

MERRIMACK

WINTER 2021



THRIVING IN A TIME OF DISRUPTION

Merrimack's commitment to being open,
residential and safe during COVID-19

MERRIMACK

A Magazine for Our Alumni, Parents and Friends

Winter 2021

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MERRIMACK COLLEGE



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On the cover: Students (left to right) Michael Belanger, Brianna Bailey, Maria Buttafuoco and Jillian Rowland in front of Merrimack's newest signage on its North Andover campus.

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,



March 13, 2020, will be remembered at Merrimack College as the day the world turned upside down. On that day we sent a campus email to notify all employees and students that our courses and jobs were going remote in response to the emerging coronavirus, COVID-19.

The emergence and the disruption of COVID-19 quickly tested the Merrimack College community and changed

our way of life on campus. Little did we know nine months later we would be still be managing the impacts of COVID.

Over the past nine months, Merrimack College has risen to the challenge and responded to a virus that fundamentally impacted our learning and residential environment. We moved swiftly to support our students, faculty and staff, who continued their daily work through new remote technologies, created a student emergency fund during a time of economic distress and resolved to continue our work against inequality and racial injustice. There is no question that this year brought with it many hardships—but it also brought forward some of the greatest accomplishments in this College's history.

You will read in the pages ahead how the Warriors of Merrimack College met the challenges that were laid before them by COVID-19 and how this uncertain time has laid the groundwork to create an even greater Merrimack—from the beginning stages of planning and then implementing a robust COVID-19 testing strategy, to adhering to new policies on campus such as wearing face coverings, and socializing and living in dedicated pods, to the new innovations in hybrid and remote learning.

Back in the spring, I made a commitment to bring our students, faculty and staff back to campus and to be residential this fall. Working together, and through thorough planning and preparation, we were able to bring our students back to campus for what was a very different, yet very successful semester. By all accounts, our planning; our comprehensive and disciplined approach to mitigation, testing and contact tracing; and our faith and trust in our students, faculty and staff have paid off.

None of what Merrimack has achieved these past months would have been possible if it were not for our extended community—our alumni, parents and friends. Your support has been instrumental as we navigated this time of upheaval, and we truly never felt alone. Thank you for your continued support and for believing in Merrimack.

Until we can be together again, I hope that this magazine finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

Sincerely,

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President

“There is no question that this year brought with it many hardships — but it also brought forward some of the greatest accomplishments in this College's history.”

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY, PRESIDENT



INNOVATION



Article by Ginny Caggiano
Photos by Tom Kates



IN A TIME OF DISRUPTION

How Merrimack College is overcoming COVID-19



During what will go down in history as one of the biggest crises the world has ever faced, the COVID-19 pandemic has created unique obstacles for all higher education institutions, including Merrimack College. No longer able to bring together large groups of people for teaching, researching, living and engaging, Merrimack had to quickly pivot to new modalities earlier this year—and create a forward-looking and thoughtful plan for safely bringing the community back together.

Through careful investments of time and resources—over \$18 million to date—Merrimack College responded to the COVID-19 crisis by examining every strength and weakness of the College to produce the best teaching and learning outcomes for our students.

Throughout it all, one priority remained clear: Merrimack would safely reopen its campus and allow for in-person learning and residential living for the fall semester, no matter the effort or cost. “From the start, we recognized our responsibility to deliver to students the high-quality education that Merrimack is known for, regardless of the circumstances,” said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. “Whether online or on campus, we are committed to delivering on our promises. Throughout this period of disruption, Merrimack has remained Merrimack.”

PIVOTING TO ONLINE LEARNING

When academic institutions across the country began closing their campuses and transitioning to online instruction in March, Merrimack was more prepared than most to successfully tackle the digital shift. As an Apple Distinguished School, the College has long been committed to technological innovation—incorporating the latest digital strategies and tools to enhance the teaching and learning processes.

“At the beginning of the pandemic, many schools were scrambling to buy technology for their students and create venues for their faculty to engage with the curriculum virtually,” said Peter Ellard, Ph.D., vice president and dean for student outcomes. “At Merrimack, our students already had iPads in their hands and knew how to use them. Many of our faculty had also already been trained to use learning technology. Those factors allowed us to transition quickly and seamlessly.”

Meanwhile, campus support service professionals stepped up to provide a wide range of remote resources. The Academic Success Center pivoted to virtual one-on-one meetings, resulting in a higher number of engagements compared with pre-COVID rates. The O’Brien Center for Career Development followed suit, helping students navigate an uncertain job market via Zoom meetings and virtual events with employers.

At the same time, campus leadership was hard at work engaging in strategic conversations, sourcing ideas from national and local health agencies, and creating a community-wide continuity and safety plan—amid a fluid situation that, at times, changed every few hours.

“I think those two factors—having the right technology and the right people in place—gave us the ability to tackle remote learning successfully despite the circumstances,” Ellard said.

REOPENING CAMPUS

When the spring semester ended in May, President Hopey had already announced that the College would be residential in the fall and was well into the planning stages. As science, technology and public policy continued to evolve, Merrimack focused on being agile—leveraging faculty expertise and community support.

One of the first actions taken was to reach out to the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard to enroll Merrimack in Safe for School, a robust testing program now in use at 42 area schools.

“From the start, we knew frequent testing was something that would help keep our students and faculty safe when they returned to campus,” President Hopey said. “Broad’s sophisticated testing protocol was designed to help institutions quickly detect the virus and swiftly remove positives from the

general population, thereby minimizing exposure to the greater community.”

The testing protocol — which requires initial testing upon return to campus and weekly testing throughout the semester—became a central component of the finalized return-to-campus plan, a four-phased approach to reopening based on recommendations from local, state and national authorities. As the testing protocol was so important for the success of this effort, President Hopey named Dr. Traci Alberti the director of COVID-19 campus surveillance. Alberti has spent the entire semester ensuring all protocols were followed as directed by the state.

As a result, Merrimack conducted over 66,602 tests during the fall semester alone. This effort allowed the College to make swift decisions to remove positive cases from the population before spread and to isolate clusters. Every step of the way, Merrimack has invested heavily in the health and safety of the campus community—building outdoor dining locations, stocking classrooms with hand sanitizer and plexiglass shields, de-densifying classrooms and common areas, and reconfiguring living areas to create small community pods.

With campus reopened, students had the choice of three options for the fall semester:

- Return to campus and take part in a combination of in-person and online courses
- Take virtual courses from an off-campus location
- Take a COVID-19 leave of absence—for one semester or the full year—without penalty

While offering online, in-person and dual options within a single calendar year was a huge logistical undertaking, it was Merrimack’s outstanding educators who really made the effort not only possible, but successful.

“Merrimack College is home to many superstar scholar-teachers who are

dedicated to active and experiential learning in primarily face-to-face learning environments,” said Kathryn Nielsen, Ph.D., associate vice president for teaching, learning and digital innovation. “To teach online, or simultaneously teach both on campus and online, they had to reimagine and redesign the traditional in-class learning activities, such as mini-lectures, discussions, group- and team-based work, labs, performing arts, presentations and assessments. Our faculty really rose to the challenge.”

SUPPORTING STUDENTS — ON AND OFF CAMPUS

Whether students are learning on or off campus (or through a combination of the two) this fall, Merrimack has gone the extra mile to ensure that adequate services and support are available to safely meet their needs.

➔ **Increased student financial aid:**

Knowing the pandemic would intensify financial challenges for students and their families, the College moved to ease the burden on those who would feel it most. To that end, Merrimack invested more than \$3 million in financial aid to help offset pandemic-related hardships.

➔ **Success coaching:** To ensure that all students have someone looking out for them throughout every step of their Merrimack journey, the College introduced success coaching. In the program, each student is assigned a dedicated success coach who serves as a point person, mentor, advocate and navigator. As evidence of its success, first-year students have scheduled more than 1,300 meetings with their coaches in the first semester alone.

“We know that if students have genuine connections, they’re more likely to succeed, they’re less lonely and they feel that they belong,” said Moriah “Mo” John, assistant director of student success in the Holistic Cross-Training



Traci Alberti, Director of COVID-19 Campus Surveillance

and Success Coaching Program. “That’s even more important during a pandemic, when people are more likely to feel isolated. Through success coaching, every student has a caring adult connected to the college who is reaching out and helping them navigate challenges.”

➔ **Academic Success Center (ASC):**

To help offer the additional services during COVID-19, such as student success coaching and increased one-on-one advising appointments, the ASC took an innovative approach: hiring more graduate students.

“Our graduate student employees are great. They’re not teaching classes—their primary role is to help students through the ASC,” Ellard said. “Working alongside our full-time staff, they served a crucial role during a time that required an unprecedented number of resources.”

→ **MACK Tech Bar:** From addressing Wi-Fi problems to solving Zoom glitches, the newly introduced MACK Tech Bar has gone into overdrive, providing a new level of tech and online support for students and faculty alike.

→ **Counseling services:** To help students navigate the emotional disruption created by COVID-19, Merrimack expanded critical counseling services and launched the BeWell@MC program, which provides 24/7 access to mental health clinicians as well as counseling, crisis intervention services, virtual consultations for parents, and assessments and referrals. The College also initiated on-campus and virtual outreach programs led by students, faculty and staff. No matter whether a student is living on campus or learning remotely, help is just a phone call away.

→ **Activate Program:** Periods of disruption can be especially difficult for neuro-diverse students who thrive in structured environments. The Activate Program is helping Merrimack students on the autism spectrum tackle college life and the challenges created by the pandemic through mentorship and one-on-one meetings.

→ **Student Emergency Fund:** Some needs created by COVID-19 are more practical in nature—from Wi-Fi access to food or rent. In response, Merrimack created the Student Emergency Fund to assist students facing additional financial hurdles due to COVID-19. To date, the College has provided nearly \$1.2M in additional aid and over \$120K in emergency aid.

NAVIGATING AN UNCERTAIN JOB MARKET

While the pandemic created a variety of immediate challenges, Merrimack has continued to prepare for the future—on behalf of our students and the institution. Despite hurdles in the current job market, the

College remains committed to preparing students for successful careers after graduation.

At the O'Brien Center for Career Development, staff have collaborated with different technology partners to help students on their career journey, whether they're learning online or in person. Through Burning Glass, students can explore labor market data that show helpful information, like who's hiring and the specific skills they're seeking. With LinkedIn Learning, students can supplement and complement classroom learning with additional training and certification—in subjects ranging from Microsoft Excel to diversity awareness—and earn skill proficiency badges that can be added to their LinkedIn profiles.

“Merrimack College has invested more than \$18 million in its COVID response and conducted 66,602 tests this fall alone. It was not a small effort.”

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY, PRESIDENT

To help students better prepare for the current job market, the O'Brien Center is also offering virtual-specific coaching on topics such as Zoom interview etiquette. Remote strategies have also been embraced in networking efforts.

This semester, virtual career fairs have helped students connect with potential employers in exciting new ways.

“One of the biggest challenges we've faced during the pandemic is helping students pivot their plans toward the jobs that are currently available,” said Michaela Morrow, Ph.D., associate vice president, career advising and professional development. “Thanks to our digital resources, students have tools right at their fingertips that help them explore new career possibilities.”

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Though a number of Merrimack's recent changes have been triggered by COVID-19, some innovations are likely here to stay—from Zoom meetings to increased digital support resources. Ultimately, the pandemic has served as a catalyst for ongoing digital and organizational transformation, spurring existing efforts to embrace the latest digital strategies and technology, which will serve the institution for years to come.

While 2020 has not been the year anyone expected, steering the institution toward financial stability, maintaining faculty and staff ranks, and providing students with the ability to continue their studies remain the core missions of the institution. Merrimack's ability to do this and more underscores an important principle: Warriors are able to surmount any obstacle, together. ■



WARRIORS ON THE FRONT LINES

From the moment the coronavirus pandemic began, Merrimack College alumni knew the importance of staying positive and supporting their communities. Read on to learn how Merrimack College Warriors are joining the fight against COVID-19.



Joe Preston '84, P'17

JOE PRESTON '84, P'17: Running to the rescue with New Balance

As chief executive officer of New Balance, Merrimack alum Joe Preston '84, P'17 is usually in the shoe business. But when COVID-19 created new challenges for the organization—and his community—Joe saw an opportunity to do good by manufacturing a new product: masks.

Like countless retailers, Boston-based athletic footwear and apparel giant New Balance's business was completely upended by the pandemic. But amid the chaos of store closures and work-from-home mandates, Joe made sure the company was primed to give back. With the help of chief operating officer and fellow Merrimack alum Dave Wheeler '85, New Balance began manufacturing general use face masks for frontline workers.

“The impact of the pandemic was immediate—we had to close our offices, our stores and our factories,” Joe said. “But in the midst of that disruption, I’m very proud of the way our team pivoted with purpose to develop personal protective equipment.”

In addition to manufacturing masks, the company's philanthropic arm, the New Balance Foundation, pledged \$2 million to help COVID-19 relief efforts, donating to several regional charities, including the Boston Resiliency Fund, Groundwork Lawrence and the Good Shepherd Food Bank in Maine, among others. New Balance also donated \$1 million in footwear to frontline workers at area hospitals, such as Beth Israel Deaconess, Lahey Health and Lawrence General Hospital, as well as another 400,000 masks to help people vote safely in this year's election.

This isn't the first time Joe has helped the company navigate significant change. After joining New Balance in 1995, he played a key role in the brand's transition from a \$150 million business to today's multi-billion-dollar operation, with 3,500 stores around the world.

Despite its global presence, the brand remains firmly rooted in New England. “We make or assemble millions of pairs of shoes right here in the United States—in Lawrence, Boston and three factories in Maine,” Joe said.

Whether at work or at home, Joe believes the pandemic has highlighted the importance of community—something he also learned during his time as a Warrior.

“During times like these, people lean on their communities and it really reinforces how important they are,” Joe said. “It starts with family, but it's also your neighborhood, your school, your church, your friends. I've got a lot of close friends from college that I'm still in touch with today, and I think that has a lot to do with Merrimack's culture and commitment to building community.”



STACEY DION '98: Helping companies — and Warriors — respond to COVID-19



Stacey Dion '98

As managing director and head of global government affairs at global asset management firm The Carlyle Group, Stacey Dion '98 is no stranger to navigating the ups and downs of an uncertain economic market. Since the onset of the pandemic, that expertise has proven valuable for both her company and the Merrimack community.

The Carlyle Group is composed of more than 1,800 professionals across 30 offices on six continents. In her role, Stacey leads the company's global government relations and public policy functions, helping shape Carlyle's global legislative and regulatory activities. During 2020, she has helped the organization and its clients weather a variety of political and legislative challenges—from navigating global government resources to managing heightened risk created by political uncertainty—offering a broad perspective based on local knowledge and trusted relationships across the globe.

“During the initial months of the pandemic, we advocated for legislative changes to ensure our portfolio companies in the aerospace and defense sector had access to government support as well as favorable tax changes that would be needed in order for companies across the portfolio to have stronger financial positions,” Stacey said. “Government support has ranged dramatically in different parts of the world, so we've geared resources to match the specific support companies could access.”

An accomplished public policy professional, Stacey has extensive experience working directly in government affairs, including serving as policy advisor and counsel in the Office of the Republican Leader and tax and pension policy advisor in the Office of the Majority Leader. Prior to joining Carlyle, she served as Vice President of Corporate Public Policy for The Boeing Company.

A member of our College Leadership Council, Stacey has long been a valuable resource to her fellow Warriors. When COVID-19 upended the U.S. economy in early 2020, it also disrupted the plans of Merrimack seniors and recent grads looking to enter the job market. But for many Warriors, invaluable career advice was only a phone call away.

“When COVID-19 hit, I dedicated time each week to take phone calls from seniors and new grads,” Stacey said.

“Some of them were trying to enter the financial services sector during a really uncertain time, while others had a job, but were unsure about their trajectory. I like to share my personal story, because my background is very relatable to many of them.”

For Stacey, giving back to Merrimack is a natural result of her Augustinian education.

“When I think back to my time at Merrimack, what really stands out is the theme of ‘servant leader,’” Stacey said. “It was the Augustinian directive and I really took that to heart. I couldn't be prouder to be part of this community.”



TRAVONNE BERRY-ROGERS '15: **Powering positivity at The Warehouse**

When COVID-19 left many people stuck at home, separated from their family, friends and normal activities, Merrimack College alum Travonne “Trevv” Berry-Rogers '15 had an idea for boosting morale while encouraging physical health: free virtual workouts.

Trevv is the founder of The Warehouse—a fitness organization based in Lynn, Massachusetts that emphasizes the importance of physical and mental growth. When local gyms were forced to shut down, he began offering free at-home workout tutorials via The Warehouse's Instagram page, no equipment needed. Instead, he encouraged his followers to improvise—by replacing weights with household items. “Remember when the pandemic started and everyone rushed out and got a lot of toilet paper? We made workouts using toilet paper, like grabbing it on one side and stacking it on the other side, so you can work your core.”

For Trevv, it was all about providing levity during a challenging time. “Those virtual workouts really helped people stay sane when they were stuck inside every day.”

From a young age, Trevv felt called to spread positivity and help people. It was

after graduating from Merrimack, when he returned to his former high school to coach basketball and teach English as a second language, that his plans began to take shape. As a four-year member of the Merrimack basketball team—and now a coach himself—Trevv recognized the potential of sports and fitness for building mental and physical strength.

“It started with the players on my basketball team—not only focusing on the physical aspect and the skills, but mental toughness and well-being as well,” he explained. “Then last summer, we started building different fitness offerings for people in the community.”

Today, The Warehouse offers fitness classes, basketball coaching and personalized training—both outdoors and online—for individuals of all ages and abilities.

Trevv credits Merrimack for his entrepreneurial achievements. “As a business major, I took an entrepreneurship course that really stayed with me,” Trevv said. “My time at Merrimack also taught me to be creative and work hard, which have served me well.”

While his current accomplishments are impressive, Trevv says he's just getting started. “Our next step is to get a physical facility that's accessible to a wide variety of people. Then, I have plans to reach multiple cities and states—and spread positivity across the country.” ■



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: A Resurgence of Dedication



For more than a decade, Merrimack has been focused on advancing diversity, equity and inclusion. By the summer

of 2020, much work had been done, yet the events of the year served as a catalyst for Merrimack to recognize further investments and targeted initiatives were needed.

“When everyone is positioned for success — then we all succeed,” said President Hopey as he challenged the Merrimack community and asked what more could be done to have the greatest impact in the effort to dismantle systems of racism, oppression and inequality.

After many conversations and meetings with students, faculty, staff, trustees, parents and alumni, including leaders from Merrimack’s Black Student Association. President Hopey noted that while much work had been done on campus, hearing from student leaders gave him both the drive to do more and great hope for the future.

Commitment in Action

Charged by the president, the institution underwent a rigorous interview process and appointed Dr. Simona Sharoni as special assistant to the president for diversity, equity and inclusion. Dr. Sharoni — a first-generation college student, twice an immigrant, a veteran and the daughter of a Holocaust survivor — has been working to foster social justice, diversity and inclusion for almost four decades.

“To begin, one of my main goals was to develop education and training for students, faculty and staff,” said Dr. Sharoni. “Becoming aware of systemic inequalities and acquiring

skills to understand and address them is at the heart of mobilizing broad support for this work and necessary in order to fully institutionalize our efforts.”

In October, Dr. Sharoni worked with the Office of the Provost and the Office of Multicultural Initiatives to launch a signature program, Unity in Diversity, to coincide with Indigenous People’s Day, National Coming Out Day and Latinx Heritage Month. Designed to help students, faculty and staff broaden and deepen their collective understanding of systemic inequalities, the two-day virtual event included a variety of speakers, workshops and cultural events on such topics as racial injustice, gender and sexual orientation, inequalities, disability and accessibility, and systemic inequalities exposed by COVID-19. The two-day event attracted close to 2,000 students, faculty, staff and community members.

In addition, Merrimack developed a series of specialized workshops; welcomed the first cohort of diversity, equity and inclusion ambassadors; launched affinity, mentoring and advocacy groups; and introduced a new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Distinguished Educator Certificate.

Continuing the Commitment

In response to positive feedback, Merrimack will hold a similar program in February 2021 to mark Black History Month and continue the educational work, training and conversations. An important focus of the work in 2021 will include implementing new guidelines and processes for diversity, equity and inclusion in hiring. The College will also incentivize faculty to integrate issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion into curricula.

“While we have taken steps toward a more inclusive community, this is just the beginning of what the College will be doing on our continuous quest for equity and social justice,” said President Hopey.

JIM SCAMMON '83 JOINS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Merrimack College is pleased to announce the appointment of Jim Scammon, president and chief operating officer of Bose Corporation and a graduate of the class of 1983, to its Board of Trustees.

“I am pleased to welcome Jim to our Board of

Trustees,” said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. “Jim has been a member of our College Leadership Council for nearly three years and is a leader at our annual Student Professional Development Retreats, where he has devoted much of his time to the mentoring and support of our students. Jim’s expertise, talent and leadership will contribute greatly to Merrimack and will continue to impact our students for years to come.”

“As chairman I am very excited to welcome Jim to the Board and am looking forward to working with him closely,” said Alfred Arcidi '84, P'06, M'17, '18, GP'24, chairman, Merrimack College Board of Trustees. “Jim is an outstanding business leader, is deeply thoughtful and committed to education, and is a highly respected voice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

Scammon was appointed to his current position of President and chief operating officer of Bose Corporation in 2020, where he is responsible for worldwide operations. Since joining Bose in 1990, Scammon has held several leadership positions across the company, including marketing, operations and finance. He has been very involved in helping drive the development and growth of new businesses and markets for Bose. In 2017, he was honored by the *Boston Business Journal* as CFO of the Year.

“As a proud Merrimack College alumnus, I’m honored to be joining the Board of Trustees. In addition to continuing to focus on enabling a new generation of leaders, I’m looking forward to working with Dr. Hopey and the Board on strategies that advance the College’s mission and distinctive agenda for growth,” said Scammon.

At Merrimack College, Scammon was a cooperative education student, completing a bachelor of science in business economics in 1983. He went on to earn his master’s degree in business administration from the F.W. Olin School of Business at Babson College.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE NAMES THE Winston School of Education and Social Policy

“Demand for well-trained educators has never been greater – and Merrimack has never been more equipped to deliver on this urgent need.” DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY, PRESIDENT

Merrimack College is pleased to announce the naming of the Winston School of Education and Social Policy.

For Judith “Judy” Teehan ’64 and Robert “Bob” Winston, supporting education and new teachers and their retention is a passion, and programs at Merrimack College help them fulfill this passion. Judy represents the largest alumni donor to Merrimack College, and to honor the Winstons, the College is excited to announce the official naming of the Winston School of Education and Social Policy.

Judy and Bob have been supporters of Merrimack College for more than 50 years. Their most recent gift establishes an endowment to support the education school’s focus on new teacher training and graduate education. Earlier gifts created an endowment to establish Merrimack’s Institute for New Teacher Support (MINTS). This initiative supports new teachers and increases their retention in this critical field. Earlier gifts established an endowment to encourage students to consider a career in education.

Judy, a graduate of Merrimack College in 1964, is a former high school teacher in Massachusetts and California. Over the years she has remained close to college classmates, returning often to campus and actively participating in reunions. Her husband, Bob, is a retired senior vice president and director of American Funds Distributors, and served as a captain in the United States Army.

“Bob and I are honored to have our name associated with Merrimack’s outstanding educational training during a time when institutes of higher education are being challenged – Merrimack continues to grow and offer superior educational programs to community educators,” Judy stated.

In addition to funding programs at Merrimack College, Judy and Bob have established the Winston Center for Leadership and Ethics at Boston College, Bob’s alma mater. They have also established in their home community of Los Angeles, Chairs and Research Fellowships at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and UCLA’s medical school.



Dr. Isabelle Cherney, dean of the school of education and social policy, shared, “The support of the Winstons has proven invaluable in allowing the school to take our program to the next level and to focus so intensely on supporting early-career teachers. Their support will allow us to provide resources to keep teachers in the classroom.”

“We are grateful to Judy and Bob for their extraordinary philanthropy to Merrimack College and leadership to develop programs that nurture teachers, a profession critical to society,” said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. “We are excited to be able to honor the Winston family by naming the Winston School of Education and Social Policy.”

TEACHER RETENTION: By the Numbers

Teacher Support Works

86%

of teachers with mentors remain in the field¹

8%

of educators leave teaching each year²

2/3

leave for reasons other than retirement³

30%

of new educators leave their job within the first 3 years⁴

¹ Teacher Turnover: Stayers, Movers, and Leavers; National Center for Education Statistics

² National Center for Education Statistics

³ Teacher Turnover: Why It Matters and What We Can Do About It; Learning Policy Institute

⁴ National Center for Education Statistics

Congratulations to **FR. DANIEL L. MADDEN, O.S.A.**, and **DEACON ELIZANDRO M. CONTRERAS, O.S.A.**! The Augustinian Friars of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova were ordained on Saturday, October 10, 2020, by Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson Pérez at St. Thomas of Villanova Church, Villanova, Pennsylvania. Please pray for Fr. Dan and Dcn. Elizandro as they continue their journey.



Deacon Elizandro M. Contreras, O.S.A.; Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson Pérez; and Fr. Daniel L. Madden, O.S.A., at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish on the campus of Villanova University.

FR. FRANCIS J. CERULLO, O.S.A. May 24, 1940–September 28, 2020

IN MEMORIAM



Francis J. (Fritz) Cerullo, Augustinian Friar of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, died Monday, Sept. 28. He was 80 years old. He served as the director of development at Merrimack College from 1982 to 1994.

Fr. Fritz was born on May 24, 1940, in Minersville, Pennsylvania, one of three sons and one daughter of Anthony J. Cerullo and Elizabeth Brennan. In 1962 he became a postulant at Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, New York, and was received into the Order of St. Augustine as a novice on Sept. 9, 1963. As a graduate of Villanova University, Fr. Fritz professed solemn vows on Sept. 10, 1968, and was ordained to the priesthood on Aug. 28, 1971, at Saint Denis Church, Havertown, PA, by Bishop Peter Van Diepen, O.S.A., Bishop of Manokwari, Indonesia. A funeral mass was held at St. Thomas of Villanova Church, Villanova, Pennsylvania, Monday, Oct. 5, at 7:30 p.m., and a viewing was offered at 6:30 p.m. The burial was Tuesday, Oct. 6, at Calvary Cemetery, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania at 10 a.m.

MEET THE AUGUSTINIANS

Merrimack College is excited to welcome three new friars to the Merrimack College community:



**FR. JOHN DELLO
RUSSO, O.S.A.**
*Bilingual ESL
Instructor, Education
Department,
Winston School
of Education and
Social Policy*

Fr. John earned his bachelor's degree in French and Spanish from Tufts University and later earned his master's degrees in French and Spanish from Middlebury College. Prior to entering the Augustinian formation program in 1980, Fr. John served for six years at Matignon High School as a foreign language teacher and was involved in the music and drama programs. His key focus includes ministry in multicultural communities, in particular with the growing Hispanic communities in the United States. Prior to joining Merrimack College, Fr. John served in the parochial ministry at Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Parish in Bronx, New York; Our Lady of Good Counsel in Staten Island, New York; and Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish

in Lawrence, Massachusetts and last year temporarily assisted at Saint Augustine Parish in Andover, Massachusetts.



**FR. BRYAN KERNS,
O.S.A.**
*Assistant Professor
of Practice, Religious
and Theological
Studies, School of
Liberal Arts*

Fr. Bryan earned a master's from the University of Chicago Divinity School, where he focused on the history of Christianity and religious ethics, and a master of divinity from Catholic Theological Union at Chicago. From Villanova University, he earned his bachelor's in humanities, an interdisciplinary degree focusing on Catholic studies, and another, with honors, that included a thesis on the aspirations of Catholic higher education. His areas of interest are early Church history and theology, especially the thought of Saint Augustine of Hippo; Christian virtue,

ethics and political theory; the interaction between law and religion; and more broadly, religion and culture. Fr. Bryan comes to Merrimack after two years teaching in an Augustinian preparatory school in New Jersey, where he taught ethics and constitutional law, and served as chaplain for the basketball program.



**FR. DANIEL
MADDEN, O.S.A.**
*CARE Case Manager,
Office of Wellness*

Fr. Dan is a newly ordained priest with the Order of St. Augustine. Originally from Cincinnati, he met the Augustinians as an undergrad at Villanova University. After college, he joined the Augustinian Volunteers, serving in Chicago, and then returned to Villanova for graduate school. He entered the order in 2014 and completed seminary last May. He was ordained to the priesthood at Villanova on October 10, 2020.



Augustinian *Ministries* setting hearts on fire

Saint Augustine envisioned communities united in mind and heart, ablaze with God's love. Today, the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P.) put this vision into action by caring for the marginalized and underserved. As a sponsored ministry of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, we are united in our mission to empower individuals to make positive, impactful change.

Learn how Fr. Jack, Fr. Art and Kelsey are setting hearts on fire and how you can get involved at

www.augustinian.org/justice-peace

EDUCATION ♦ JUSTICE & PEACE ♦ MISSIONS
PARISHES ♦ SHRINE ♦ VOLUNTEERS

(l-r) Fr. Jack Deegan, O.S.A., former president of Merrimack College and Founder of A.D.R.O.P.; Fr. Arthur Purcaro, O.S.A.; and A.D.R.O.P. volunteer Kelsey Rode

RESILIENT PIONEERS

Early College students come back to campus



First-year Pioneer Scholars enjoying a scavenger hunt on campus during the fall 2020 semester.

“I was so excited when I found out we’d be back on campus this semester. Although my college experience has had its stressful moments, the wonderful learning I’ve done at Merrimack has made it all worth it. I couldn’t imagine myself anywhere else,” stated Pioneer Scholar Omara Acosta ’23.

In 2017, Merrimack and our partner school in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Abbott Lawrence Academy (ALA), initiated a remarkable Early College Program (ECP). Quickly, this led to the establishment of the Pioneer Scholars in 2019. Pioneer Scholars (10 selected in the first year) represent the most accomplished ECP students who, upon high school graduation from ALA, enroll at Merrimack with financial assistance covering tuition, room, board and books, as well as dedicated academic guidance and support from faculty and staff.

Unlike many other early college and “full-ride” scholarship programs throughout the country, Merrimack has succeeded with a 100 percent retention rate for the first cohort of Pioneer Scholars who completed their freshman year learning remotely during spring semester 2020.

“I am so proud of our first Pioneer Scholars class. They have already accomplished so much, even with the added challenge of COVID. I am continuously impressed with their persistent resiliency and drive to succeed,” stated Sarah Cowdell, assistant director of student success for First Year Experience and Pioneer Scholars.

The second cohort of nine Pioneer Scholars became Warriors in fall 2020. These accomplished students, whose average high school GPA was 3.6, chose Merrimack over impressive offers of admission from the University of Pennsylvania and Syracuse University, as well as Bates, Connecticut and Colby colleges.

This program expands on Merrimack’s core values and mission and will drastically change the trajectory of life for so many deserving students.

The support programs put in place to guide these students on their Merrimack journey have been effective and, this semester, particularly creative. In one example, Cowdell put together a scavenger hunt to help first-year Pioneer Scholars become familiar with various campus resources. At the same time, the returning sophomore class of Pioneer Scholars served as mentors for the novices, a first step in building camaraderie and community between the groups.

In addition, the success of the inaugural—and now second—class of Pioneer Scholars would not have been possible without the investment of donors who have generously embraced and supported this endeavor.

Marques Torbert, a member of Merrimack’s Board of Trustees, said recently, “My wife Alli and I have chosen to invest our time, money and resources in the cause of the Pioneer Scholars program because any school in the world would be thrilled to have these gifted students as a part of the community. This program expands on Merrimack’s core values and mission and will drastically change the trajectory of life for so many deserving students,” he concluded.

Merrimack has established a fundraising priority to create a permanent \$20 million endowment to fully support 40 Pioneer Scholars on campus into the future.

“These students not only bring their passion, talents and perspective to our community, they also bring pride to their hometown and serve as role models for the youth in Lawrence. Nothing could be more important and more in keeping with Merrimack’s Augustinian values,” concluded President Hopey.



Pioneer Scholar Omara Acosta '23



MERRIMACK COLLEGE SERVICE DOG, MERRI, TURNS ONE

The Merrimack College community celebrated Merri's first birthday with a safe and socially distanced celebration on Tuesday, October 27.

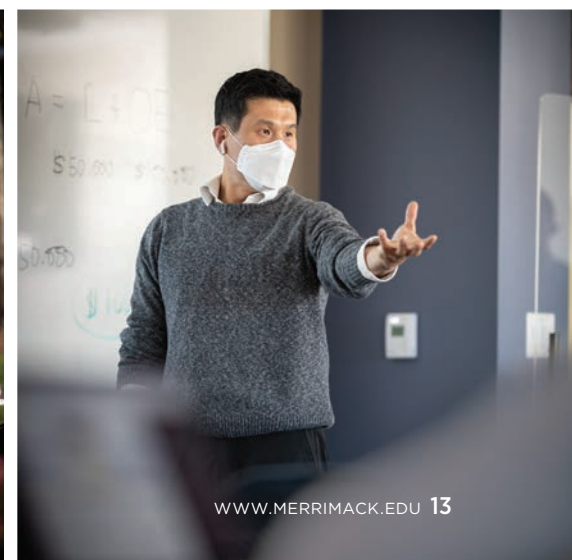
Merri, a black Labrador retriever, works alongside the Merrimack College Police Department as its full-time comfort dog and aids in stress reduction, promotes community engagement and offers comfort in difficult times. Merrimack partnered with Hero Pups, a New Hampshire nonprofit that trains shelter pups to become service and support dogs for veterans and first responders.



To stay up-to-date on Merri, follow her Instagram account, [@merri_mcpd](https://www.instagram.com/merri_mcpd)

Merri, the College's service dog, during her safe, socially distanced first birthday celebration on campus.

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



NEW FACULTY

DIANA ARTERIAN, PH.D., M.F.A.

Lecturer, Creative Writing

ELIZABETH BRAULT, M.A., A.B.D.

Lecturer, Criminology and Criminal Justice

SUSAN CARROCCINO, D.N.P. (C), M.S.N., R.N.

Assistant Clinical Professor, Nursing

ANDREW COTE, D.M.A.

Lecturer, Music, and Assistant Director of Bands

MEGAN E. CULLINAN, PH.D.

Lecturer, Communication and Media

MAUREN DALY, M.S.

Lecturer, Mathematics

JILL GUINDON-NASIR, ED.D., M.B.A., M.S.ED.

Lecturer, Hospitality

TAHIR HAMEED, PH.D., P.E.

Assistant Professor, Organizational Studies and Analytics

JEFFREY HOVIS, M.S.

Lecturer and Director of the Graduate Product Management Program

FR. BRYAN KERNS, O.S.A.

Assistant Professor of Practice, Religious and Theological Studies

AARON MANSFIELD, PH.D.

Assistant Professor, Sport Management

BAHIA MUNEM, PH.D.

Lecturer, Women's and Gender Studies

JAMES M. PETTY, JR., PH.D.

Lecturer, Theatre



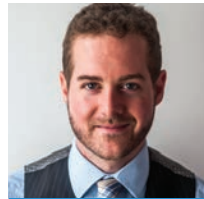
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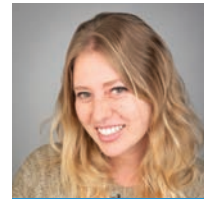
Brault



Carroccino



Cote



Cullinan



Daly



Guindon-Nasir



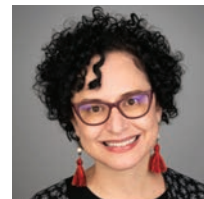
Hameed



Hovis



Mansfield



Munem



Petty

Photo of Fr. Bryan Kerns, O.S.A., appears on page 10.

TEN MEMBERS OF FACULTY RECEIVE TENURE

In the fall, President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., approved the recommendations of the Appointment, Rank and Tenure (ART) Committee to grant tenure to 10 faculty members.

The ART Committee concluded that the faculty members met the standards set for tenure and appointment as associate professors, including teaching effectiveness, scholarly and related professional achievements, and community service.

We are excited to announce that the following faculty members received tenure for the 2019-2020 academic year and beyond.



Tenure (continued)

THOMAS ANDERSON, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor in history.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2014.
- Earned his Ph.D. in history from Binghamton University.
- Awards and honors include: Recipient of faculty development grants from 2016 to 2018.

RODRIGO BANDEIRA DE MELLO, promoted from tenure-track associate professor to associate professor in strategy and operations.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2016.
- Earned his Ph.D. in business from the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Brazil.
- Awards and honors include: 2017 Best Paper Finalist with the Brazilian Academy of Management.

JULIANA COHEN, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor in health sciences.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2015.
- Earned her Sc.D. in nutrition from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.
- Awards and honors include: Member of Sigma Xi; 2019 inductee of the Scientific Research Honor Society; 2018 National Honorary Member of Phi Upsilon Omicron; 2018 Anthony J. Sakowich Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (SCURCA) grant recipient for “Impact of Marketing in Fast Food Restaurants”; recipient of the K01 Mentored Research Scientist 2016-21 Development Award from the National Institutes of Health; named the 2016 Obesity Society Fellow; named the 2012 Donald and Sue Pritzker Nutrition and Fitness Fellow and 2012-15 Nutritional Epidemiology of Cancer Education and Career Development Program Fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health.

JOHN GALLAGHER, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor in mechanical engineering.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2014.
- Earned his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles.
- Awards and honors include: 2019 Anthony J. Sakowich Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (SCURCA) grant recipient with co-investigator Jimmy Franco for their project “Photomechanical Characterization of Custom 3-D Printed Polymer”; named the 2015 Excellence in Civil Engineering Education Teaching Fellow by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

ALICIA GIRGENTI-MALONE, promoted from assistant professor and graduate program director to associate professor and graduate program director in criminology and criminal justice.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2014.
- Earned her Ph.D. in criminology and justice policy from Northeastern University.
- Awards and honors include: 2018 Last Lecture keynote speaker.

DANIEL HERDA, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor in sociology.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2014.
- Earned his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, Davis.
- Awards and honors include: Named the 2016 Burns “Bud” Roper Fellow Award by American Association of Public Opinion Research; recipient of the 2017 Group Study Visit Grant from the German American Exchange Service; recipient of the 2015 SAGE Teaching Innovations and Professional Development Award from the American Sociological Association.

SEUNGJIN LIM, associate professor in computer science.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2015.
- Earned his Ph.D. in computer science from Brigham Young University.

MICHAEL MOBLEY, director of clinical mental health counseling and associate professor in psychology.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2020.
- Earned his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from The Pennsylvania State University.
- Awards and honors include: Fellow of the American Psychological Association; president of the Council of Master’s in Counseling Training Programs; former president of the Society of Counseling Psychology.

AUTUMN ALCOTT RIDENOUR, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor in religious and theological studies.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2014.
- Earned her Ph.D. in theological ethics from Boston College.
- Awards and honors include: Invited speaker for the 2020 McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics & Public Life Conference at the University of Oxford; author of *Sabbath Rest as Vocation: Aging Toward Death*.

ZOE SHERMAN, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor in economics.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2014.
- Earned her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- Awards and honors include: Recipient of the 2016 William Waters Research Grant from the Association for Social Economics; 2016 Merrimack faculty grant recipient for Supplemental Instruction Supervisors workshop at the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

FAST FIVE

with Lauren Maher '16

Lauren Maher '16 shares her path to becoming a nurse, how Merrimack influenced her career choice and how she'd like to come back and share her knowledge with current nursing students.

1

Why did you become a nurse?

I always knew I wanted to pursue a career in health care. When I was a child, I spent some time as a patient at Boston Children's Hospital. The nurses, doctors and physical therapists had an impact on me—from then on I knew I wanted to step foot into a career where I could make a difference in my patients' lives each and every day. At Merrimack, I majored in sports medicine thinking I would go to graduate school for physical therapy. After my senior internship, I started the accelerated nursing program at the MGH Institute of Health Professions.

2

What experiences at Merrimack led you to pursue the field you are in?

The fall of my senior year I had the opportunity to complete my internship in the emergency department at Lawrence General Hospital. This experience was challenging, exciting, adrenaline-provoking and actually gave me an overview of what it's like to work in the hospital. During this experience, I shadowed different RNs, which was great because everybody has different workflows, attitudes and approaches to patient care. Without Merrimack providing this experience for me, I don't think I would have known how passionate I was about pursuing a career in nursing.

3

What's your favorite part of your job?

I love how every day is different, we are constantly faced with new challenges and I never know what I'm walking into. I work three, 12-hour shifts a week on an intermediate medical floor taking care of patients ages 19 and older. Every patient is unique and our population is very diverse—I get to interact with new people every day. The most rewarding feeling is admitting a patient who is having the worst day of their life, seeing them improve and walk out of the hospital. My amazing work family makes going to work enjoyable every day. I have built some lifelong friendships since I started my journey two years ago.

4

What was your favorite class at Merrimack College?

My two favorite classes in college were strength and conditioning and nutrition, diet and health. Fitness and nutrition are a major part of my life and I am thankful I was able to further educate myself about these things and use that knowledge in my everyday life outside of work.

5

What sets Merrimack apart from other colleges?

Merrimack is unique in its own way. The people were amazing and it was nice walking to class and seeing familiar faces every day. I am so thankful for the memories Merrimack has left with me and I miss it so much. I would love to come back and teach in the nursing skills lab and share my knowledge with the current nursing students.



Lauren Maher '16 (right) on the front lines at Brigham and Women's Hospital

Tips for Parents

Professors from Merrimack's Winston School of Education and Social Policy share their recommendations on how parents can ease their kids' stress as they navigate remote learning during the coronavirus pandemic.

The coronavirus pandemic means that schools are rolling out new forms of teaching and learning for K-12 students at a moment when families face multiple forms of stress, including worries about employment and health. Merrimack's faculty members have some tips for parents to help support their children as they face the challenges of learning through online or remote methods.



Assistant professor of education Stephanie Garrone-Shufran, Ph.D., reminds parents and caregivers that kids, like all of us, need movement breaks, especially when spending so much time on their screens for school. Physical movement helps kids and adults remain focused. While walks outside are ideal, other options include movement and mindfulness videos created by [GoNoodle](#) or [Cosmic Kids](#).

Give Everyone a Break.

Associate Dean Russ Olwell, Ph.D., suggests that children need help understanding that they are facing new challenges. They need time to adjust and require some space to make mistakes and, sometimes, even fail at a task. Given that students lack many of the support services available at their school, such as one-on-one help and tutoring, they should not expect to produce the same quality of work as they do at school during normal conditions.

Keep a Routine.

For children with learning challenges and their parents, this crisis has been especially tough. Kathryn Welby, Ed.D. '01, professor of practice, encourages helping kids keep a routine that includes learning and review. Websites such as [Boardmaker](#) can provide free activities for kids and parents to do together. [Smore](#) provides resources for parents of students with developmental disabilities to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. [Education Modified](#) provides resources on assistive technology you may need at home.

Read Books Together

Assistant professor Lisa O'Brien, Ed.D., suggests looking online to replace all the books that are out reach due to the shutdown of schools and libraries. The [Open Library](#) and [International Children's Digital Library](#) are free and feature many classic and multicultural children's books. For young children, [PBS Kids](#) has a nice collection of early reader books. [Audible](#) has also made resources for children's audiobooks free during this crisis.



Take Virtual Field Trips Together.

Assistant professor of education Rory Tannebaum, Ph.D., recommends using websites such as [WeAreTeachers](#), [Scholastic](#) and [Discovery Education](#), which have hundreds of free and engaging activities to help kids explore fascinating and informative places right from the comfort of their own home. These virtual field trips can take students to zoos, aquariums, historical sites and a wide range of other places in their neighborhood and across the world. The [New York Times](#) even offers creative suggestions for how to "travel" without traveling during the pandemic.





“I believe the Merrimack College Marching Band will enhance the energy of the campus community and provide unity and hope through music during these challenging times.”

BAND PRESIDENT ROB SICA '22

BRING ON THE BAND

WANTED: Talented students who can march in intricate moving formations (think of the rolling Script Ohio performed by the Ohio State University Marching Band) and simultaneously play instrumental music of all genres (mostly upbeat stuff and, of course, the school fight song).



These are the primary — but not the only — qualifications for marching band members. Centuries ago, marching bands were the exclusive domain of the military. Today, high school and college students in marching bands display their musical talents by enthusiastically leading community parades, participating in rigorous competitions and proudly — often very loudly — supporting their athletics teams.

New Commitments to Music

President Hopey envisioned the creation of a true NCAA Division I environment at Merrimack. In 2018, Warrior athletics moved to Division I, and in 2019, the new music major was introduced. The creation of the Merrimack College Marching Band was the next logical step. It was embraced by Director of Bands Paul Geresy, students and community members at large who had long supported the idea, believing it would increase enthusiasm, provide entertainment and deliver additional opportunities for music engagement on campus. Geresy states, “The marching band enriches an existing community of musicians and is becoming a powerful draw for the recruitment of multi-talented students to Merrimack.”

“Institutionally, there has been no stronger advocate and cheerleader for this initiative than President Hopey,” says Dean of the School of Liberal Arts Karen Ryan. In less than a year’s time, from concept to funding, formation of the Merrimack College Marching Band got the green light. “This expansion within the Visual and Performing Arts Department, including the new music major, will not only help us attract new students and provide greater visibility for Merrimack, it will also be a powerful tool for retention — providing a ‘stickiness’ that comes when students share special talents and experiences with peers,” Ryan concludes.

Music performance at Merrimack has been integral to campus life through numerous groups including Concert Band, Concert Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Schola Choir and Liturgical Ensemble, three a cappella groups and, of course, the pep band. Last year alone, the pep band played at 55 campus events — from football games and hockey matches to on-campus Admission recruitment days. The creation of a marching band broadens opportunities for instrumentalists and provides scholarship opportunities as well.

In 2007, triggered by a conversation at the Austin Scholars welcome dinner, Jon Ravenelle '11, a freshman tuba player and member of the Warrior tennis team, became instrumental (pardon the pun) in founding the original pep band. “Frequently back then, we only had 10–12 students playing at a hockey game and sometimes had to fill in with North Andover High School kids. I get goose bumps hearing about the new marching band, realizing that my alma mater has committed to the visual and performing arts — especially music — in such a big way,” he concludes.

Merrimack, Music and COVID

As plans were taking shape for the pep band to morph into the marching band, COVID struck. While it has not dampened the spirits of students and faculty in this inaugural year, it has altered activities this semester.

Lecturer and Assistant Director of Bands Andrew Cote joined the music department this fall. Under Cote's guidance and while staying socially distanced, band members have learned to use new technology to record, edit and produce music for both live and studio performances. Also, they have catalogued new instruments that have arrived and look forward to new uniforms, both made possible through the gracious generosity of members of the Class of 1966 Nancy and Bill Marsden, owners of the oldest and largest manufacturer of music performance group apparel in the world, DeMoulin Brothers and Company.



Nancy '66 and Bill Marsden '66, supporters of the Merrimack College Marching Band

More Than Fun and Games

The band's first public performance took place virtually – in every sense. Cote's expertise in music technology and production was employed to create an online “mini-concert” for alumni on Veterans Day. The concert featured the debut of the new Merrimack College fight song, “Down in the Valley of Victory,” written by alumna Paige Sorensen '19. Each individual instrumentalist was recorded in studio over an existing music track. When the different instruments were all recorded, they were then joined together and the underlying track was removed. Voilà, the Merrimack College Marching Band succeeded in its first, very memorable, virtual performance.



Sketch of the new Merrimack Marching Band uniforms created by DeMoulin Brothers and Company



Band President Rob Sica '22 says, “There were a lot of moving parts in this performance, from following COVID-19 guidelines to staying safe and playing and producing music using new technology. I believe the Merrimack College Marching Band will enhance the energy of the campus community and provide unity and hope through music during these challenging times,” he concludes.

Marching band students will learn new music – together. They will rehearse and perform – together. And according to Associate Professor of Music Laura Moore Pruett, they will “learn how they learn” – not just as musicians but as students in any subject area. The band will not just be a fun sideline; it will also generate pride, build community, serve to grow individual talents and develop opportunities for leadership. “Cooperation, collaboration, acquisition of new knowledge of music and technology, and participation in the development of a new organization from the ground up will provide skill



sets useful now and adaptable to any future profession,” Pruett states.

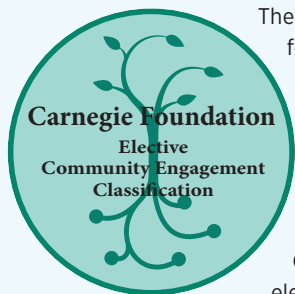
As the world returns to normal, the band will grow from its current 40 members to somewhere around 100 strong. “The Merrimack Marching Band embodies everything about the spirit of Merrimack. We are dedicated to community, hard work, tenacity and selflessness. We are a tight ensemble and there's nothing we can't do when we do it together,” Geresy concludes.



If you would like to learn more about ways to support the Merrimack College Marching Band, contact Leila Rice, vice president for development and alumni relations, at (978) 837-5997.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Merrimack College Awarded the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement



The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has recognized Merrimack College with its prestigious Community Engagement Classification, an elective designation that indicates the institution's commitment to community engagement. Merrimack College is one of 119 U.S. institutions selected for this important classification.

The Carnegie Community Engagement Classification has been the leading framework for institutional assessment and recognition of community engagement in U.S. higher education for the past 14 years. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching aims to build a field around the use of improvement science and networked improvement communities to solve long-standing inequities in educational outcomes.

"Merrimack College is delighted to be recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for its deep commitment to working with community partners in order to address societal problems and increase our collective impact to improve the lives of many, especially in the cities of Lawrence, North Andover and Andover," said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "Our institutional commitment to service and community engagement is born

from our Augustinian identity and values where we continually endeavor to foster a just, peaceful and sustainable world. What's more is that these partnerships are absolutely critical to the education of our students as future engaged citizens."

This designation speaks to Merrimack's strong history of community engagement and efforts to create collective impacts. The College supports a wide spectrum of programs and activities across the Merrimack Valley, especially within the city of Lawrence, in the areas of teaching, research and student engagement. These activities seek to deepen and sustain external partnerships and advance community capacity building and change.

"Our institutional commitment to service and community engagement is born from our Augustinian identity and values..."

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY, PRESIDENT

Each institution awarded the Classification undergoes a process of self-study, which is then assessed by a national review committee. Carnegie deems classified institutions as exemplars in publicly engaged teaching and research.



Merrimack College Named Again to U.S. News & World Report's Best College Rankings

Merrimack College has been named, for the third year in a row, a "Top 50 Comprehensive College" by *U.S. News & World Report*, while remaining one

of the top 10 "Most Innovative" schools. The College's steady ascent in these rankings is a great external endorsement of its strategic vision.

"Our investment in new faculty and expanded course offerings and enhancing opportunities for our students is the cornerstone of what we do," said Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "This recognition by *U.S. News & World Report* is a wonderful endorsement of what our talented community of faculty, staff and students are doing every day."

Merrimack's rankings reflect the success of a decade of investing in its students, faculty, academic programs and the infrastructure of the campus. Rankings are an indicator of excellence and Merrimack's excellence is evident in tremendous leaps in the "Best Undergraduate Teaching Program" and "Best Value Schools" categories. Merrimack is also among the top 10 in the "Northeast Regional" and "Most Innovative" categories.

Merrimack moved from 46th a year ago to 45th on the 2021 "Best Regional Northeast Colleges" list, along with being named the 9th most innovative school.

Merrimack made an impressive leap from the 35th spot a year ago to 16th for best undergraduate teaching programs for regional universities in the North.

It also finished 37th on the list of "Best Value Schools" in the region, up from 42nd last year.

Merrimack tied for 123rd nationally out of 220 schools for its undergraduate engineering program and 148th for "Top Performers in Social Mobility."

The magazine surveyed more than 1,800 colleges and universities, ranking 1,400 institutions using 17 metrics to assess academic quality.



Merrimack College Awarded NSF Grant for MACHS Scholars Program

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded the College a \$999,523, five-year grant to support the Merrimack Achieves Collegiate Holistic Support Scholars (MACHS Scholars) program.

Led by principal investigator Dr. Rickey Caldwell, assistant professor of mechanical Engineering, the program is designed to help high-achieving, low-income students with unmet financial needs obtain the education and skills necessary to launch a fulfilling career in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). In addition to providing financial scholarships, the grant will empower students by funding a variety of wraparound support services, including faculty mentorships, focused workshops, research opportunities and mental health resources.

“This award underscores Merrimack College’s dedication to its founding values of teaching, learning and serving — which includes equality, education and discovery for all,” said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. “This program will create an opportunity for deserving and talented low-income students to advance their STEM education and become the next generation of problem solvers. We are grateful for the support of the National

Science Foundation and are excited for those students who will be supported by this program.”

“We don’t only want to give deserving students the opportunity to come to college; we want to provide the holistic support they need to thrive once they’re here,” Dr. Caldwell said. “Through our program, students will gain the tools they need to be successful after graduation, in whatever area they choose.”

Reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the program, a number of cross-departmental collaborators join Dr. Caldwell as co-principal investigators, including Dr. Gwyne White (Psychology), Dr. Brandi Baldock (Chemistry and Biochemistry), Dr. William McDowell (Biology), Dr. Russell Olwell (Education and Social Policy), and Dr. Julia St. Goar (Mathematics). In addition to serving as mentors, the team will study how MACHS Scholars program interventions affect student outcomes. Research findings will provide valuable insights for building a robust STEM talent pipeline — both at Merrimack and at other universities across the nation.

“This award underscores Merrimack College’s dedication to its founding values of teaching, learning and serving.”

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY, PRESIDENT

The NSF grant will fund 20 MACHS Scholars participants — who will be divided into three cohorts — over the course of five years. Merrimack plans to welcome the first cohort of seven high-achieving students to campus in fall 2021.



Special Olympics Recognizes Merrimack College as a Unified Champion School

It has been a banner year for the Young Athletes and Developmental Sports program at the College as Special Olympics has honored the program by designating Merrimack as a Unified Champion School.

The designation recognizes Merrimack for promoting meaningful social inclusion by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities to create an accepting school environment.

Established at Merrimack in the fall of 2015 by Morgan Sleeman '18, the Young Athletes and Developmental Sports program lets its students work in partnership with Special Olympics to offer children with developmental and other disabilities a chance to build physical and social skills.

The program, developed by Special Olympics, promotes health and social development for children with a range of challenges, from autism spectrum disorder to Down syndrome, and includes their siblings in the activities.

The program includes more than 50 Merrimack student volunteers and 30 families, and has been one of the fastest-growing student groups on campus. It is run by an executive board, including President Margaret Ford '21, Vice President Alison Radzik '21, Treasurer Kelly Fenerty '21, Secretary Brooke Leestma '22, Fundraising Chair Kelly Crotty '21 and Social Media Chair Hayley Yule '22.

45th
BEST REGIONAL
UNIVERSITIES
NORTHEAST

16th
BEST UNDERGRADUATE
TEACHING PROGRAMS FOR
REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES
IN THE NORTH

37th
BEST VALUE SCHOOLS
IN THE REGION

TOP **10**
MOST INNOVATIVE
SCHOOLS

TOP **50**
MOST COMPREHENSIVE
COLLEGES

WARRIOR TOP 10

The 2019–20 Merrimack College Athletics campaign was historic in every sense of the term. The Warriors embarked on their inaugural Division I season as members of the Northeast Conference and achieved unprecedented success. From conference championships to monumental victories and much more, Merrimack’s student-athletes proved that they were ready to compete at the highest level of collegiate athletics.

1



Homecoming Weekend draws largest turnout to date

On Oct. 5, 2019, more than 10,000 superfans came out to Duane Stadium to cheer on the Merrimack football team as the Warriors faced off against Bryant University.



2

Men’s basketball delivers headlines in first portion of Division I debut

Merrimack College made national news in its first Division I season, winning the 2019–20 Northeast Conference Regular Season Championship. It was the first program ever to win a conference title in its first year of DI membership. The Warriors made national headlines throughout the year including a road win at

Northwestern to become the second NEC institution ever to beat a Big Ten opponent. The success translated to buzz on campus that resulted in multiple sellout crowds as well as national TV broadcasts from Hammel Court on ESPN3 and CBS Sports Network.



3

Men’s soccer wins NEC regular season championship

The men’s soccer team had a perfect in-conference season, clinching the regular season championship in dramatic fashion with a game-winning penalty kick in overtime to defeat Fairleigh Dickinson.



4

Basketball student-athletes win national awards

Denia Davis-Stewart '20 of the women’s basketball team and Juvaris Hayes '20 of the men’s basketball team received national recognition following the 2019–20 season. Denia was named the NEC Player and Defensive Player of the Year, becoming the first NEC student-athlete in a decade to win both honors. Juvaris earned the NEC Defensive Player of the Year accolade as well as the Lefty Driesell Award, given annually to the nation’s top defensive player.

Big Ten beatdown
In the spring, the Merrimack baseball and men’s lacrosse programs accomplished monumental feats by toppling Big Ten opponents. The baseball squad won three of its four games against the Michigan State Spartans, with all three of its victories occurring in come-from-behind fashion. That same weekend, Saturday, Feb. 22, the men’s lacrosse team visited the University of Michigan at The Big House and defeated the Wolverines, 14–12. The Warriors broke an 11–11 tie after three quarters to win by 2 points in the fourth.



5



6

Women's basketball captures 20 wins

The women's basketball team proved to be one of the NEC's best, winning 20 games for the fifth time in school history. The Warriors started the year with an upset of UMass on NESN, which was the first of a dominant stretch of play against New England institutions. Merrimack defeated New Hampshire, Brown, UMass Lowell, Vermont and Bryant by double-digit margins, proving to be one of the top programs in the region.



7

Halloween with Team IMPACT

In October 2019, to celebrate Halloween, members of multiple athletic programs spent a fun afternoon trick-or-treating with kids from Team IMPACT, a national nonprofit that connects children facing serious and chronic illnesses with local college athletes.



8

Dance team welcomes young dancers

Future Warriors? As part of the Dancer for a Day event, local youth dancers joined the Merrimack Dance Team for an energetic halftime football performance—allowing them to discover what it's like to dance at the collegiate level.

9

**Women's ice hockey visits Belfast for Friendship Series**

The Merrimack College women's ice hockey program participated in the Friendship Series in January, playing two games in Belfast, Northern Ireland, against Quinnipiac University. The Warriors spent a full week across the pond, experiencing Irish culture and showcasing Merrimack in the program's first-ever games on international soil.

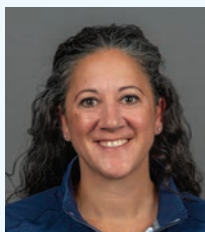
10

Fantastic first wins

Other Merrimack programs enjoyed a myriad of success and plenty of first wins in the Warriors' first Division I seasons! Women's soccer beat Manhattan, field hockey took down the University of Maine, softball defeated St. Bonaventure and Women's lacrosse bested Canisius.



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Warrior welcome

KELLY MORRONE becomes the seventh head women's basketball coach in school history—arriving at Merrimack after an impressive seven-year stint at John Carroll University. She guided the Blue Streaks to 117 wins over the last seven years, claiming a pair of Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) regular season titles, the 2018–19 OAC Tournament Championship and three NCAA Division III Tournament berths, the first three appearances in school history. Prior to John Carroll, Morrone served as the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at the College of William & Mary (2012–13); assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Rhode Island (2010–12); assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Davidson College (2008–10); and assistant coach at the University of Buffalo (2005–08). Morrone was a student-athlete at the University of South Carolina, where she contributed to a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances for the Gamecocks.

ALUMNI NEWS



LAURENCE J. AND ROBERTA M. PALMISANO HALL



LAURENCE "LARRY" PALMISANO '57, H'19, P'82, '85, '87, '87, '90, GP'16

In November 2019, members of the Merrimack community gathered to celebrate the newly dedicated Laurence J. and Roberta M. Palmisano Hall, recognizing the significant contributions Laurence "Larry" Palmisano '57, H'19, P'82, '85, '87, '87, '90, GP'16 and his late wife, Roberta "Bobbi" Palmisano, have made to Merrimack College. Palmisano's loyal support spans decades, including

most recently his generous contribution to science and engineering during the *Together for Good* Campaign.

A graduate of the civil engineering program and patriarch of three generations of Merrimack alumni, Palmisano's Merrimack roots run deep.

Influenced by many in the College's faculty, Palmisano acknowledged professor emeritus William Garrett, Jr., for inspiring his long-standing dedication to Merrimack. Among his many involvements, Palmisano is a former member of the College's Board of Trustees, an ardent supporter of scholarships and a past recipient of the St. Augustine Award for service to the College.

In addition, he credited the Rev. Fritz Cerullo, O.S.A., with igniting his philanthropic support to Merrimack. Over the years, the two collaborated on several fundraising initiatives for the College, including the start of the President's Cup Golf Tournament and the Gold K scholarship fundraising program. Fr. Fritz eventually invited Palmisano to join the Board charged with fundraising for a new science and engineering building. From 1989 to 1992, he served as chair of the campaign for the fundraising, design and construction of the building that now bears his name.

Palmisano currently serves as chairman of Construction Planning & Management, Inc. (CPM), a full-service property management and development company based in southern New Hampshire. CPM is a family business that involves all of Palmisano's children (all of whom are Merrimack alumni) in some capacity. He is also president of Palmer Asset Management, a firm involved in the financing and acquisition of commercial and multifamily real estate.

Palmisano's continuous support of education through his loyal volunteerism and philanthropic contributions has made a tremendous impact on the lives of countless Merrimack students. He is strongly committed to advancing the College's School of Science and Engineering, providing a foundation for graduates to adapt to future changes in their careers and personal lives and to be engaged citizens of a global community.

The naming of Palmisano Hall is a most fitting tribute to its namesake's dedication to Merrimack, his beloved wife's memory and their Merrimack legacy.

1960s

▶ **TERENCE "TERRY"**

MCGINNIS '67 has taken a new position at Nutter in Boston as senior counsel.

1970s

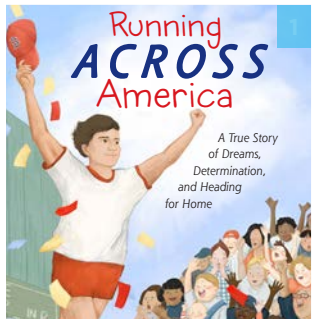
▶ **DAVE MCGILLIVRAY '76, H'12**

(Boston Marathon race director) and Nancy Feehrer wrote their second children's picture book, *Running Across America: A True Story of Dreams, Determination, and Heading for Home*. It is the story of Dave's 3,452-mile run from Medford, Oregon, to Medford, Massachusetts, to raise money for the Jimmy Fund. During his epic 80-day run, he encounters not only sore muscles but also the Sierra and Rocky Mountains, millions of grasshoppers in Nebraska, days of pouring rain in Ohio and homesickness. With grit, hard work and help from family and friends, Dave accomplishes his goal—and inspires others to achieve their goals, too! Dave and Nancy's first book, *Dream Big*, was published by Nomad Press in 2018. Both books conclude by encouraging kids to run 26 miles, read 26 books and perform 26 acts of kindness in 26 weeks. If they do, Dave will send them a race medal designed by the same company that designs the actual Boston Marathon race medal! [1]

1980s

▶ **CATHARINE DE LACY '80** was recently appointed to the board of directors of TORC Oil & Gas headquartered in Calgary, Alberta.

▶ **MARY GORHAM FRANCO '81, P'12** was named to the board of directors of Waveny LifeCare Network located in New Canaan, Connecticut.



▶ **DOUGLAS KENNEY '81** was promoted to the position of director of national sales fleet at East Manufacturing.

▶ **DR. JOHN WELLS '82, P'14** was elected to a term on the Woburn school committee. John has been a member for 18 years.

▶ **JAMES SCAMMON '83** was promoted to president & chief operating officer at Bose Corporation.

▶ **DR. GAIL MCINTYRE '84** was recently promoted to chief executive officer of Aravive, headquartered in Houston, Texas.

▶ **CHUCK MOLLOR '84** published a new book on leadership, *The Rise of the Agile Leader: Can You Make The Shift?*

▶ **MATTHEW "MATT" SWEENEY '85** was named chief investment officer at GroupM, based in New York.

▶ **FRANK DIMARCO '85** has been named chief operating officer and head of InBlock product line at LiquidX in New York.

▶ **ROBERT DOLAN '86** joined The Village Bank as assistant vice president/commercial loan officer. Dolan has a long

career in the financial services industry, including more than 20 years in commercial lending.

▶ **TIMOTHY COYNE '89** joined T. Rowe Price as head of exchange-traded funds.

1990s

▶ Students at Sacred Hearts School in Haverhill, Massachusetts, welcomed their new principal, **SUSAN (STEWART) DOWNER '91**, who served as assistant principal last year. [2]

▶ **DR. ERIC DICKSON '91**, president & CEO of UMASS Memorial Health Care was named to "2020 Power 50" by the *Worcester Business Journal*. [3]

▶ Former chief ranger **LESLIE REYNOLDS '91** has been named deputy superintendent of Cape Cod National Seashore. She will oversee all divisions with the Seashore and help coordinate response to the growing shark population and the coronavirus pandemic. [4]

▶ **STEPHEN CURRAN, JR. '92** was named top men's basketball assistant coach in the Atlantic 10. Stephen started his coaching career at Merrimack in 1994 and was assistant coach at UNH, Robert Morris, Siena and Central Connecticut State before joining St. Bonaventure.

▶ Venbrook Group, LLC, welcomed **JOSEPH ORLANDO '92** as new chief financial officer. As chief financial officer, Joe provides operational leadership for all of the company's financial functions including accounting, corporate finance, audit and treasury.

▶ **ANTHONY GOMES '93**, a 20-year Norwich police veteran, was promoted from sergeant to lieutenant.

▶ ZeroNorth of Boston appointed **CHRISTOPHER RILEY '93** as senior vice president of sales.

▶ Bestselling author **LAURIE FARIA STOLARZ '94** returns with *Jane Anonymous*, a gripping tale of a 17-year-old girl's kidnapping and her struggle to fit back into her life after she escapes.

▶ **PAUL BURGESS '95** was recently promoted to chief operating officer & chief legal officer at Translate Bio, Inc. He previously served as chief legal officer since 2018.

▶ **CHRISTOPHER GAUDETTE '95**, chief financial officer of Cedar's Foods, has been named 2020 CFO of the Year (in the Large Companies category) by the *Boston Business Journal*.

▶ **TARA (PRICE) KRAUSS '96** was promoted to head of accident & health at QBE North America.

▶ **BRIAN BASILIERE '97** was named account manager at Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence. Brian's career includes over 15 years of sales experience in various industries, and for the past five years he's specialized in workflow automation software.

▶ **RICHARD "RICH" FLEMING, JR. '97** was hired as chief commercial officer at Trico Group.

▶ **DAREN RATHBONE '97** recently joined SkyTerra Technologies as a senior systems engineer.

▶ **JOHN NAJIM '98** has taken a new job as vice president, chemistry, manufacturing and controls at Dyne Therapeutics in Waltham, Massachusetts.

▶ **ANGELO AMICO '98** has been named chief accounting officer & controller at Moderna Therapeutics.

▶ **JAMES "JAMIE" BERARD '99** made his American television debut in February 2020 serving as an expert judge on "Lego Masters."

▶ **ELLEN CROWLEY-KOLTUN '99** was recently elected to a term on the Woburn school committee. Ellen has been a member of the school committee for the previous 6 years.

▶ **LOUIS "LOU" HERY, JR. '99** is the founder and wealth advisor at 76 Wealth Advisory in New Jersey.

2000s

▶ **SHAUN KENNEY '00** was promoted to lieutenant of the Burlington Fire Department.

▶ **SUSAN (BLACK) MCGRATH '02** was named chief financial officer at Applied Plastics, located in Norton, Massachusetts.

▶ **COURTNEY (MACKINNON) STEVENSON '03** and her husband Kevin welcomed fraternal twins Cora and Kaden on January 29, 2020. They join their proud big sister Cailey. Courtney is a second-grade teacher in Hingham and the couple resides in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

- ▶ **MARILENIN VASQUEZ '03** is a newly admitted attorney in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- ▶ **JOSHUA CARROLL '05** was recently promoted to lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve.
- ▶ **ADAM MARTEL '05**, CEO and cofounder of Gravyty, received a \$21 million investment from K1 Investment Management.
- ▶ The American Cancer Society Greater Philadelphia Market Northeast Region Volunteer Achievement Award was presented to **KYLE MEAKIM '05** in sincere appreciation of his dedication and outstanding service in the fight against cancer. Kyle started a local coaches versus cancer challenge where local Catholic school basketball teams, both boys and girls, compete while raising money to crush cancer. His event has raised over \$20,000 to date.
- ▶ **ANTONIO SORDILLO '05** was recently named one of the “Best-In-State Next Gen Wealth Advisors” by Forbes. [5]
- ▶ **ADAM '05** and **MEGHAN VAN BUREN '06** welcomed their twin daughters, Natalie and Sloane, on May 11, 2019.

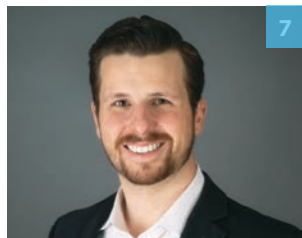
- ▶ More than 5,000 masks have been made and delivered for free to local health care workers thanks to **MICHAEL MCMAHON '06** and Furniture Concepts.
 - ▶ **JOANNA ZAJAC-MEDOR '06** and **JOSHUA MEDOR '06** welcomed a son, Henry Charles, on January 10, 2019. [6]
 - ▶ St. Joseph Hospital, a member of Covenant Health, announced **DEEPAK VATTI, M.D. '06** has been named the hospital's chief of emergency medicine. In this leadership position, he will oversee operations of the hospital's emergency department (ED) and Milford Medical Center's urgent care in Milford, New Hampshire, while continuing his clinical work in the ED.
 - ▶ **SHANNON (DONAHUE) RAZSADIN '08** was appointed to the Department of Defense military family readiness council.
 - ▶ **SCOTT SZUKSTA '08** was named principal at Parkside Middle School in Manchester, New Hampshire.
-
- 2010s**
- ▶ **PETER DOHERTY '10** has joined the Bullfinch Group. [7]

- ▶ Congratulations to **ARA SARAJIAN '10** for being nominated to the Washington Business Journal's “40 under 40.”
- ▶ **MELISSA '12** and **DENNIS MURTAGH '11, M'16** welcomed their first child, William Patrick Murtagh, on January 7, 2020.
- ▶ **JENNIFER PINO '13** was named to the 21st century Lawrence Eagle-Tribune girls lacrosse team. [8]
- ▶ **ALEXANDRA (PICARDI) '13** and Kevin Racicot welcomed their first child, Adelaide Amy, on December 20, 2019.
- ▶ **AARON STROTHERS '13** is bringing the community together through Village Hoops, a community-based basketball program.
- ▶ **JULIE GORMLEY '14** and **THOMAS BROWN, JR. '14** celebrated their wedding with family and friends. Their photo features the mother of the bride, **Mary (Barrett) Gormley '76**, groom Thomas, bride Julie, father of the bride, Terry, and sister **Joanna Gormley '18**. [9]
- ▶ **LEANNE MCAULIFFE '14** and **MICHAEL BRYANT '14** were recently married on March 28, 2020. [10]

- ▶ **LAURA TERRASI '14** joined Melick & Porter LLP as an attorney.
- ▶ **JOHN DONAHUE '15** was sworn in as a patrol officer for the police department in the Town of Braintree.
- ▶ **MOLLY FINLAYSON '16, M'17** and **THOMAS KENNISON '16** were married on August 1, 2020, in the company of friends and family. Wedding guests from the Class of 2016 included **Emily Pickett, Mike Logan, Taylor Tognacci, Jules Amann, Anthony Silvio, Brigette Houghton, Matt Benway, Jeff Ziske, Mike Haines, Fred Inman, Erique L'Heureux, Evan Rodrigues, Pat Gillespie** and **Mark McNall**. [11]
- ▶ Purify, owned by **SAMANTHA ALBANO '17**, won Best of 2020 Spa Services from Sarasota Magazine.
- ▶ **GEORGE BARATTA III M'17** was named a recipient of the 2019 Elijah Watt Sells Award. To qualify for the award, CPA candidates must obtain a cumulative average score above 95.50 across all four sections of the Uniform CPA Examination, pass all four sections on their first attempt and have completed testing in 2019.



5



7



8

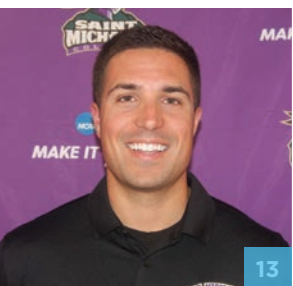


6



10





13



9



11



13



16



12

▶ Gloucester High School Girls Track and Field/Cross Country named **BIANCA GIACALONE '17** to the All Decade Team.

▶ **BRITTANY RAY M'17** celebrated the birth of her daughter, Elyza Willow Ray, on August 25, 2019.

▶ **SHALIMAR QUILES M'17** was appointed to the Northern Essex Community College board of trustees by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker.

▶ **OSCAR ZEPEDA '17** was named to the 2019 "Latino 30 under 30" list compiled by *El Mundo Boston*. [12]

▶ **RYAN GARROW M'18** achieved his dream of being named strength and conditioning coach at St. Michael's College in Vermont. [13]

▶ **THOMAS O'BRIEN '18** was recognized by the Builders and Remodelers Association of Greater Boston with the Rising Star in the Industry award. [14]

▶ Former Merrimack College defenseman **RYAN COOK '19** has signed his first professional contract, agreeing to terms with the Kansas City Mavericks in the ECHL for the 2020-21 season. [15]

▶ **LUIS SANTIAGO M'19** has been appointed Haverhill's veterans' services officer. Santiago served as an infantryman in the Army from 2001 to 2005 and was a soldier in the brigade that captured Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003. [16]

▶ **ROBERT "BOBBY" TOLAN '19** is a production assistant at HC Media in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

2020s

▶ Recent graduate **JUVARIS HAYES '20** signed his first professional contract this week, joining Tigers Tuebingen of the Basketball Bundesliga in Germany. [17]

▶ **MARYKATE KELLY '20** started her career remotely as a brokerage operation associate with Fidelity Investments.

IN MEMORY

Joseph V. DeLena '51
 Charles H. Winn '51
 Robert W. Quine '51, P'78, '87, GP'11, '15
 Gerald W. McCall '52
 Captain Austin C. O'Brien, Jr. '52
 Laurence "Larry" Marocco, Sr. '53
 Lt. Col. Richard Francis Noone '53
 Prof. Albert Brenner '54
 Gordon W. Schwaner '54
 James J. Cunningham, Jr. '55
 William J. McCormick, Jr. '55
 Jean M. Hart '56, P'86
 Shirley Preston '57
 Roger Twomey '59
 Katherine M. (Maguire) Greene '60, GP'16
 Leo Lacasse '61
 John D. Murray '61
 Daniel A. Pierro '61
 Stanley Saba '61
 Philip G. Salem, Jr. '61

Anthony F. Ross '62
 Alan D. Sanville '62
 Stella S. Voltero '63
 Kathleen F. (Scanlon) Henry '64
 Roseanne Levesque '65
 Thomas Nolan '65
 V. Eileen Lamanna '66
 Hugh McCabe '67
 Richard S. Murawski '67
 Barry C. Hutchinson '69
 Captain James T. Corbett '76
 Christina A. (Dobrzynski) Hitchcock '76
 Albert J. Muldoon '76
 John M. Pallone '77, P'09
 Lori Fasulo '78
 David Putnam '81
 Michael R. Douglas '86
 Edward C. Roche '87
 Peter M. Brown '90
 Mildred Doherty '93
 Lisa C. Blinn '94

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NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

The accomplishments and shared expertise of Merrimack's exceptional faculty

Assistant professor of mechanical engineering **ROSELITA FRAGOUDAKIS, PH.D.**, had a paper published in the *International Journal of Structural Integrity* and has a chapter set to be published in the upcoming book *Engineering Failure Analysis*.

Health Sciences Department assistant professor **APRIL BOWLING, SC.D.**, was featured in a Planbook.com article called "Why Are We Learning This? Teaching Physical Education Boosts Brain Power."

BOWLING was also featured in a *Boston Globe* story April 13, 2020, on how people should continue to exercise during self-isolation. Adhering to a fitness regimen that incorporates cardiovascular and resistance training is important for overall health, she told the *Globe*.

Psychology Department assistant professor **LAURA KURDZIEL, PH.D.**, was featured by KABC-TV News in Los Angeles for a story on the benefits of napping for children. When children don't get a nap they need, it stresses their bodies and makes it harder to go to sleep at night, Kurdziel told the news outlet.

Associate professors of communication and media **LISA PERKS, PH.D.**, and **JACOB TURNER, PH.D.**, had a manuscript about their experiences with undergraduate students working on scholarly research projects accepted by the peer-reviewed journal *Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research*.

PERKS was also cited as a source for an article in *The Wall Street Journal* about what people are watching on TV while in self-isolation during the coronavirus pandemic. Perks, who researches binge-watching and media engagement, said media marathoning can be a therapeutic coping mechanism.

Graduate Education Department associate professor **SUSAN MARINE, PH.D.**, presented new research on naming and preventing LGBTQ interpersonal violence at the Global Summit on the Embodiment of Racism, Violence, and Trauma at Boston College. She was then selected to lead a presidential session on critical perspectives on sexual violence in higher education at the Association for the Study of Higher Education conference in Portland, Oregon.

JOSEPH STASIO, A.P.C., an associate professor in the Girard School of Business' Marketing Department, was recently featured on WalletHub.com offering expert knowledge on the use of credit cards, specifically the Chase Freedom® credit card.

Political Science and Public Policy Department associate professor **ANNE FLAHERTY, PH.D.**, and assistant professor **KEVIN MCGRAVEY, PH.D.**, presented a paper that was co-authored with associate professor **HARRY WESSEL, PH.D.**, assistant professor **JOHN LOVETT, PH.D.**, and Executive Director of Civic and Community Engagement **MARY MCHUGH** at the 115th American Political Science Association's Annual Meeting and Exposition. The paper examines the attitudes of students toward civic engagement after performing service learning requirements in introductory college classes.

Health Sciences Department assistant professor **JULIANA COHEN, SC.D.**, was recently featured as an expert source for a KTVA television report regarding a pilot program in Anchorage, Alaska, to lengthen lunchtime and recess for schoolchildren as a means of improving academic focus.

CRISTI CATT, voice instructor at Merrimack College, recently wrapped up a session at Berklee College's renowned recording studio, Shames Family Scoring Stage. She was awarded a grant to record "All Over the Map" with her ensemble, Blue Thread.

ISABELLE CHERNEY, PH.D., dean of the School of Education and Social Policy, was featured in *The Wall Street Journal* on May 1, 2020. Cherney talked about young kids' fascination with adults and how this helps explain the continued popularity of toys that mimic adult jobs like the microscope and rocket kits.

Assistant professor of communication and media **MELISSA "MISH" ZIMDARS, PH.D.**, author of *Watching Our Weights: The Contradictions of Televising Fatness* in the "Obesity Epidemic," was quoted in a *Los Angeles Times* article March 24, 2020, discussing the portrayal of fat women on television.

School of Education and Social Policy Associate Dean **RUSS OLWELL, PH.D.**, wrote an op-ed column for the *Eagle-Tribune* newspaper April 15 urging school districts to hire graduates when schools reopen. Merrimack students studying education have been relentlessly proactive in their commitment to helping K-12 teachers while schools are closed. They are showing that the next generation of teachers will be excellent and worthy of the profession.

Assistant professor of graphic design, **DAN VLAHOS, M.F.A.**, was elected for membership to the prestigious Society of Printers in Boston, Massachusetts. Established in 1905, the society is dedicated to the study and advancement of the art of printing.

Assistant professor of art/art history, **JONATHAN LATIANO, M.F.A.**, gave a talk, "Time as a Muse," at the Broto 2020 Conference, held virtually this year. Broto: Art-Climate-Science is a unique conference of international experts focused on substantive, mutual, credible and real-time art-science collaboration that inspires innovation to address the climate crisis.

EMMA DUFFY-COMPARONE, M.F.A., director of The Writers House, will publish her first book, *Love Like That*, a collection of short stories, with Henry Holt & Co., in March 2021.



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“Thank you for caring about Merrimack students, like me.”

Will March '22
Nutritional Sciences

“Thank you for providing me with great promise and opportunity.”

Leslie Lima '21
Civil Engineering

“Thank you for preparing me for my next chapter.”

Andrea Frassine '20, M'21
Corporate Finance,
MSM Candidate





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