognition of Merrimack’s prioritization in the ever-changing higher education landscape. Guided by the *Agenda for the Future*, the College’s strategic plan for 2021–2026, Merrimack College has taken steps to grow its academic and research efforts and expand its campus footprint while remaining rooted in its Augustinian Catholic mission. ■



**View a sample  
of the material  
applicants receive  
from the College.**

# GET CONNECTED, GIVE BACK AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your Merrimack experience doesn't end with graduation. Discover ways to stay connected to fellow alumni, parents, friends, today's students and the College. **Once a Warrior, Always a Warrior!**



## CONNECT WITH AND BUILD YOUR MERRIMACK NETWORK



### Follow Us on Social Media

@MerrimackAlumni    @MerrimackAlumni  
 @MerrimackAlumni    @MerrimackAlumni

### Participate in Mack Gives Back

Volunteer to support local organizations and community members in need.

[mackgivesback@merrimack.edu](mailto:mackgivesback@merrimack.edu)

### Submit a Class Note

Share your news about personal and professional growth. Keep your contact information up to date.

### Join a Class Reunion Committee

Help plan reunion activities and encourage event participation and a class gift.

[alumnirelations@merrimack.edu](mailto:alumnirelations@merrimack.edu)



## ATTEND AN EVENT TO SOCIALIZE, NETWORK AND MORE



### Homecoming

Come "back to the Mack" for one of the largest weekends on campus.

### Reunion Weekend

Celebrate milestone years with fellow classmates and reminisce about your time at Merrimack.

### Local and Regional Gatherings

Be on the lookout for gatherings in your area.

### Warriors Athletic Games

Cheer on your Warriors.



Visit our website for more information about upcoming events.



## CONNECT WITH CURRENT STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF



### Volunteer at Networking Events

Serve as an alumni panelist at events.

### Work with Merrimack's Admissions Team

Connect with prospective students about attending Merrimack.

### Offer Opportunities at your Company

Share opportunities with students to work or intern at your company.



## GIVE BACK AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**Make a donation to support generations of Merrimack Warriors to come. Opportunities for giving include:**

### The Merrimack Fund

Support what you love.

### The Warrior Fund

Support your favorite athletic team.

### Reunion Giving

Make a donation in honor of your class year.



Make a gift online. Your gift — combined with the generosity of others — has a powerful impact on the College.



# OUR AUGUSTINIAN FAMILY INCREASES

## An Update from the Augustinian Community

■ On August 6, 2022, the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova was proud to hold a Simple Profession of Vows ceremony for **BR. NICHOLAS STONE, O.S.A.** Br. Nicholas is originally from North Carolina and was a teacher for a couple of years before he began discerning his call. He discerned with another order before us, but as luck would have it, a fellow teacher with ties to Villanova connected him with the Augustinians. The rest is history!

Watch this video which features Br. Nicholas's family as they discuss their feelings as they watch their son and brother respond to God's call on his life. This is a very special video because this is the first time a friar's family has been on camera and asked to share their perspective.



Use the QR code to watch a video that features Br. Nicholas's family as they discuss their feelings as they watch their son and brother respond to God's call on his life.



■ The Augustinian community welcomed seven novices into the Augustinian family this August. One of the novices will settle at the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, while the rest will call California or the Midwest Provinces home. Please join us in praying not only for the novices, but also for all of our brothers in formation and for future vocations.



Merrimack's success — and the success of our students — is possible because thousands of alumni, families and friends believe in Merrimack. You create remarkable opportunities for our students by supporting scholarships and financial aid, academic and experiential program, and social and athletic outlets, to name a few.

Your support of **THE MERRIMACK FUND** has a lasting impact on current and future generations of Merrimack scholars.



## The Merrimack Fund

[WWW.MERRIMACK.EDU/GIFT](http://WWW.MERRIMACK.EDU/GIFT)

# Merrimack College **CENTER FOR CRIMINOLOGY** named for Alumnus' Father

**Through a generous gift from Vin Foley '68, Merrimack College's Center for Criminology will be named for Vincent P. Foley, Sr., who served as a police officer in Lawrence.**

**When Merrimack College criminology students, faculty and staff enter the Center for Criminology in Ash Hall, they now will pass by the name of a public servant that embodies the best of what their field represents.**

Thanks to a generous gift from Vin Foley '68, the criminology center is now the Vincent P. Foley, Sr. Center for Criminology, honoring Foley, Sr.'s selfless dedication as a member of the Lawrence Police Department. To recognize the gift and celebrate Foley, Sr.'s legacy, a special event was held in the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, which included the Foley family, Merrimack College's Board of Trustees and faculty and staff from the criminology center.

The donation will deepen Merrimack College's commitment to preparing faculty, staff and students to contribute to the

study and best practices of criminology and criminal justice. It will support a myriad of initiatives and efforts in Merrimack's criminology ecosystem, including the undergraduate and graduate programs, the Merrimack College Police Academy, the Jail Education Program and faculty research.

"At the core of Merrimack's mission is a commitment to preparing our students to lead collaborative efforts that foster a just, peaceful and sustainable world," said Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "That includes educating future generations of criminologists who will be at the forefront of crime reduction and criminal justice reform. We are incredibly grateful for Vin Foley, Jr.'s dedication, and are honored by this wonderful tribute to his father."

After serving as an officer in the U.S. Army during World War II, Foley, Sr. resumed his

distinguished career in the Lawrence Police Department and city government. Earning numerous accolades from the business community, fellow officers and the general public, Foley, Sr. worked tirelessly to serve and protect the residents of Lawrence. He stands as a model for the criminology students and police academy cadets who will learn at the Foley Center for Criminology and commit their lives to the betterment of the communities they serve.

"This generous gift will further the department's efforts to prepare students for civic-minded careers and to be community members who are committed to the pursuit of justice for all," said Deborah Margolis, Ph.D., dean of the Winston School of Education and Social Policy. "With a focus on ethics and professionalism, our faculty mentor students to be engaged practitioners and advocates that impact our communities, just as Vincent Foley, Sr. did."

Foley, Jr. has generously contributed to numerous areas and programs at Merrimack. As an avid intramural sports participant, Foley, Jr. attributes his time playing intramural football as a highlight while at Merrimack. The access and camaraderie he experienced through sports inspired him to fund the Foley Family Crossing that connects foot traffic through the woods between Martone-Mejail Field and on-campus student apartments. He has also funded a Pioneer Scholars Scholarship and a scholarship for an undergraduate student who is a refugee or seeking asylum in the U.S.

"Vin's gift exemplifies a level of engagement and philanthropy that is so critical to advancing Merrimack's mission to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives," said Jeffrey Doggett, Ed.D., Merrimack College's executive vice president. "The Merrimack community is forever grateful for his passion, belief and support of the College's efforts to seek truth through inquiry."

**"This generous gift will further the department's efforts to prepare students for civic-minded careers and to be community members who are committed to the pursuit of justice for all."**

- Deborah Margolis, Ph.D., dean of the Winston School of Education and Social Policy





# RENAMING THE School of Nursing and Health Sciences



A cornerstone of the *Agenda for the Future* is growth across Merrimack College's academic, research, development and community endeavors. And with that growth come exciting opportunities to ensure our students are positioned for success when they enter the workforce.

**We are excited to announce that the School of Health Sciences is now the School of Nursing and Health Sciences.**

This name change is in response to the significant interest in our nursing program and demonstrates Merrimack's commitment to closing the critical workforce gaps in both the nursing and health sciences fields.

This change will have no impact on day-to-day operations, but makes certain all our nursing and health sciences students have greater access to support, services, faculty and clinical experiences.



**IN LINE WITH OUR AUGUSTINIAN MISSION**, we are proud that our nursing students are out in the community and making an important difference. Below you will find some of the clinical affiliates:

## HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS

- Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA
- Lawrence General Hospital, Lawrence, MA
- Winchester Hospital, Winchester, MA
- Parkland Medical Center Hospital, Derry, NH
- Frisbie Memorial Hospital, Rochester, NH
- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA
- Anna Jacques Hospital, Newburyport, MA
- McLean Hospital, Belmont, MA
- Lahey Clinic Hospital, Burlington, MA
- North Shore Medical Center, Salem, MA
- Stewart Holy Family Hospital, Methuen, MA
- Beverly Hospital, Beverly, MA
- Portsmouth Regional Hospital, Portsmouth, NH
- Beth Israel-Needham Campus, Needham, MA
- Melrose Wakefield Hospital, Melrose, MA
- Tewksbury Hospital, Tewksbury, MA

## REHAB AND NURSING CENTERS

- Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital, Bradford, MA
- Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospitals of New England
- Bear Mountain/Prescott House, North Andover, MA
- Academy Manor, Andover, MA
- Bear Hill Rehab and Nursing Center, Stoneham, MA
- Genesis Rehabilitation-Sutton Hill, North Andover, MA
- Penacook Place, Haverhill, MA
- The Meadows Health Center at Edgewood, North Andover, MA
- Northeast Rehab Hospital, Salem, NH
- Hannah Duston Healthcare Center, Haverhill, MA
- Port Healthcare Center, Newburyport, MA
- Mary Immaculate Health/Care Services, Lawrence, MA
- Ledgewood Rehab & Skilled Nursing Center, Beverly, MA
- Masconomet Healthcare Center, Topsfield, MA

## COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- Trinity Hospice, Worcester, MA
- The Edinburg Center, Belmont, MA

## SCHOOL AFFILIATIONS

- LABB Collaborative (Special Education), Burlington, MA
- Burlington Public Schools, MA
- Wilmington Public Schools, MA
- St. Augustine's Catholic School, Andover, MA



# MERRIMACK COLLEGE: THEN AND NOW

# 1947



1951: THE COLLEGE  
BEGINS OFFERING  
ENGINEERING DEGREES

## ACADEM

BECAUSE WE BELIEVED,  
because of our community,  
Merrimack is stronger.

While much has changed in our 75-year history, the one constant that remains the same is our commitment to our Augustinian values and dedication to serving others.

We have much to celebrate from the past 75 years. Just imagine what will happen in the next 75 years.

## INTERNSHIPS

1971: THE COLLEGE ESTABLISHES A  
COOPERATIVE WORK/STUDY PROGRAM

1950: MERRIMACK IS VICTORIOUS  
IN THE 1ST MEN'S VARSITY BASKETBALL GAME  
AGAINST LOWELL TECH JUNIOR, 34-31



1951: AT ITS FIRST GRADUATION  
CEREMONY, THE COLLEGE AWARDS

**112 BACHELOR'S DEGREES**



THE COLLEGE'S BUILDING  
FUND CAMPAIGN EXCEEDS ITS

**\$1M GOAL**

## FU

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS GRANTS  
THE CHARTER TO WHAT IS THEN CALLED  
"THE AUGUSTINIAN COLLEGE OF THE MERRIMACK VALLEY"

## RANKING



**165** STUDENTS  
**STUDENTS**

**5,400** TOTAL STUDENTS  
4,000 UNDERGRADUATE  
AND 1,400 GRADUATE



**13** FACULTY MEMBERS  
**FACULTY**

**218** FULL-TIME  
FACULTY MEMBERS

**ICS**

THE COLLEGE OFFERS **100+** UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS  
(INCLUDING NEW 3-YEAR BACHELOR'S DEGREES)  
AND OVER **40** MASTER'S DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

2022: ALL MERRIMACK STUDENTS ARE  
GUARANTEED AN INTERNSHIP, AND OVER  
**40,000 INTERNSHIPS AND JOBS**  
ARE POSTED IN HANDSHAKE

**2022** →

**THLETICS**

MERRIMACK IS A **D1** SCHOOL  
WITH 27 VARSITY SPORTS



**GRADUATES**

AT ITS 72ND COMMENCEMENT, THE COLLEGE AWARDS  
**764 BACHELOR'S DEGREES**  
AND **406 MASTER'S DEGREES**



**NDRAISING**

**\$63M** IS RAISED DURING THE  
TOGETHER FOR GOOD CAMPAIGN —  
EXCEEDING THE \$50M GOAL

MERRIMACK IS RANKED A **TOP 40** BEST COLLEGES  
AND REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES NORTH BY  
U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

# Merrimack College Welcomes SIX MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

An accomplished group of six leaders representing a myriad of industries will bring their expertise and counsel to the Merrimack College community as the newest members of the Board of Trustees.

As of July 1, 2022, new members of the Board include **Michael P. Arcidi '85**, vice president of Whittier Health Network; **Matthew Carpenter-Dennis**, vice president and assistant general counsel for the NBA; **Lynne Ann Chase '90, P'23**, chief accounting officer for WinnCompanies; **Francis Kenneth "Ken" Duane '80 H'16**, former vice chairman of PVH Corp. and chief executive officer of Heritage Brands; **Michael J. Franco '81, P'12**, principal attorney at Franco & Associates; and **Fr. Robert P. Hagan, O.S.A.**, Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.

"I am excited to welcome these six outstanding individuals to the Board, and I look forward to working closely with them to bring Merrimack to the top echelon of higher education," said Merrimack President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "While they will each bring their own ideas and experiences to the Board, these individuals share common characteristics: a devotion to Merrimack and a desire to see the College and our students succeed."

"The breadth and depth of the Board's work will be greatly enhanced by the addition of these individuals," said Trustee Chairman Jack Boyce '81. "They are joining the Board at an exciting and critical time for Merrimack College. I am thrilled to have their expertise as we work together to fulfill Merrimack's mission."

## ABOUT THE NEW MEMBERS



**MICHAEL P. ARCIDI '85**  
Whittier Health Network

Arcidi serves as vice president of Whittier Health Network, a family-owned health care organization founded in 1982 by the Arcidi family. Whittier provides comprehensive health care services to thousands of patients across Massachusetts.

He was a Merrimack College Leadership Council invitee in 2014 and served on the President's Advisory Board in 2011. The family's support over the years has benefited countless Merrimack students, and the Arcidi name graces the College's welcome center, a gateway for all future Warriors.

Arcidi received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Merrimack College in 1985.



**MATTHEW CARPENTER-DENNIS**  
National Basketball Association

Carpenter-Dennis is vice president and assistant general counsel for the NBA, where he has worked for the past six years. Carpenter-Dennis has risen through the ranks in the NBA's front office, first working as an associate counsel. He also serves as secretary of the NBA Foundation, which drives

economic empowerment for Black communities through employment and career advancement, seeking to increase access and support for high school, college-aged and career-ready men and women.

Prior to working at the NBA, Carpenter-Dennis was an associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, LLP.

He received his bachelor's degree in economics-philosophy from Columbia University in 2006 and his juris doctorate from Harvard Law School in 2010.



**LYNNE ANN CHASE '90, P'23**  
WinnCompanies

Chase has excelled in the property management and real estate industry for 30 years, advancing within the Winn organization to her current position as chief accounting officer for WinnResidential, WinnResidential Military Housing Services and WinnDevelopment, which operate in

23 states and the District of Columbia. In her role, she is responsible for directing the accounting operations for the 103,000 apartment



homes in the company's owned and managed portfolio, including more than 41,000 homes managed under the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI).

As Chief Accounting Officer, she is responsible for all aspects of accounting, treasury, budgeting, financial reporting and internal controls for company affiliates — WinnResidential, WinnResidential Military Housing Services and WinnDevelopment, as well as management operations software and support. She leads a team of 130 team members and has assisted WinnCompanies' growth to become the nation's sixth largest firm in residential property management. This growth includes market-rate, affordable, senior and mixed-income housing, along with condominiums and homes for America's military families.

Chase is a member of WinnCompanies Board of Directors and senior leadership team, as well as the Treasurer of the Winn Employee Relief Fund. She is a member of the National Apartment Associations Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and its Finance Committee. Chase serves on the Merrimack College Board of Trustees, is the first female Vice-Chair of Central Catholic High School's Board of Directors and Chair of its Finance Committee. She is also a member of Bryant University's College Leadership Council.



**FRANCIS KENNETH "KEN"  
DUANE '80 H'16**  
PVH Corp. and Heritage Brands

For two decades, Duane worked in a variety of executive roles in PVH Corp., one of the largest global apparel companies in the world. He ultimately rose to vice chairman, as well as CEO of Heritage Brands. He was responsible

for managing North American customer account relationships and overseeing the strategic direction of Heritage Brands sportswear, and was involved with broader strategic corporate initiatives.

He previously worked for Guess, Nautica, Hugo Boss and Burberry. Duane has served as a member of the board of governors for the YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund, which sponsors over \$1.5 million in scholarships annually for fashion, arts and business, and on the board of trustees of Give Kids The World, a nonprofit organization that provides children with life-threatening illnesses and their families with complimentary visits to central Florida attractions.

Duane was recognized as a 2014 community honoree at the Wholeness of Life Gala and a national father of the year in 2010 by the National Father's Day Committee, and received the YMA leadership award for continued work with college and university students to grant money for studying fashion.

As a former lacrosse player and hockey player at Merrimack College, Duane has generously supported the Athletic Department over the years, including the Warrior Fund, the Volpe Renovation Project and the multipurpose stadium that bears the Duane name. He has also supported the President Christopher E. Hopey and Cheryl Lucas Endowed Pioneer Scholarship.

Duane received his bachelor's degree in finance and marketing from Merrimack College in 1980 and an MBA from Columbia University in 2000. He also received an honorary doctorate from Merrimack in 2016.



**MICHAEL J. FRANCO '81, P'12**  
Franco & Associates

Franco has practiced law for 30 years and is currently the principal attorney at Franco & Associates, a real estate and litigation law firm. His primary areas of practice are commercial and residential real estate, business law, and estate planning and probate, with licenses to practice law in

Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Before entering private practice, Franco spent seven years as a corporate attorney in the real estate business.

An active Merrimack College alumnus, Franco serves on the College Leadership Council and Reunion Committee, and previously served on the Business Advisory Board New York and the President's Advisory Board.

With his wife Mary, Franco has contributed to Building for Good capital projects, the Merrimack Fund, the President Christopher E. Hopey and Cheryl Lucas Endowed Pioneer Scholarship and the Pioneer Scholars Program.

As a student at Merrimack, Franco played on the lacrosse team and was a member of Beta Sigma Epsilon, the Student Government Association, the Ski and Snowboard Club and Model United Nations.

Franco received his bachelor's degree in political science from Merrimack College in 1981 and his juris doctorate from Vermont Law School in 1985. His son Michael J. Franco, Jr. '12 received his bachelor's degree in physics with a minor in mathematics from Merrimack.



**FR. ROBERT P. HAGAN, O.S.A.**  
Villanova University

Fr. Rob is the newly installed Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. In this role, he oversees Augustinian communities and apostolates on the east coast of the United States, as well as international missions in Peru and Japan.

He serves as department chaplain for athletics and previously served as senior associate athletic director at Villanova University, overseeing all aspects of student-athlete welfare, including the sports medicine and strength and conditioning departments. Fr. Rob also serves as the team chaplain for the Villanova football and men's basketball programs. He arrived at Villanova in 2003 as the assistant athletic director for compliance and was promoted to his current position in July 2004. He was ordained to the priesthood in September 2003.

Prior to his ordination to the priesthood, Fr. Rob spent seven years as an attorney with Gillin & Associates working in criminal defense, contract negotiations, arbitrations and mediations. He also served as counsel to the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority and the Delaware County Register of Wills. Fr. Rob is a past member of the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Delaware County Bar Association and the Delaware County Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

He received his bachelor's degree in arts from Villanova in 1987 and his juris doctorate from Widener University Delaware Law School in 1990.



## MERRIMACK ATHLETICS ANNOUNCES HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2022

**The Merrimack College Athletic Department is excited to unveil its Hall of Fame Class of 2022, which features seven former student-athletes who will be enshrined as the newest members of the Merrimack Athletics Hall of Fame.**

Seven former student-athletes representing five different programs make up the Hall of Fame Class of 2022. All seven inductees uniquely brought distinction, honor, pride and excellence to Merrimack College through their athletic accomplishments and impact on the campus community. Within the seven are a trio from the Merrimack women's soccer program, and members of the baseball, women's lacrosse, men's basketball and women's track and field programs.

The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony took place on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Athletics Hall of Fame Lobby located in the Merrimack Athletics Complex. The event coincided with the College's annual Homecoming Weekend, which includes a number of home athletics events.

"I am excited to celebrate the newest class of Merrimack College athletic hall of famers," said President Christopher E. Hohey, Ph.D. "These Warriors represent the pinnacle of athletic excellence and stand as role models for today's student-athletes. This year's exceptional inductees deserve to be enshrined in the storied history of athletics at Merrimack."

"The Hall of Fame Class of 2022 made profound impacts on their respective programs and set the mark for current and future Warriors," commented Director of Athletics Jeremy Gibson. "Merrimack is proud, and I am so honored to welcome these former student athletes into the Hall of Fame."

### CARLY MUSCARO

#### Women's Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field | 2017

The Honda Division II Athlete of the Year in 2017, Carly Muscaro is the most decorated student athlete in Merrimack College history. During her tenure, Muscaro was a 12-time U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) All-American, a two-time College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America First Team recipient, and a three-time Northeast-10 Conference Track Athlete of the Year. She was a five-time USTFCCCA East Region Women's Track Athlete of the Year and won six NE-10 Conference titles. Muscaro still owns the top three 400 meter-times at the NE-10 Indoor Championships and the top four 400 meter-times in the NE-10 Outdoor Championships. Her time of 51.78 seconds in the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association Indoor Championships is currently the NCAA Division II Championship record. Her fastest collegiate 400 meter time of 51.17 seconds, meanwhile, ranks as one of the top-ten fastest performances in NCAA Division II history. Muscaro was included in the NE-10 at 40 profile spotlight for the conference's 40th anniversary as one of the conference's Outstanding Individuals. Muscaro has also been named to the NCAA Division II USTFCAA Hall of Fame Class of 2022 and the NE-10 Hall of Fame Class of 2022.



## KATHRYN BARKMAN

### Women's Soccer | 1997

Kathryn Barkman was a consistently high performer in the backline for the Warriors, earning the NE-10 Defensive Player of the Year an incredible four times (1993, 1994, 1996, 1997). For her efforts, she was also named to the NE-10 All-Conference Team and the All-New England and National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Region Teams all four years of her career. In 1994, 1996 and 1997 she was named to the All-American Team while helping lead the Warriors to the regular season NE-10 title each of those years, including the program's first trips to the NCAA Elite 8 in 1996.

## MIA (BASILE) VATRANO

### Women's Lacrosse | 2010

Mia (Basile) Vatrano was a 2010 All-American and a three-time All-Conference selection, as well as an All-Region honoree. She is the program's all-time leader in career points (255), assists (78) and shots (302), and ranks second in goals (177). Vatrano was one of the most impactful players during the team's most successful era, including back-to-back 12-win seasons, helping the team reach back-to-back NE-10 Tournament Semifinals. Her 81 points (47g, 34a) during her 2010 All-America campaign rank tied for third most in school history. In addition to All-America honors, she was a first team all-conference and all-region pick. She ranked fourth in the NE-10 in goals per game (3.13), second in assists per game (2.27) and third in points per game (5.40) during that 2010 campaign, as well as third in game-winning goals (4) during that season. She scored eight goals in a game twice, the second most single-game total ever.

## KIM HALL TIERNEY

### Women's Soccer | 1998

The 1997 NE-10 Player of the Year and All-American, Kim Hall Tierney was third in the nation in scoring in Division II (first American) and owns the Merrimack record for most goals in a season (24) and most points in a season (65). Overall, Hall Tierney ranks second in career goals (51), third in career assists (42), second in career points (144) and third in career game-winning goals (16). She is one of only two players with a career of over 40 goals and 40 assists (51 G / 42 A). Hall played a key role in getting the program to its first ever NCAA Elite 8 appearance and in winning the NE-10 regular season twice. For her efforts, Hall Tierney was named to the NE-10 All-Conference and All-New England Teams three times and twice to the NSCAA All-Region Team.

## LISA JENSEN RASANEN

### Women's Soccer | 2000

A North Andover native, Lisa Jensen Rasanen was a rock in the Merrimack Warrior backline from the moment she stepped on campus. The four-time NE-10 All-Conference player was also named the NE-10 Defensive Player of the Year in 1998 and 1999, as well as earning All-New England, All-NSCAA, All-Region and All-American honors in those two years. Jensen Rasanen finished her career with the programs' third most points (43) and second most assists (29) by a defender. She was an integral part in helping the program reach its first and second NCAA tournaments (1996, 1999) and Elite 8 appearance in 1996 as well two NE-10 regular season titles and the 1999 tournament title.

## GARY DUDA

### Men's Basketball | 1992

Gary Duda ranks sixth in program history in scoring with 2,008 career points and is one of six Warriors ever with 2,000 career points. Duda holds Merrimack's single-season and career three-pointers records as a senior, leading Merrimack to its first-ever NE-10 Championship in the 1991-92 season, and was named NE-10 Championship MVP after sixth-seeded Merrimack upset three higher-seeded teams to win the title. Duda was a two-time All-Conference selection and is one of the best shooters in program history, boasting a career 86.1 free-throw percentage and never shooting worse than 84 percent in a single season. He ranks 10th all-time in NCAA Division II History in three-pointers made (389), which is also a Merrimack program record, in addition to three-pointers made in a season (128 in 1991-92) and three-pointers made in a game (9 in 1992); his career .430 three-point percentage ranks second ever at Merrimack. Duda is the NE-10's all-time leader in three-pointers (389), sixth in free-throw percentage (.862), eighth all-time in three-point percentage (.430) and the number 15 all-time leading scorer in NE-10 history.

## JEFF BERCOME

### Baseball | 2009

Jeff Bercume holds or is in the top five of almost all Merrimack College baseball offensive records. He is the leader in career batting average (.356) and total bases (321). He broke the career record for hits with 231, which stood for over a decade. He is second in career slugging percentage (.495), second in career triples (14), fourth in program history in career RBI (118), fourth all-time highest career on base percentage (.403) and fifth all-time in program history for career doubles (41). Bercume was a three-time NE-10 First Team selection and made the Northeast Region Team as a senior in 2009. A two-year team captain, Bercume also excelled in the classroom, earning NE-10 All-Academic honors while at Merrimack. Bercume signed a professional contract with the Oakland Athletics and played for two years in their minor league system.



# WARRIOR TOP 10

## 1 Northeast Conference Decision Grants Merrimack Postseason Eligibility Beginning 2022-23

Merrimack athletics will be eligible for NEC postseason championships as of the 2022-23 season after the NEC Council of Presidents voted to allow reclassifying institutions to participate in the NEC postseason championships in years three and four of the four-year reclassification process. The Warriors accepted the invitation to the Northeast Conference in September 2018 and had two teams clinch regular season titles since then, with the men's soccer team going undefeated in league play for the title in 2019 and men's basketball's 2019-20 regular season championship.



## 2 Football National Recognition and Championship Game

The football team received votes in the national coaches poll—a first for the program—on Oct. 24. The team tied a school record for wins, with eight on the season, and hosted St. Francis University in the NEC Championship game on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Duane Stadium—the first NEC championship to be hosted on campus!



## 3 Men's Hockey Ranks #5/6 in USA Today/USCHO National Rankings

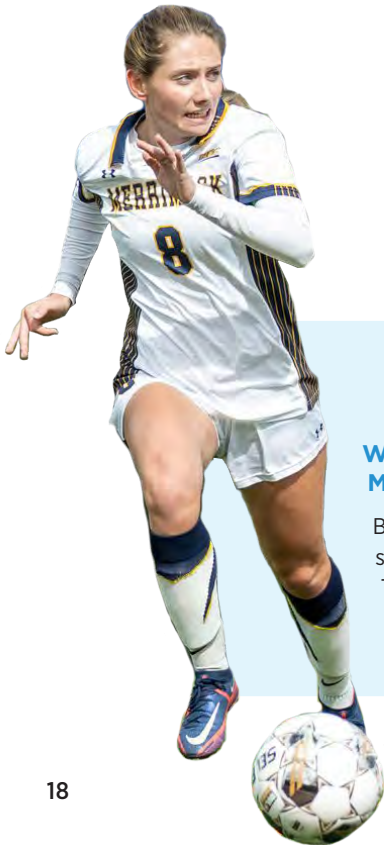
The Warriors skated to a dominant 13-4 overall record, a 9-2 conference record and a share of first-place in Hockey East to close out the first half of the season. For their efforts, Merrimack has appeared in the national polls for six straight weeks. Merrimack was last ranked this high in the 2011-12 season.



## 4 Merrimack College Women's Hockey Signs Neala Through Team IMPACT

Merrimack Women's Hockey announced a new team member, signing 14-year-old Neala

through Team IMPACT, a national nonprofit organization that has developed a unique multiyear program matching children facing serious illness and disability with college athletic teams across the country. Neala was officially introduced at a signing day press conference on Sept. 24 at the Merrimack Athletics Complex. She will participate in many activities with the women's ice hockey team, including games, practices and other team events.



## 5 Women's Soccer and Men's Soccer Earn No. 2 Seeds in NEC Playoffs; Men's Cross Country Finishes Third and Women's Cross Country Takes Fourth

Both the men's and women's soccer programs earned no. 2 seeds in the NEC playoffs. With the seeds came first-round byes. The women hosted and narrowly lost to Sacred Heart by a score of 2-1. The men hosted St. Francis Brooklyn and were heartbrokenly defeated in a penalty kick shootout. Following several personal records and hard work, the cross country programs finished the NEC Championships in third place on the men's side and fourth place on the women's.



## Football Scores Touchdown in Final Minutes to Beat Long Island on Homecoming Weekend

The Merrimack College football team beat Long Island University in the final minutes of the game on Saturday, Oct. 1 in front of a record crowd of over 12,000. Victor Dawson ran for four yards up the middle to tie the game, and kicker Lliam Davis knocked down the extra point to give the Warriors a one-point lead and victory. Dawson finished the game with his first 100+ yard rushing game of the season. Rodney Samson had 11 tackles to lead Merrimack on the day.



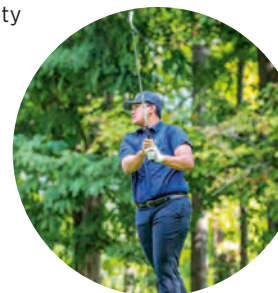
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## Merrimack Hockey Games Broadcast on ESPN+

Alumni and fans can watch all home and conference hockey games on ESPN+ all season long. With the newly signed Hockey East-ESPN partnership, the Merrimack men's and women's hockey games will all be broadcast on the ESPN family of networks, with the majority airing on ESPN+.



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## Women's Soccer Gets Mejail 500th Win Against Vermont

A 3-1 win against Vermont on Sunday, Aug. 21 gave women's soccer head coach Gabe Mejail his 500th career win. Mejail has been on the Warriors' sideline for the past 39 seasons. He becomes the ninth coach in NCAA history to reach the 500-win milestone. Mejail has led the Warriors to eight Northeast-10 Conference regular season championships, six NE-10 Tournament titles, two Eastern College Athletic Conference titles and 11 trips to the NCAA Tournament — including an appearance in the Elite Eight in 1996.



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## Men's Golf and Women's Bowling See Early Success

Three new varsity programs were added last year, and two of them have started competition. Patrick McCarthy of the men's golf team shot a four under par to secure his first collegiate victory at the Penman Fall invitational and the first victory for a Merrimack men's golf student-athlete.

In the first weekend of competition for the women's bowling program, the Warriors battled several of the top-ranked programs in the country and found success on day one beating no. 2 Vanderbilt University with a score of 978-882.



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## The President's Cup Golf Tournament: A Great Success

The President's Cup Golf Tournament on Monday, Aug. 8 brought alumni, sponsors, parents and friends together to enjoy a day of golf in support of Merrimack College Athletics. The tournament raised more than \$135,000 for The Warrior Fund, making this tournament the most successful to date. Funds raised from the tournament will be used to help provide the highest level of training and equipment, out-of-region travel, leadership development and recruitment of the very best student-athletes.



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

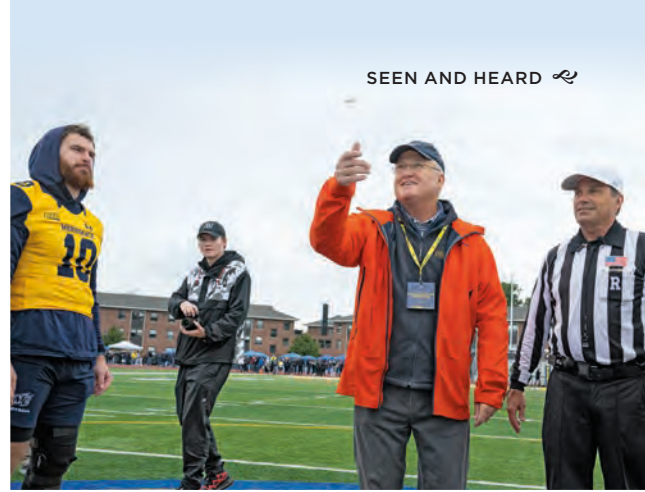
Visit **MERRIMACK.EDU/GIFT** to make a gift today!



# Warrior Pride Abounds at Merrimack's 2022 HOMECOMING WEEKEND







**Merrimack College saw record crowds for its annual Homecoming Weekend,** with more than 12,500 people descending on campus to reconnect and cheer on the Warriors.

One highlight of the weekend was the return of the Merrimack Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony, last held in 2019. Seven former student-athletes were enshrined the evening of Friday, Sept. 30 in the Hall of Fame at the Volpe Athletic Center. The inductees included track and field athlete Carly Muscaro, the 2017 Honda Division II Athlete of the Year and Merrimack's most decorated student-athlete.



Macktoberfest, Homecoming Weekend's kickoff celebration, featured performances by the marching band, dance team and cheerleading team on the field at Duane Stadium and culminated in a fireworks display over campus.



Despite dreary weather Saturday, a capacity crowd turned out at Duane Stadium to cheer on the Warriors football team, which secured a come-from-behind 24-23 victory over Long Island University.

"Homecoming is one of the most anticipated events on the Merrimack calendar," said Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey. "This tradition continues to grow in scale and popularity. It is wonderful to see more and more people come to campus to show off their Warrior pride and demonstrate how supportive and connected the Merrimack community is."

In addition to football's win, field hockey fell to Wagner on Friday, women's hockey beat Syracuse 2-0 on Saturday and women's soccer defeated Stonehill 4-1 on Sunday.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## 1960s

▶ **LARRY DEMERS '60 H'11** was ranked no. 4507 in the United States by research.com as a 2022 Top Scientist in the area of medicine.

▶ **ROBERT IRVING '64** has been appointed a commissioner at Lawrence Municipal Airport.

▶ **PAUL MARINO '67** recently published his book "Oxygen: Creating a New Paradigm," which highlights the damaging effects of oxygen. [1]

## 1970s

▶ **TERRY MONAHAN '72** received an honorable mention writing award from the San Diego Press Club for a story about Rancho Bernardo High's next football coach. In February, Monahan will reach 50 years as a sports writer in San Diego.

▶ **DENNIS DIZOGLIO '73** recently released the second edition of his book "The Value of Political Capital."

## 1980s

▶ **JOE MARIE '85** was announced as the Boston office manager for STV.

▶ **TIMOTHY HART '86** was inducted into the Central Catholic Hall of Fame in 2022.

## 1990s

▶ **ERIC LAREAU '92** was recently appointed senior director of international business development at abr.dn.

▶ **JASON GALLAGHER '95** was recently appointed the new head of school at Boston Latin School.

▶ **KATHRYN MANUPELLI '92** started a new role as city solicitor for the city of Framingham, Massachusetts.

## 2000s

▶ **FRANCIS BEVILACQUA '02** has joined the Northern Essex Community College Foundation board.

▶ **LUCAS SMITH '03** recently joined the Miller & Martin law firm in Atlanta, Georgia.

▶ **PETER ARSENAULT '06** has started a new job as the men's tennis coach for Hamilton College.

▶ **CHRISTINE WEILAND '08** married Mike DeBiasi in July 2022.

▶ **COLLEEN (MESCALL) TEMPLE '08, M'13** published her debut novel in June 2022.

▶ **RICHARD FONTES '08** married Megan Schulz in June 2022. **Richard A. Moran '08, Vinny E. Leone '08, Chris H.J. Snow '08, Jacey Vaughan '09, Nicole Cyr '09, Robert A. Santacrose '08 and Rebecca E. Fontes '09** were all joyously present for the occasion. [2]

▶ **CAITIE (HALL) BURLESON '09** welcomed her fourth child, Cara Jane Burleson, in August 2022. [3]

▶ **JANELLE HICKEY '09** graduated from the University of New England with her doctorate in clinical psychology.



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ...**  
 visit [merrimack.edu/update](https://merrimack.edu/update) to share life changes, employment updates, accomplishments and pictures.





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## 2010s

▶ **JESSE DOIRON '12 M'13** married Zachary Burrus in Vermont in June 2022. [4]

▶ **AARON STROTHERS '13** joined the basketball coaching staff at Bridgewater State University.

▶ **CASSANDRA MONIZ '14** and **MATTHEW MINIERI '14** recently got engaged and will be having their wedding at the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher on campus in 2023. [5]

▶ **KEVIN MCATAMNEY M'15** was hired as stable value sales director for The Standard.

▶ **NICHOLAS MONTESANO '16** and **CAISIE WYNOT '16** got married in May 2022 at The Haversham House in Westerly, Rhode Island. They had several Merrimack friends at the wedding from the classes of '16, '17 and '18. [6]

▶ **NICK DAVIS '17** and **ADRIANNA DECICCO '18** were married in Charlotte, North Carolina in August 2022. [7]

▶ **ALEX JULIANO '18** married **RANDA GRIFFIN '18** in July 2022. [8]

▶ **ANDREW WISE '18** married **ALEXANDRA MACFARLANE WISE '17** in summer 2022 surrounded by their Merrimack friends and family. [9]

▶ **ANTHONY RICHARDSON '19** graduated with a master of arts in clinical mental health counseling from the University of New Haven.

▶ **AVA CLEMENTE '19** recently became engaged to **GIANMARCO SPERONI '19**.

▶ **MICHAEL GERMANO M'21** has joined the North Reading, Massachusetts police department.

▶ **LINDSAY WERNER '19** started a new job as the assistant coach of women's basketball for the University of New Hampshire.

▶ **TYLER IRVINE '19** was signed by AHL hockey team the Cleveland Monsters.

▶ **RANDY CASTILLO '19** is the new equipment manager for Phillips Academy Andover.

## 2020s

▶ **MATTHEW DIXON '20** joined the Newbury police department.

▶ **DANIEL LORDAN '20** recently joined the Concord police department.

▶ **MIKYLA GRANT-MENTIS '20** signed with the Buffalo Beauts.

▶ **OLIVIA SHAPIRO '20 M'22** has started a new job as assistant athletic trainer at Lowell.

▶ **KENDRA DOTY '21** and **DANIEL LOVELL '21** were engaged in June 2022. [10]

▶ **KAITLIN CARSON M'22** started a new position as a strength and conditioning coordinator at Brandeis University.

## IN MEMORIAM

Florence Collins '55

Paul Powers '56

Rev. George Riley, O.S.A. '57

Lorraine (DesRoches) Wysocki '57

Robert Hatem '58

Virginia (Douglas) Dunigan '60

Louise Ponti '61

Paul Dzierzak '63

William Ross '65

Allen Herbert '66

Karen (Doherty) Lamay '70

Robert Donahue '70

Pam Jones '73

Aniello Guerra '74

Hans Christensen '75

Paul Croes '76

Monica Timko '07

Ronald Zampanti '17



# NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

The accomplishments and shared expertise of Merrimack's exceptional faculty



**CHARLOTTE BERKES**, associate professor of biology, and **JIMMY FRANCO**, department chair and associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, recently coauthored a journal publication titled “Kinase Inhibitor Library Screening Identifies the Cancer Therapeutic Sorafenib and Structurally Similar Compounds as Strong Inhibitors of the Fungal Pathogen *Histoplasma capsulatum*,” describing the discovery of novel antifungal molecules to combat *Histoplasma capsulatum*, a neglected fungal pathogen. Several former Merrimack College undergraduates contributed to this research.



**GEORGE HEFFERNAN**, department chair and professor of philosophy, collaborated with his colleague Marco Cavallaro of the University of Koblenz-Landau in Germany to collect 14 papers from internationally renowned scholars, cowrote the preface, single-authored two major papers and translated several papers from German. “The Existential Husserl: A Collection of Critical Essays” is now in press and published by Springer.

Associate Clinical Professor and Director of Athletic Training **BIRGID HOPKINS, MS, ATC** was featured in a “Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer” article on preparing students for the BOC exam.



Associate Professor in the Girard School of Business **JOSEPH R. STASIO** was featured in The Ascent’s “Best Rewards Credit Cards for June 2022.” Stasio shared his insight on high gas prices and whether consumers should consider using credit cards that provide rewards to pay for gas.

**MISH ZIMDARS**, associate professor of communication and media, has recently published a chapter in “The Social Media Debate: Unpacking the Social, Psychological, and Cultural Effects of Social Media” that focuses on how political disinformation masquerades as local news online and across social media.





SAVE THE DATE • JUNE 9-11, 2023

# REUNION WEEKEND 2023



It's your year — to reconnect with friends, reflect on your experience, honor the past and look forward to believing in the future of Merrimack College. Rediscover what makes Merrimack so special at your reunion weekend.

Save the date for Reunion Weekend 2023 — Friday, June 9 to Sunday, June 11. Together we celebrate the classes of 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018.



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

[MERRIMACK.EDU/REUNION](https://merrimack.edu/reunion)



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# SAVE THE DATE

## MERRIMACK IN FLORIDA

March 11-17, 2023

