

THE CIVIL TIMES

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NEW IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

Greetings, once again, from Merrimack College. I'm delighted to be sending you this Alumni Newsletter written by our freshman class. Lot's of big changes this year in Civil Engineering at Merrimack College:

- We have now officially received a six year accreditation from ABET.
- We hired a new faculty member this past year, Dr. Franco Capaldi, in our mechanics area. He holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from MIT and comes to us after spending several years on the faculty at Drexel University. He now lives in North Andover with his wife and two daughters.
- We have achieved our enrollment goal of 100 by 2012. With the 32 new Civil Engineering

freshmen this year we now have 104 civil engineering majors!

- A proposal for a new Mechanical Engineering Program, within the Civil Engineering Department, is in the works. We expect it to be on-line next Fall.
- Our Master of Science in Engineering proposal is in its last stages. We expect to send it to NEASC, our accrediting agency, by the end of this semester.

The Civil Engineering Alumni Board officers are: Mike Juliano of Eagle Brook Engineering as President, Chris Cole as VP and Matt Carlino as Treasurer. I look forward to working with them as we continue to improve our Program.

In our continuing effort to establish connections with you, a couple of

years ago we have formed a group within "Linkedin.com" for Merrimack Civil Engineering Alumni. We now have 37 members in the group but would love to have 10 times that number. Please check it out.

More than ever, your continued interest and gifts of time, energy, and financial resources are very much appreciated by all of us in the department and college. We will always be grateful to you for your support, encouragement, loyalty and generosity! With your help, I am confident that we will be able to continue to move our Program to the leading edge of civil engineering education.

Please write us and share your thoughts with us. We value your opinions and we look forward to hearing from you!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Merrimack to get new engineering discipline*
- *American Society of Civil Engineers news*
- *Interview with Professor Marc Veletzos*
- *Alumni Events*
- *Renovations Highlight*

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING APPROVED!

Merrimack College has had many important events occur in the past year or so in the Engineering Department. An interview of Jean Reynolds, the Administrative Assistant in Civil Engineering, was conducted to find out what some of these events were.

Jean said that, "The two largest events for the Engineering Department were the approval of Mechanical Engineering and its Master's program". Jean was very excited and said that many efforts had taken place for this to happen. The entire process of approving these

programs took a total of two years. Engineering programs need to be accredited, so potential students along with future employers for those students, can consider them a legitimate program. Many employers require an education that has been ABET-accredited.

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Some occupations require a license as well, and some licenses require applicants to have graduated from an ABET-accredited program, which is a very important component of a college academic program, especially of an engineering one. The new programs will become available in the fall semester of the year 2012. The new programs will bring a similar group of engineering students to Merrimack College. Adding the Mechanical Engineering pro-

gram will broaden Merrimack College's already wide range of majors offered. This brings attention to Merrimack College from a new group of students, which will widely spread the knowledge of Merrimack by those looking for a good school to attend. The same goes for the Master's program, which will bring more students that wish to go above and beyond in the world of engineering. The Master's program will be able to bring in many people who

are looking for a graduate degree without having to go to two different schools because Merrimack College obtains both. The expansion of the engineering program will make Merrimack an even more attractive school for many. For these reasons, Merrimack College is very hopeful of the two programs and these programs are steps for a bright and promising future of Merrimack's Engineering program and Merrimack College itself.

WHAT'S NEW WITH ASCE

"IT IS
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OF WORK AND
PLAY"

As you may know, Merrimack College students who are in the civil engineering program have the opportunity to join the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The ASCE takes part in many regional conferences, general meetings, and as well as competitions such as the concrete canoe and steel bridge. Merrimack College has participated in both competitions several times throughout the years. Merrimack College civil engineers are competing in the steel

bridge competition this year and meetings are held once a week to organize and discuss how they can improve their design from years past in order to achieve first place once again. The ASCE does everything they can to make joining their community educational and fun. This year, they took it upon themselves to get tickets to go on a field trip to the TD Garden to watch the Boston Bruins play at home against the Edmonton Oilers on November 10. I spoke with one of the students who is a member of ASCE to ask him what he thought of having these field trips, and he said that, "It is nice that they would let us go to a hockey game as a group". It sounded to me that it was important to him to bond and get to know more of his fellow engineering friends by going to the

hockey game. All of the students seem to be really excited and pumped up to see the Boston Bruins play. I asked one of the leaders of ASCE why they would get tickets for everyone who is involved in the program. He said that, "It is important to have a balance of work and play". He said that, "With all of the work that will be getting done on the steel bridge competition, the students will need to have plenty of play to go along with it". He then said that, "By going to this Boston Bruins game they will become closer and they will enjoy being apart of the ASCE". This is the reason why we put on these field trips for them, so that more people will think about joining civil engineering and the ASCE community will grow.



Mendel Bridge

FACULTY FIGHTING QUAKES

Over the years, staff members of Merrimack College have been researching information in their particular field of study. Professor Veletzos has worked at Merrimack College for nearly three years. He is a great guy and knows a lot about his field of study, which in this case contains the material on bridge structure and the different variables that affect bridges. Bridges are very unique structures that include holding a certain amount of weight, over a certain length of space, with a certain amount of force pushing up against the bridge. The study of Physics is a major concern in designing bridges. Professor Veletzos has taken on the chal-

lenge of teaching these different aspects on bridges and becoming a teacher at a school like Merrimack College. In Professor Veletzos' case, he has been researching bridges and the ways earthquakes have affected them. Asking the professor what current research he's been doing, he responded by saying, "The ways earthquakes affect bridges tremendously come from the transversal movement." He taught me in the short interview, that the transversal movement is also known as the shifting movement. Earthquakes that cause these movements to bridges can seriously affect the strength of the bridge, which can even cause total destruc-

tion of the bridge. Professor Veletzos also told me that he has been studying the longitude and lateral movement of bridges, which he already has studied for many years. The research that Professor Veletzos has done will be needed to become more knowledgeable in his field of profession. When I asked him what he does with the information that he receives, he said, "I present the information to conferences", meaning he writes papers to present his research. This will be highly important to the designers of the bridges, as well as the workers who fix the bridges. Overall, any information is a great thing to give to designers.



Professor Marc Veletzos
Courtesy of Merrimack.edu

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

The 4th annual Civil Engineering golf tournament will take place this upcoming spring. This fundraiser is run by the American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapter and Civil Engineering Alumni Association. The 3rd annual golf tournament was a huge success raising approximately \$2,000; all of which was donated to the Fitzgerald Fund. The Fitzgerald Fund was founded to support various student activities and projects. The golf tournament was held at the beautiful Far Corner Golf Course in West Boxford.

The Merrimack Civil Engineering Alumni Association was founded by James D'Angelo, a 1970 civil engi-

neering graduate from Merrimack. He is also the co-owner of Transportation, Engineering, and Construction, Inc. The MCEAA and D'Angelo are responsible for helping out a vast number of Merrimack College engineering students by providing them with knowledge, support, and multiple options for their senior projects such as the redesign of the mill building as they were transforming it into a workable Sal's Just Pizza shop.

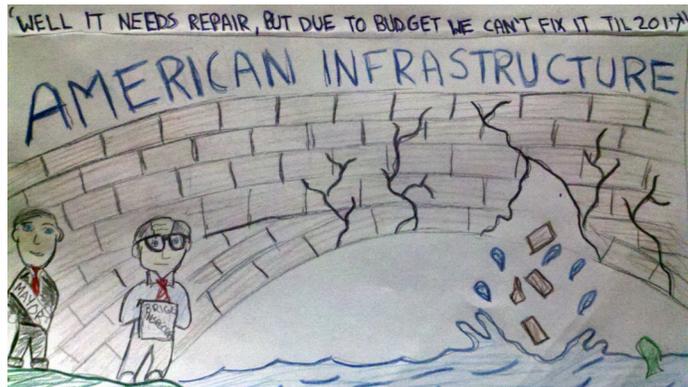
The Office of Alumni Relations are always looking for alumni to come back and speak at events to share your knowledge and experience after Merrimack College.

Some upcoming events for alumni include the Christmas Celebration December 1st at the Ritz-Carlton Boston Common. The Advent Day of Recollection for Alumni is taking place on campus on December 10th.

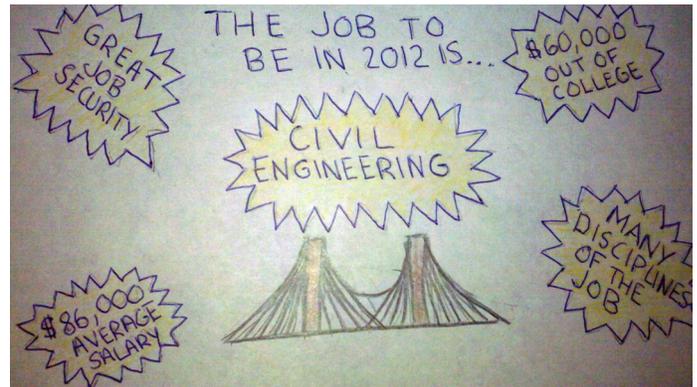
Being a Merrimack Alumni offers many benefits and services including the option to be married at the Merrimack College chapel, the use of the newly renovated McQuade Library, and special savings on space rental where you could hold any corporate event up to 750 people.

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OPINION



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RAVISHING RENOVATIONS

Over the past year there have been a lot of changes to the Merrimack College, campus and community. Some of these events include the new president of Merrimack, Chris Hopey and the hockey team becoming a top ranked D1 team. One other notable difference is the completely new look to the McQuaid library's first floor. It was decided by President Hopey that the library's first floor was out dated and needed to be redone. So over the summer the library underwent a complete renovation. Before renovations were done the library's first floor was considered cluttered bleak and uninviting. Now it is a very nice and comfortable place to be. There are spaces for large groups to meet up and do work together. There are some areas that have a desk and a wall on each side, al-

lowing for small groups to gather and have some privacy on their work. Also the walls include white boards, so you can do work on them for everyone to see. There is a special conference room where students or faculty can meet up and have a large group session. All these areas are well furnished with nice seating, some of which including bean bag chairs. All this makes for a helpful and peaceful resource for academics. Work aside there are plenty of other great features about the library's new first floor. There is a new large fireplace area for relaxing. This is a 360 fireplace so you can sit around it at any spot you want. There are also two huge flat screen TV's on the front and back of the fireplace wall. This allows all the students to watch the big sports games that are going on during the week as a

group. There is also a brand new Xbox that was added to the fireplace lounge. There are no games for it yet, but soon students will be able to play games either with or against each other. The games are going to be student suggested so if you have any game ideas submit them to the library's front desk in the suggestion box. While the fireplace lounge is great, perhaps the most popular part of the new library is

Zest. Zest is a cafe like the Den except with a healthier menu. It is the perfect spot for a student who needs to get some food while doing late night work. This addition to the library is phenomenal and adds to any student's experience of the library. All of these new renovations done do the library are a great improvement and add a great feel to the library and the campus.



McQuade Library, First Floor

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