

MERRIMACK

MAGAZINE | WINTER 2026







Merrimack students learn about the School's more than 80 student clubs and organizations during the annual Student Involvement Fair to kick off the fall semester.

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Merrimack College Honors Three Distinguished Alumni

The Distinguished Alumni Award was presented at the College's 2025 Evening of Gratitude Celebration.

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FEATURE

Together We Rise, One Year On

Merrimack College's *Together We Rise* campaign has renewed a culture of philanthropy among the Warrior community and quickly demonstrated the direct impact generous donors are having on the College's future.

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FEATURE

Innovative Affordability: A Smarter Tuition Model

Merrimack is confronting higher education sticker shock by redefining undergraduate programs.

“There is little reason to look to the future if you don't have the vision and resources to get to it. *Together We Rise* has brought the Merrimack community closer together and put us on a path to that future.”

– President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.





MERRIMACK

A Magazine for Our
Alumni, Parents and Friends
Winter 2026

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Feedback: We want to hear from you! Please share your thoughts, insights, recollections and photos. Include your name, graduation year, address and daytime phone number. Due to volume, we regret that we cannot respond to every message.

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**MERRIMACK
COLLEGE**



“ Merrimack College’s story is vibrant, complex, transformative and unfinished. *Together We Rise* is writing the next compelling chapter.”

Rise for a Purpose

Dear Merrimack College Community,

Just over a year ago, we embarked on a bold journey. Never before in the history of this College has so much been asked of the community that has unwaveringly supported us for so long.

The *Together We Rise* capital campaign calls on those for whom Merrimack College is a special and impactful place to help ensure it remains special and impactful for future generations of Warriors. Since the campaign’s launch in fall 2024, it has been incredibly heartening to witness the generosity of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, families and friends.

Together We Rise donors are first-time and longtime supporters. Their contributions are big and small, directed and unrestricted. Their support is launching new initiatives and programs, and fulfilling critical needs. Their gifts are made in recognition of important opportunities and future discoveries yet to be realized.

In this edition of the Merrimack Magazine, you will read more about those individuals whose support of *Together We Rise* is making a direct impact on Merrimack’s transformative endeavors in academic excellence, higher education access, student support, research and athletics.

As you peruse the pages of this magazine, you will also read about the largest research grant ever received by a Merrimack College faculty member, and how she is going to use her research to improve the lives of school children; the efforts

Merrimack is taking to make college education more affordable; and the historic career of our women’s soccer head coach.

The generous support of *Together We Rise* allows our students to see themselves as graduates, scholars and leaders with futures filled with purpose and promise. It gives our faculty the resources to look at the most significant questions facing society and find answers to them. It gives our coaches and student-athletes the confidence to compete against powerhouse programs in collegiate athletics.

It is inspiring how quickly we have been able to raise nearly three-quarters of the campaign’s \$100 million goal in such a short period of time. The momentum that has spurred Merrimack’s nearly two-decade transformation has been equaled in the response to *Together We Rise*. And that momentum will carry on in haste, pushing Merrimack College’s trajectory even higher.

Merrimack College’s story is vibrant, complex, transformative and unfinished. *Together We Rise* is writing the next compelling chapter.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Hopey', written in a cursive style.

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President

TOGETHER WE RISE

The Campaign for Merrimack College

GOAL:
\$100
MILLION

\$72.8
MILLION
RAISED

as of Dec. 2025

Merrimack's next chapter begins now — and you are a part of it. Together, we will secure our place among the nation's top Catholic colleges, strengthen our reputation as a research leader and extend our impact far beyond campus.

Together We Rise is our bold \$100 million campaign to build on the foundation alumni helped create — fueling innovation, growth and service for the next generation of Warriors.

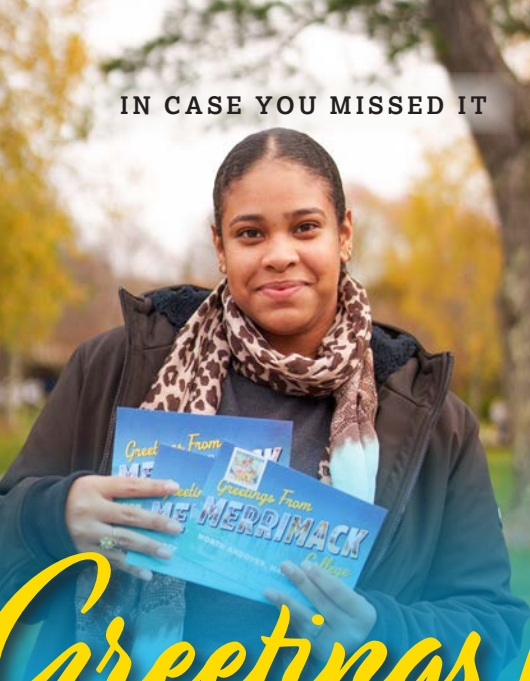
Together, we are advancing the future of:

- » **Mission:** Support programs that nurture community, personal growth and the holistic development of students grounded in our faith and values.
- » **Innovative Learning Spaces:** Modernize classrooms and labs to foster collaboration and cutting-edge research.
- » **Scholarships and Student Support:** General scholarships and resources to fund study abroad opportunities, research experiences, wellness and more.
- » **Faculty Excellence:** Attract and retain top faculty through endowed chairs and research funding.
- » **Division I Athletics:** Invest in competitive programs, training facilities and student-athlete support to elevate our Warriors on the national stage.
- » **Research and Discovery:** Invest in the people and infrastructure that advance groundbreaking research and translate ideas into real-world impact.
- » **Academic Innovation:** Strengthen and grow interdisciplinary programs and initiatives that foster creativity, discovery and meaningful real-world impact.



WILL YOU RISE WITH US?

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Greetings from MC



In case their friends and family don't follow us, we're sending these Warriors' messages home the old-fashioned way.

Follow us:

LINKEDIN



Dorie Mansen, associate vice president for mission and ministry and the 2025 Convocation keynote speaker, reminded attendees that rituals like Convocation aren't just traditions; they shape who we are and the community we're becoming.



Meet Anthony Beras '27, a business administration major with a concentration in accounting and management. He enrolled at Merrimack to make a big impact on campus, grow out of his comfort zone and become the leader he knew he could be.

TIKTOK AND YOUTUBE



Behind the scenes at Merrimack's **Mack Gives Back Days 2025**



FACEBOOK

More than 130 nursing students from the Class of 2028 participated in the **Blessing of the Hands** ceremony, a meaningful tradition that marks the start of their journey to becoming compassionate, skilled healthcare professionals.

INSTAGRAM



So many Merrimack obsessions!

➔ See what's happening at Merrimack right now — visit www.merrimack.edu/news.

Merrimack Welcomes First Ed.D. Cohort



More than 50 students this past fall began their historic journey as the first-ever doctoral candidates at Merrimack College.

In April 2025, the New England Commission of Higher Education approved Merrimack’s three-year Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program for fall 2025. It marks a significant achievement in Merrimack’s ongoing mission to enhance its academic excellence and research endeavors.

Three members of the cohort, Kristen White '09, Joe Ruggiero M'24 and Amanda Prohett, are established and eager scholars ready to take on a new level of study.

White said she never thought she’d end up pursuing a doctorate degree, but after working in higher education for

years, she said she found a lot of value and insight from her colleagues who had one.

“I’ve been looking for a doctoral program for two or three years,” she continued. “I was looking for something that would fit my personal life and my career. I was in contact with Professor Susan Marine around 10 years ago regarding her master’s program. When I saw that she was bringing a doctoral program to Merrimack, I knew it would be high quality.”

Ruggiero knows that juggling his schoolwork with his job as a Merrimack senior academic advisor will be difficult, but he said he feels prepared to take it on.

“This is going to be a challenge on time and stress management,” he explained. “I’m going to be taking on a bit more than I can chew in order to grow, and I have faith in myself that I can figure it out. The cohort is going to be a big support system, and I’m looking forward to getting to know them better.”

Prohett said searching for a public health doctorate program for years had her a bit discouraged. One of her colleagues at Emory University, where she previously worked, suggested she try finding a Doctor of Education program instead.

“When I started looking into it, it was the same week when Merrimack announced the Ed.D. program,” Prohett. “The timing was universally aligned. I immediately started applying. The tuition was unheard of, and the organizational development concentration will allow me to keep a foot in the public health world.”



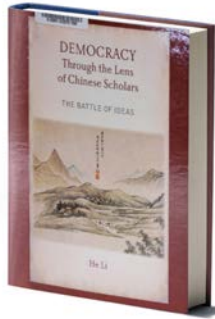
THE REV. JOSEPH FARRELL, O.S.A., ELECTED PRIOR GENERAL

Merrimack College congratulates to the Rev. Joe Farrell, O.S.A., on being elected the new Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine. Fr. Joe served as Merrimack College’s director of campus ministry from 1996 to 2003 and has returned to campus several times over the years. He is the second prior general elected from the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, and he is the Order’s 98th prior general since the office was first established in 1256.



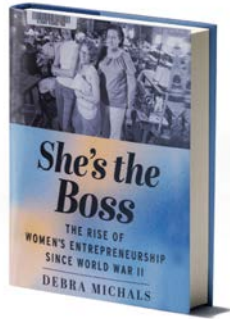
► **Fun Fact**
Merrimack College was featured as part of the Final Jeopardy clue on a recent episode. Did you know the question?

MERRIMACK COLLEGE FACULTY AND STAFF RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS



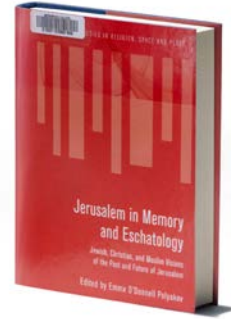
Democracy Through the Lens of Chinese Scholars: The Battle of Ideas
He Li – professor of political science and public policy

Li explores six leading schools of thought — liberalism, New Leftism, neo-Confucianism, democratic socialism, neo-authoritarianism and good governance — on how to turn China into a democracy.



She's the boss: The Rise of Women's Entrepreneurship Since World War II
Debra Michals – associate professor and chair of the Humanities Department

This book also explores the intersection of women's personal choices within changing social, political and economic factors, such as the rising divorce rates of the 1960s and 1970s, ongoing workplace and credit discrimination, civil and women's rights activism and activist entrepreneurs, the 1970s recession and 1980s Reagan Revolution and the rise of the internet.



Jerusalem in Memory and Eschatology: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Visions of the Past and Future of Jerusalem

Emma O'Donnell Polyakov – associate professor of religious and theological studies

Offering multiple analyses of religious interpretations of the city and its sacred sites, this volume explores these divergent visions of the remembered and anticipated Jerusalem.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE RECEIVES STATE AWARD TO DEVELOP REGIONAL TECH HUB

Merrimack College will lead the development of a regional tech hub, focusing on areas such as AI and robotics, thanks to a recently awarded state grant.

The College is one of six recipients of a Massachusetts TechHubs Program Strategy Development Grant. The \$100,000 award will provide Merrimack with the resources to develop a strategic plan proposal for a future Lower Merrimack Valley Tech Hub.

“Merrimack College needs to play a larger role in the economic and workforce development of the lower Merrimack Valley,” said April Bowling, vice president of research at Merrimack College. **“This grant creates a vehicle for interested parties to come together**

as a group. It is a huge opportunity that we didn't previously have to advance what we want to do in a more comprehensive and collaborative way.”

According to its website, the Massachusetts TechHubs Program is a place-based economic development initiative intended to strengthen regional innovation ecosystems across the commonwealth by designating regional tech hubs outside traditional technology centers. Specifically, it aims to align industry, academia and government toward a common mission of accelerating the growth of strategically important and emerging industry sectors.



Merrimack College will now begin coordinating with area businesses and municipalities from Haverhill to Andover to identify opportunities for growth in the AI, automation, robotics and advanced materials industries, to ultimately spur greater economic and workforce development in the region.

Conference Explores Healthier Workplaces



In an ever-modernizing world, employee satisfaction is crucial for developing productive practices and furthering business growth.

What's in store for the future? Merrimack sought to answer this question with a brand-new conference: The Future of Workplace Wellness: Innovation, Performance & Longevity. Held on Wednesday, Sept. 17, it brought together more than 150 professionals from business, human

resources, healthcare and wellness at the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher for a full day of discussions, presentations and networking.

The final keynote of the event was delivered by Amy McDonough '97, who discussed her role as managing director of strategic health solutions at Google Health and the company's advancements in health tracking through smart watches. Previously, she served as senior vice president and

general manager of Fitbit Health Solutions before the company was acquired by Google.

"I moved into my new role thinking about Google's forecast and how we can make the best use of their tools and technologies to improve the health of billions around the world," she explained. "My path as an English major here at Merrimack to a leader of digital health is a testament to the power of education, of learning new things, of how to communicate and how to find a human story within the most complex technologies."

McDonough said returning to her alma mater to speak about her career was an incredible honor.

"It's wonderful to see the incredible work being done here," she continued. "I still remain a part of the College even from afar, and technology makes that easy. It's a testament to the school's commitment to prepare its students for the future and be able to anticipate what's next [in regards to technology]."



COME BACK TO GET AHEAD.

The Double Warrior scholarship applies to ALL Merrimack master's programs!

MERRIMACK COLLEGE ALUMNI
SAVE AT LEAST 25%
on tuition for more than 30 career-focused graduate degree programs.



MERRIMACK COLLEGE



Learn more at www.merrimack.edu/double-warrior

Merrimack College Honors Three Distinguished Alumni

At the College's 2025 Evening of Gratitude Celebration on Sept. 18, three Merrimack alumni received Distinguished Alumni Awards in recognition of their achievements in their fields, their impact on society and their embodiment of Merrimack's mission.

Their professional contributions led to groundbreaking vaccine development, life-saving cancer care and transformative drug discovery. Their support of their alma mater includes student scholarships, endowed professorships and legacy gifts.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is Merrimack College's highest alumni honor. It celebrates graduates whose accomplishments reflect the power of a Merrimack education, advance the reputation of the College and serve as an inspiration for future generations of Warriors.

"These alumni represent the very best of Merrimack College," President Hopey said. "Their experiences as students here set a foundation for truly world-changing discoveries and achievements in public health, cancer treatment and pharmaceuticals. Additionally, their support of Merrimack over the years has ensured future generations of Warriors have the opportunities to have even greater successes."



Laurence Demers, Ph.D., '60, H'11



Nancy J. Sullivan, Sc.D., '80, H'15



Richard Connell, Ph.D., '84

Laurence Demers, Ph.D., '60, H'11

Throughout his home, Laurence Demers' Merrimack pride is on full display. From diplomas to photos to gifts, guests quickly notice the profound impact the College has had on his life. And during a renowned medical and research career, he has sought to return that impact.

"I always felt that if I did anything with my life and succeeded, that I wanted to give back to those parts of my life that gave me my education," said Demers. "And Merrimack was one of those places."

It was at Merrimack where he forged the building blocks for an incredible healthcare career, most notably at Pennsylvania State University's M.S. Hershey Medical Center, where he is a professor emeritus. He has published 700 papers and helped develop aromatase inhibitors, which are now the standard of care for treating women with breast cancer. It was at Merrimack where he saw pioneering faculty not only teach but mentor students. And it was at Merrimack where he met his wife, Susan.

Among his contributions to Merrimack College is an endowed professorship in the life sciences, which supports the scholarship of leading faculty. He has also established three scholarships to help provide access for students to pursue a college degree. In addition, he also shared his expertise and counsel as a Board of Trustees chair and member, as well as a member of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences Board of Advisors.

Nancy J. Sullivan, Sc.D., '80, H'15

On a bookshelf in Nancy Sullivan's office at Boston University sits a textbook that represents a turning point in her life. It is the textbook she used in a Merrimack College undergraduate biochemistry course in the late 1970s with Professor George Wermers. It is a regular reminder of the professor and the College that changed the trajectory of her life.

"Merrimack was the switch," said Sullivan. "We need instructors like Dr. Wermers. I remember he was lecturing on amino acids and how they make up proteins, and he made it sound so fascinating. It is so important to have teachers who can do that."

The Merrimack College foundation which Sullivan built her career enabled her to become an internationally respected leader in viral immunology, emerging diseases prevention and infectious disease research. From COVID-19 to the Ebola outbreak in the mid-2010s, Sullivan has been at the forefront of vaccine development and therapeutic response at the global level.

She and her team were the first to demonstrate vaccine protection against Ebola infection, leading to the development

of the vaccine that was deployed for efficacy testing during the 2013-2016 outbreak and a successful therapeutic that has saved hundreds of lives and is actively being used.

Today, she serves as a professor of virology, immunology and microbiology and a professor of biology at Boston University. She previously served as chief of the Biodefense Research Section at the Vaccine Research Center in the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Richard Connell, Ph.D., '84

When it came time for his college decision, the question for Richard Connell wasn't whether he was going to a Catholic institution but which one. And like his four older siblings and five younger siblings, he enrolled at Merrimack College.

"It was my parents' vision," said Connell of his parochial education. "I'm one of the few people who can say they went to Catholic school from kindergarten to Ph.D."

He parlayed that undergraduate degree into a Ph.D. from Notre Dame and ultimately into a distinguished career as a pharmaceutical research executive.

He worked for both Bayer and Pfizer at posts in Germany, England, China and the U.S. He is an inventor on one of the two key patents for the drug now known as Tarceva®, a billion-dollar therapy that has been shown to improve overall survival in advanced non-small cell lung cancer and advanced pancreatic cancer. He is also listed as an inventor on more than 40 patents and patent applications, and has authored or coauthored more than 20 science publications.

To ensure students can have access to the same Merrimack College experience and successes he had, Connell and his wife, Nancy, established a student scholarship in honor of his mother, Rita.

Connell is currently the U.S. and E.U. president and chief operating officer of WuXi AppTec, a global contract research services company.

STUDENT PROFILE

GRADUATE STUDENT TAKES ON CITY HALL FELLOWSHIP

Just a few months after enrolling at Merrimack College, **Alexandra Mackay M'26** already had a desk at Boston City Hall.

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) student is currently doing a fellowship as a community engagement and outreach specialist for the City of Boston's Office of Participatory Budgeting (OPB). In her role, Mackay acts as a liaison between community groups and City Hall regarding Boston's participatory budget.

"I wasn't really sure what participatory budgeting meant prior to the fellowship," she said. "Essentially,

Boston residents decide where a portion of the budget is allocated to. I find it to be really interesting and impactful work."

Since arriving at City Hall, Mackay has collected data on residents' funding priorities for the next fiscal year, met with various community leaders on their proposed projects and helped organize the first of five public forums on the participatory budget.

"Alexandra truly reflects the MPA program's mission of preparing effective, ethical leaders in public service," said Lien Nguyen, director of the MPA program. "Her motivation to



Alexandra Mackay M'26

serve, combined with her ability to connect classroom learning with hands-on fellowship experience, makes her a standout example of the impact our students are making in their communities."



Course Spotlight **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY EXERCISE TECH (HSC5000)**

Dive deeper into a course in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences that is teaching Merrimack graduate students the hands-on techniques to succeed in fellowship, clinical and postgraduate experiences.

Course Intro

Physical Activity Exercise Tech, HSC5000, is a technical applications course in which students gain competency in skills important in healthcare, human performance, exercise testing and health promotion. This course touches on topics like heart rate and blood pressure measurements at rest and during physical activity, strength testing, aerobic capacity and wearable technologies to promote and assist with a healthy lifestyle.

At the end of this course, students possess an understanding of how to complete these procedures from start to finish. Using proper placement and reading techniques, students simulate procedures and, with the help of their peers and guidance from associate professor Alvin Morton, engage in hands-on practice.

Students spent a recent class taking resting EKG measurements of their peers. First, they watched Morton place EKG leads on a mannequin, then broke out into groups to practice

the techniques. Once completed, the class moved to another area of O'Reilly Hall to measure active EKG and blood pressure. There, student volunteers walked through two zones of heart rate, while the rest of the class monitored live tests.

The Classroom Experience

Morton's heavy emphasis on class preparedness sets up students for technical and practical success. He ensures that all students leave the classroom with a proper understanding of the material. The hands-on aspect to class promotes group collaboration, active participation and critical-thinking skills. Morton is teaching students how to interpret results, while also walking students through abnormalities and providing solutions. Within the course, Morton helps tie results into students' areas of study, whether that is specifically sports, within certain age groups or in clinical or rehab settings.

“My favorite part of this class is that it gives us the opportunity to do hands-on learning both with instruction and independently. ... It ensures we are all learning new skills together, staying on task and actively participating.”

– Bella Russell M'26

FORMER MERRIMACK PRESIDENT, TRUSTEE AWARDED COLLEGE'S SAINT AUGUSTINE MEDAL

For the Rev. Joseph Calderone, O.S.A., becoming an Augustinian did not begin with a singular, overwhelming call to religious life.

He describes it as a process, one that started as a young boy in Philadelphia Catholic schools. The lessons he learned from the teaching nuns, reinforced by his mother's deep faith, set the foundation for the vocation he has dedicated more than 50 years of his life to.

It was in high school when that process accelerated. About 45 Augustinians worked at Calderone's school as teachers, club moderators and athletic coaches. He identified with their mission, their work in education and their commitment to community.

“Growing up in my local parish, I always thought priests were older and ran churches,” Calderone said. “But the Augustinians showed me there were other orders with other missions, and after graduation, I joined.”

From that point on, Calderone has ministered around the world, mentored both students and Augustinians, taught at colleges and universities and served in the U.S. Navy Reserve Chaplain Corps. For his contributions to the Merrimack College community and his impact as an Augustinian, Calderone received the 2025 Merrimack College Saint Augustine Medal during the College's annual Evening of Gratitude celebration on Sept. 18.





**Student
Snapshot**

Photo by
Chris Brieva '28

Students participate in the Merrimack College Black Student Association fashion show.

➔ To be featured, submit your MC snapshots to communications@merrimack.edu.



WHAT IS YOUR

FAVORITE MERRIMACK MEMORY?



The community and the relationships I was able to form.
- Paige McCormick M'22



Founded Kappa Sigma fraternity.
- Ryan Williams '21



Being a part of two varsity teams, football and lacrosse.
- Jimmy Holand '14



Fireworks at Macktoberfest.
- Brian Costa '25

Br. Frank Connor, O.S.A., the once economics major currently pursuing the priesthood, is the newest addition to the Grace J. Palmisano Center for Campus Ministry for the 2025-26 academic year. At Merrimack College this academic year, he assists the Rev. Dan Madden, O.S.A., director of campus ministry, and Rileigh Armstrong, associate director of campus ministry, with service trips, participates in various faith-based groups on campus and helps with Masses.

Q What made you pursue the priesthood?

I went to an Augustinian school. A lot of that came from the friars that I got to know and became friends with. I got particularly close with the late Rev. George Patrick Magee, O.S.A. He passed away during my senior year, and at his funeral I had this question in the back of my mind: "Should I be an Augustinian?"

Q Is there anything at Merrimack that you would like to learn more about or be a part of?

I'm looking forward to working with the students. I'm also looking forward to getting real-world experience working with people during challenging times in their lives. Merrimack seems like an incredible, growing school, and it's exciting to be a part of the culture on campus.

Q Explain this part of your formation process?

In this time, Augustinians in training use pastoral years to work to get a better sense of the ministries of the Order. I hope to work in higher education.

MERRIMACK CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH A NEW ANNUAL TRADITION



The Merrimack College community shared in the spirit of joy, hope and community through song at the Joy to the World Concert in December. The event was not only a moving display of the College's musical talent but also an impactful fundraiser for the Lazarus House Ministries, which, along with Merrimack student and staff volunteers, work incredibly hard to help those in need across the Merrimack Valley.

➔ What question should we ask next? communications@merrimack.edu



Meeting friends in Monican and rooming with them for the rest of my college career.
– Kirsten Lynskey '25



Alternative spring break with campus ministry.
– Caitlin Vasta '04



Meeting my wife, Nichole Atkinson.
– Rob Atkinson '94



Senior spring concert, Jason Derulo.
– Bella Agnoletti '22, M'23

TOGETHER WE RISE,

**ONE
YEAR
ON**



Well on its way to its \$100 million goal, Merrimack College's *Together We Rise* has strengthened a culture of philanthropy among the Warrior community and quickly demonstrated the direct impact generous alumni and donors are having on the College's future.

Nearly 8,200 total donors have contributed to *Together We Rise*, helping to raise \$73 million to date, nearly three-quarters of the campaign goal.

Launched at Evening of Gratitude in October 2024, *Together We Rise* is the most ambitious capital campaign to date in the College's nearly 80-year history. Its four areas of focus are innovation, growth, service and winning. Within those areas, support is going toward the College's research infrastructure, academic innovation, student scholarships, student experience, mission opportunities, athletics and much more.

And all of it is making a direct impact on the Merrimack College of today and the Merrimack College of tomorrow.

"I believe that the possibilities for Merrimack are endless," said Board of Trustees Chairman and *Together We Rise* National Co-chair Kevin Lucey '89, P'24. "Our impact will be multifaceted. Of course, we will remain true to our Augustinian foundation and values and continue to develop young men and women into well-educated adults. But our reach will go much further."

You would be hard-pressed to find a more fervent champion of Merrimack College's transformative success over the past 15 years than Lucey, now in his third year as chairman of the Board of Trustees. The College from which both he and his son graduated is no longer "the little engine that could," he said, but rather a growing force in higher education and the Merrimack Valley.

"As a family, we only support institutions focused on education," said Lucey. "Supporting my alma mater is a small way for us to give back. As time passes, people's ability to give and be philanthropic evolves. There are always other competing interests for people's resources. We feel strongly that Merrimack is a priority for our family."

That prioritization and generosity have led to the newest addition to Merrimack's resources for personalized student support beyond the classroom, the Lucey Center for Academic and Career Advising. It provides undergraduates with a dedicated advisor throughout their Merrimack experience, tailored to their academic, career, financial and personal needs.

Advisors in the Lucey Center facilitate deeper faculty mentorship through introductions and structured programming by class year, major or professional pathways. This allows for career development to be more closely integrated with classroom learning, providing guidance on internships, networking and job readiness.

"Merrimack was a great experience for me many moons ago, and it has been rewarding to see its transformation up close," Lucey said. "I am also a proud parent of an alumnus. My son's experience was great while he was here. We hope our gift affords others the same opportunity and experience."

The *Together We Rise* central theme — the continued transformative success of Merrimack — is the shared responsibility of the entire College community.

And the community has responded tremendously. Merrimack's Day of Giving on April 3, 2025, raised more than \$245,515 across 41 areas of support in just 24 hours, while *Together We Rise* events have been held across the country, including in Seattle, New York City, Chicago, Cape Cod and Florida.

Check out some of the tremendous alumni and donors whose generosity is making the greatest impact in the first year of *Together We Rise*, and is positioning Merrimack College to continue its trajectory to become a leading research university.

 **To learn more about *Together We Rise* and the ways you can contribute to Merrimack's future, please visit www.merrimack.edu/together-we-rise/.**

TOGETHER WE INNOVATE



Recruiting and retaining leading faculty is essential to the long-term success of a higher education institution, both in the classroom and in the lab.

At Merrimack College, the aspiration of becoming a leading research university is driven by scholars who enhance students' learning, experience and opportunities, while also growing the College's reputation through groundbreaking discoveries.

A key tool in faculty recruitment and retention, utilized by colleges and universities around the world, are endowed chairs and professorships. These distinguished honors recognize an outstanding faculty member's work of scholarship and guarantee the faculty member has the support to continue to make a lasting impact among students and in their fields of study.

Trustee Bruce Bouchard '79 and Sandra Bouchard are leading the way in growing Merrimack's portfolio of endowed positions with the establishment of the Bruce and Sandra Bouchard Chair in Life Sciences, the first such endowed chair at Merrimack College.

"Sandy and I have long believed in the power of life sciences research to improve people's lives," said Bouchard.

"When I sat down with Vice President for Research April Bowling and realized how transformational an endowed chair is in attracting and retaining top faculty research talent, I knew this was the right place for our gift to go."

While Merrimack College boasts a strong tradition of endowed professorships and fellowships that recognize transformative faculty members, endowed chairs provide

a more permanent source of research support and recognition for a top scientist or scholar in their field.

Dr. Christine Vogel will be named the inaugural Bruce and Sandra Bouchard Endowed Chair in Life Sciences. She is currently Professor of Biology, the Director of the Biology Ph.D. Program, and Co-Director of the NIH T32 QBIST Training Program at New York University.

Slated to join Merrimack for the start of the 2026-27 academic year, Vogel's research focuses on protein expression regulation in response to stress, in particular in the context of neurodegenerative diseases. Her lab, based in NYU's Center for Genomics and Systems Biology, integrates large-scale omics techniques, computational analyses, and targeted gene-specific study to study the relationship between different regulatory pathways.

At Merrimack, Vogel's lab will be housed in the new lab space on the first floor of Palmisano Hall, which is scheduled to open in spring 2026.

Endowed chairs differ from department heads in that an endowed chair is, in most cases, not responsible for oversight of a department's day-to-day operations. Endowed chairs are also funded by a gift, in perpetuity, and provide additional resources for the holder to freely pursue their research and foster student learning.

As it continues to grow its research endeavors, Merrimack College has made significant investments in the life sciences. This has led to important recent faculty hires, including Martin Egan, associate professor of cell and molecular biology, and Maggie Matern, assistant professor of neuroscience and molecular biology.

Additionally, the School of Arts and Sciences is expanding the capacity of its state-of-the-art Shared Instrumentation Research Facility (SIRF), which will encompass the entire first floor of Palmisano Hall starting in spring 2026.





Trustee James Scammon '83 and
Cynthia E. Scammon



TOGETHER WE GROW

When Trustee James Scammon '83 was a student at Merrimack College, co-op was an innovative, cutting-edge program that provided students with real-world work experiences while they pursued their undergraduate degrees.

Since then, co-op has become a cornerstone of Merrimack's academic and student experience, preparing thousands of Warriors with the skills necessary to thrive from the moment they enter the workforce. And Scammon has sought to give today's and tomorrow's Merrimack students the same, and even better, opportunities for career readiness.

To fulfill that aspiration, Scammon and his wife, Cynthia, have generously donated to Merrimack College to establish the James E. and Cynthia E. Scammon Center for Experiential Learning. The Scammons' gift created an endowment that will provide annual support for the center.

"I credit the great experience I had at Merrimack College to the co-op program," said Scammon, who served

as president and chief operating officer of Bose Corp. "I received excellent coaching and mentoring. And when it came time to graduate, I had a leg up in the job market and hit the ground running."

Located in the McQuade Library, the James E. and Cynthia E. Scammon Center for Experiential Learning will expand access to meaningful experiential learning opportunities for Merrimack students.

It was also in the McQuade Library where Cynthia, when studying to become a dental hygienist, would join friends for a study group. "She always remembers those fond memories when we are on campus, and it is great the center will be in that same building," Scammon said.

The center will enhance and centralize internship and co-op opportunities, increase employer partnerships and deliver targeted programming, as well as financial support, that ensures equitable access to career-aligned experiences. The center will also focus

on providing resources and support that will eliminate any challenges that could potentially prevent a student from pursuing the co-op of their dreams, particularly in nonprofit, public service, start-up companies or emerging industries.

By advancing access and opportunity through financial support such as stipends, transportation assistance and housing, the James E. and Cynthia E. Scammon Center for Experiential Learning will level the playing field for all students to have meaningful experiential learning.

"It is important for students to have these opportunities and experiences so they can be their best selves," Scammon said. **"And the center's mission is to provide students with the resources and support to take advantage of those opportunities, whether that be transportation, stipends, work attire or interview prep."**

Scammon has been heavily involved in mentoring Merrimack College students, offering his expertise and time to the College Leadership Council and at events like the Professional Development Retreat.

"The biggest draw for continuing to be involved with the College, for Cynthia and I, is engaging with the students," Scammon explained. "And this center is the next stage of that. We hope it will make an impact on even more students for years to come."



TOGETHER WE SERVE



Trustee Karen Cambray '88
and John Piekos, Jr.

On Martha's Vineyard, off the coast of Massachusetts, there is a high school student who dreams of becoming a world-renowned physician. Somewhere else in the country, where the Merrimack College name is becoming more widely known, there is a student who wants to be a leader in the finance world.

And through the generosity of Trustee Karen Cambray '88 and John Piekos, Jr., those students can realize those aspirations at Merrimack.

The Karen Cambray '88 and John Piekos, Jr. Endowed Scholarship provides financial assistance for one or more undergraduate students at Merrimack College, particularly for a student who is a resident of Martha's Vineyard, a community very close to Cambray's and Piekos' hearts.

"It is incredibly important to provide the opportunity to a college education for students who are driven but may have barriers to pursuing that education," said Cambray, who serves as co-chair of the Together We

Serve subcommittee with Piekos. "They can come to Merrimack, get a great education, be part of this incredibly tight-knit community and go on to do great things."

Additionally, in honor of their successes in the business and technology sectors, they have supported the Girard School of Business Excellence Fund. Cambray is regularly involved with the Girard School as a member of its Board of Advisors, and she recently shared her experiences and insights as chief financial officer at CloudFactory with members of Merrimack's Women in Business Club.

"It gives us the opportunity to change at least one student's life and potentially improve their outcome and their impact on society," Piekos said. "We are very impressed with Dr. Hopey's vision for Girard, and we decided we want to be a part of it and contribute in whatever way we can to move that vision forward."

That forward-thinking vision, not just for Girard but also for Merrimack as a whole, is paying great dividends for the College's brand, Cambray and Piekos said. When they travel, Cambray will proudly wear her Merrimack apparel and, more and more, people will stop her to talk about their child or sibling or friend who is a Merrimack alumnus or student.

"To be stopped in places from Europe to Zion National Park by people who recognize the 'MC' is really exciting," said Cambray. "And everyone who stops us really talks about the community. It's not just about the great education but that people feel Merrimack throws its arms around you and supports you. It's heartwarming."

TOGETHER WE WIN



Pat Maraghy '68, H'14
and Grace Maraghy

Pat Maraghy '68, H'14 has known longer than most just how impactful athletics is to the Merrimack College community. As a member of the men's ice hockey team in the mid-60s, he witnessed the team's initial rise in popularity across the campus community when the Warriors added four players from Canada.

Since then, he has seen his alma mater go from Division II to Division I, from playing in a rink in Lawrence to one of Hockey East's most storied venues, Lawler Arena.

"From a personal level, being on a team is great because you get to know people beyond the classroom," said Maraghy. **"Sports in schools are very important for any institution in part because they bring the student body together."**

Through their generous support of the Warrior Fund, Maraghy and his wife, Grace, have ensured the camaraderie of athletics and the opportunities it provides for student-athletes. It also ensures that the enhancements it makes to Merrimack College's reputation will continue for generations of teams, student-athletes and coaches.

"Athletics expose the school to a wider range of people," said Grace. "If Merrimack remained set in its ways, it would have stayed a more regional school. But with the success of more Merrimack teams and the growth of Athletics programs, more people are going to recognize the Merrimack name in the world of college athletics."

By supporting athletics and ensuring campus facilities are updated and adequate resources are available, the Maraghys say Merrimack will be positioned to become one of the top programs in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Northeast Conference and Hockey East.

Merrimack's athletic reputation and place in the collegiate sports landscape today are nowhere near where anyone thought it could be when Maraghy was a student and later a Merrimack trustee in the early 2000s.

"When I talk about Merrimack, I mention the perspective I have as a former member of the Board of Trustees," he said. "When we hired President Hopey, the school turned a corner, and after several years of hard work, the school is now flourishing. With new buildings, new programs, top-notch faculty, a growing enrollment and Division I sports, everyone seems to be talking about the magic of Merrimack."





Merrimack College is confronting higher education sticker shock by redefining undergraduate programs.

INNOVATIVE AFFORDABILITY

A Smarter Tuition Model

For many of today's prospective college students and their families, there is a perceived fracture in the line from studying the humanities to gainful, profitable employment. Society's technological advances and reliance, soaring cost of living and untenable higher education tuition have cultivated the reputation that a humanities degree is a fool's investment.

Rather than abandoning humanities, a field of study that was integral to the core of Merrimack since its founding in 1947, the College chose to boldly reimagine what it means to study the humanities in the 21st century.

This has also ramped up Merrimack's commitment to offering affordable programs that meet the needs of students and employers alike, leading to the establishment of a new portfolio of compelling baccalaureate degrees at prices that reflect the cost of delivery.

New Bachelor of Arts degrees in humanities, government and creative arts and design are evolving the liberal arts by aligning interdisciplinary curricula with durable and enduring skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, adaptability and communication. All three degrees are offered at an annual tuition rate of \$17,000, well below the national average for private higher education institutions.

"From our founding in 1947, Merrimack has sought to offer a pathway to socio-economic mobility," said provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs John "Sean" Condon. "These degrees fit squarely in that tradition and mission."

As laid out in the College's strategic plan, the *Agenda for the Future*, Merrimack has prioritized providing greater access to a college education. The reimagining of baccalaureate

degrees, the addition of degrees in architecture and architectural studies with tuition at \$33,500, as well as guaranteed \$20,000 academic scholarships for new students in engineering, computational sciences, analytics, natural sciences, education and criminal justice, all in-demand fields, are fulfilling this priority.

The College can offer its new Bachelor of Art degrees for a significantly lower price because they better align with the cost-of-delivery to students. By differentiating tuition based on the cost structure of a degree, Merrimack can price programs more accurately and sustainably, while maintaining academic excellence across the board.

"I recently heard of a first-year humanities student being asked why he enrolled in this new program and he replied, 'You get the entire Merrimack College experience for just \$17,000,'" said Michael "Seamus" Harreys, senior vice president and chief financial officer. "There is no catch. This is Merrimack College being transparent, innovative and serving its mission to position our students to fulfill their goals."

The humanities degree offers two dozen concentrations, from traditional disciplines such as philosophy, English and history, as well as interdisciplinary areas such as bioethics and applied AI.

The concentrations for the bachelor's degree in government include cybersecurity, pre-law, leadership and public administration. Students in the creative arts and design program can choose from concentrations such as filmmaking and media arts, music and theatre arts.

Merrimack faculty members who developed the degrees specifically engineered them to foster sought-after skills in today's workforce. Employers are routinely surveyed on what they'd like to see from potential employees, Condon noted, and the same skills always come up — good communication, the ability to think flexibly and creatively and having a keen attention to detail, to name a few.

"In higher education, there's often an artificial distinction drawn between 'professional' degrees like business and engineering, and 'less practical' degrees like history, English, art and philosophy," said Condon. "That way of thinking is not correct. If you look at the kinds of skills that employers are looking for, those skills are exactly what students who dedicate themselves to studying the humanities can learn and master."

And students are responding. The Bachelor of Arts in Humanities enrolled about 74 students for fall 2025, making it the third most popular major for the 2025 incoming class, behind nursing and undeclared business.

"Merrimack College is very innovative and we try new things," said Daniel Herda, academic dean for humanities, arts and social sciences in the School of Arts and Sciences. "This is an exciting new direction and is going to create a new framework for affordable degrees. And as we re-create what we have, it will lead to full, lively classes that faculty will love to teach in and students will want to learn in."

The annual tuition rate for these degrees has also caught the attention of parents for prospective and admitted students, Herda said.


"At Open Houses and Admitted Student Days, I've had more conversations with parents than students about these degrees," Herda said. "They are interested not only in the cost, but also in how we present a clearer career path that these degrees can lead students on."

“

Merrimack College is very innovative and we try new things. This is an exciting new direction and is going to create a new framework for affordable degrees. And as we re-create what we have, it will lead to full, lively classes that faculty will love to teach in and students will want to learn in.”

Daniel Herda, academic dean of humanities, arts and social sciences






Merrimack College
Professor Receives
NIH Grant to Evaluate
New Federal Nutrition
Standards for

School Meals

Totaling more than \$3 million over five years, the grant awarded to leading school meal nutrition expert Juliana Cohen is the largest ever received by a Merrimack College faculty member.



New federal school meal nutrition standards began this year, and a Merrimack College professor and renowned expert on school nutrition policies will now examine the impact of those standards on school children.

Juliana Cohen, a professor in Merrimack's School of Nursing and Health Sciences, received a five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health totaling more than \$3 million, the single largest external independent research grant ever awarded to a Merrimack College faculty member.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced in April 2024 updates to the nutritional standards for school meal programs, which include both breakfast and lunch for more than 30 million children each day. The updates will be implemented over several years. Among the new standards are limits on added sugars in school meals and stronger sodium limits.

According to her grant proposal, Cohen said her study will evaluate the new policy's impact on school meal compliance, school meal participation, student diet quality, dietary disparities and other key factors.

"We are looking at how the policy will change the food that is available, the impact on how much students are eating and how students are performing in school," explained Cohen, who is also the director of the Center for Health Innovation, Research and Policy (CHIRP). "This is the first time ever someone is quantifying the amount of ultraprocessed food in school meals."

Cohen and her team have already established a significant baseline of data for this research, having collected more than 10,000 plate-waste measurements, sifting through leftover school meals in recent years. This data cataloging allows for a better understanding of how much students are eating and which foods they are consuming.

This past spring, her team traveled to Alaska, as part of another NIH R01 grant, where they conducted plate-waste measurements that were instrumental in building momentum for this study as they awaited notice of the grant. Merrimack College had previously provided funding to collect pilot data in Alaska, which enabled Cohen to receive the prior NIH grant and was a catalyst to receive this latest grant.

“I am incredibly grateful to the Merrimack College administration for its critical support of the work we did in Alaska,” Cohen said. “Because of strong collaborations across the U.S., such as the one that allowed us to work in Alaska, we are uniquely positioned to have the expertise and the proven track record to conduct this innovative study.”

By being on-site to examine school meals, Cohen said her team is also able to see what types of meals students bring from home.

“Most people think that home-packed school meals are so much healthier, but if you are looking at it from an

ultraprocessed perspective, it is negligible,” Cohen explained. “On average, school meals are healthier than home-packed meals.”

As part of the research, Cohen will focus on school meals in Massachusetts, Connecticut, California and Arizona. There are also opportunities for Merrimack College students to support the research, from data collection to participating in the writing process.

Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number: 1R01DK142702-01. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.



UPDATED SCHOOL MEAL STANDARDS

FALL 2024

Flavored Milk

No changes to flavored milk standards.

Additional Menu Options

Make it easier for schools to offer local, vegetarian and culturally appropriate menu items.

2024

SPRING 2024

USDA issues final rule on long-term school nutrition standards after listening to public feedback and following recommendations from the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

2025

FALL 2025

Added Sugars

Limit on added sugars in cereals, yogurt and milk.

Flavored Milk

Allow flavored milk with limits on added sugars.

2026

FALL 2026

No required changes; schools can voluntarily continue to gradually reduce amount of added sugars and sodium.

FALL 2027

Added Sugars

No more than 10% of the weekly calories.

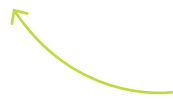
Sodium

10% reduction for breakfast. 15% reduction for lunch.

2027



Homecoming, Reunion & Alumni Weekend



Students, alumni, parents and friends cheer on the Warriors during Homecoming, Reunion and Alumni Weekend.

Fans enjoyed a new tailgating experience, the Warrior Path.



Merrimack College welcomed over 15,000 people to reconnect with old classmates, celebrate the best of Merrimack and cheer on student-athletes during Homecoming, Reunion and Alumni Weekend. The weekend featured Macktoberfest, tailgating and a Warrior win, as the football team defeated Robert Morris University, 24-7.

Looking to the future, Merrimack is excited to continue the tradition of Homecoming, Reunion and Alumni Weekend to welcome all Warriors back on campus to celebrate Merrimack culture, tradition and spirit.

Junior running back Galamama Mulbah ran the ball seven times during Merrimack's win over Robert Morris University

MEJAIL CEMENTS LEGACY IN WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER PANTHEON



Gabe Mejail has coached at Merrimack College for more than half of the institution's existence.

He has coached more than 400 women's soccer players and he could tell you

the jersey number for pretty much every one of them. He is now coaching the daughters of former players. His teams play their home games on a field that bears his name. He has won at the national and regional level, across Division I and Division II.

And on Aug. 14, against the University of Vermont, he became college women's soccer's newest "iron man" head coach. At 46 seasons, no one in the history of the sport has coached more seasons than Mejail.

"It is exciting it happened, but I am not going to hold my breath because records are meant to be broken," said Mejail. "This is a sport, not a job, and as long as you keep having fun, the winning takes care of itself."

All-American goalie Sue Plante '90, who was recruited to come to Merrimack after writing Mejail a letter and sending him newspaper clippings about her play, said he generally looked for players who played the same way he did at MIT.

"He worked just as hard as we did," said Plante. "You just wanted to play hard for him, and the harder you played, the more excited he got. We didn't have plays to go around opponents. We would just bowl them over."



“This is a sport, not a job, and as long as you keep having fun, the winning takes care of itself.”

– Gabe Mejail, head women’s soccer coach

That intensity has rarely waned over the years. Sarah (Boyd) Harty '93 and her daughter Rebecca Harty '22 served as captains during their times playing for Mejail and have both witnessed his passion translate into the occasional frustrated hat toss or being reprimanded in Spanish.

“When the Spanish came out, you knew he was serious,” Sarah Harty said of the Argentinian-born-and-raised coach with a laugh. “He is just a great guy. He wants to make sure you are going to be happy across your entire experience at Merrimack, and he concentrates on you as a person more than a player.”



THE WARRIOR FUND

Merrimack Warriors rise through tradition, resilience and spirit. When you give to The Warrior Fund, you directly fuel their success, helping them excel in competition, in the classroom and within our communities.

*“We’re building something special here at Merrimack,” says Joe Foley, director of athletics. “But we can’t do it alone. **Together We Win.**”*

GIVE TODAY AT



Your support enhances scholarships, facilities, travel and the everyday resources that make our student-athletes champions.

JOIN THE TEAM BEHIND THE TEAMS





Nolan Flamand



Hunter Mayo

CANADIAN HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYERS

ALL IN ON NCAA, MERRIMACK CULTURE

Playing on the Merrimack College men’s ice hockey team was not in the cards for Hunter Mayo, Joey Henneberry and Nolan Flamand. It wasn’t because they were not good enough. It was because at the time, they weren’t allowed to.

All three players played in the Canadian Hockey League (CHL), which is comprised of three major junior ice hockey leagues: the Quebec Maritimes Junior Hockey League (QMJHL), the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) and the Western Hockey League (WHL). Players in those leagues were once considered professionals and, therefore, ineligible to play in the NCAA.

However, in a shift for NCAA hockey, those restrictions were lifted in 2024, opening for college hockey coaches a previously unavailable recruiting pool of more than 60 teams, while also providing CHL players new options for their hockey development.

“It’s a lengthened runway, right?,” Henneberry, formerly of the Cape Breton Eagles in the QMJHL, said of the opportunity to play at Merrimack. “It continues my hockey career but also my education. And it does both at the highest level, which is exactly what you want as a student-athlete.”

For Scott Borek, in his eighth season as Merrimack’s head men’s ice hockey coach, the CHL trio have acclimated well, participating in team-building exercises including presentations on leadership and writing letters of gratitude.

“I really like these three guys because in the CHL, you play a lot more for the name on the back of the jersey because you are trying to get that pro contract,” Borek said. “It’s not really about playing for the shield on the front like we do here. So we are asking for that to be different, and they’ve really bought in nicely.”



Joey Henneberry

MERRIMACK ATHLETICS AND THE REVENUE SHARING ERA

For decades, the multibillion-dollar industry that is college athletics was one where the talent did not reap the financial benefits of the product.

However, in recent years, the issue of compensating student-athletes has undergone significant change, from players now being able to sign contracts for their Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) to schools sharing revenue directly with players. This new era in college sports has upended the way athletic departments operate, reverberating across the NCAA from power conferences to Merrimack College.

“If we want to be competitive at the Division I level, we need to participate in the process to get the best and brightest student-athletes,” explained Joe Foley, director of athletics.

There are several pathways through which student-athletes can be compensated for their participation in college sports. NIL deals allow student-athletes to work with external businesses and organizations on endorsement deals. That could range from appearing on billboards to wearing certain apparel.

The most significant change occurred this summer, when the landmark *NCAA vs House* case was settled. As part of the settlement, institutions that opted

in are now permitted to establish a revenue-sharing framework to compensate their student-athletes, with an annual cap of \$20.5 million per school.

Merrimack College has moved forward with a revenue-sharing model of providing lump sums to specific teams that are then allocated to student-athletes.

“What we are asking from our tremendous alumni, parents, fans, friends and supporters is when they are designating their philanthropy, consider student-athletes through this revenue-sharing model,” said Foley.

Those who wish to contribute to Merrimack’s revenue-sharing model can do so through a designation in the Warrior Fund. From there, athletics’ leadership and coaches will allocate the funds. At this time, football, men’s and women’s basketball and men’s hockey are receiving revenue-share money from the institution.

In parallel with the disruption of student-athlete compensation is the advent and growth of the transfer portal. The database tracks and fosters



“If we want to be competitive at the Division I level, we need to participate in the process to get the best and brightest student-athletes.”

– Joe Foley, director of athletics

transparency and ease for students to transfer to different schools, and in many cases, those transfers are spurred by revenue-sharing opportunities.

“We sincerely hope when a student-athlete comes here, they will graduate with a degree from Merrimack College,” said Foley. “But at the same time, if we have done well by them so that in their final years of college athletics they can go to a different institution and earn more, then we have done a great service to them by opening more opportunities.”

CHEER ON THE WARRIORS

Don't miss a chance to see the Warriors take on exciting opponents at home and on the road this season!

To purchase tickets and for a complete schedule of games, visit www.merrimackathletics.com.

ALUMNI NEWS

1960s

JOHN MCDERMOTT '65 was awarded his 5,000 hours of volunteer service pin from Sarasota (FL) Memorial Hospital.

Members of the Class of 1968: **JANET ELIAS-SAULSBERRY, GRACE (VAN HORN) MCGRATH, MAUREEN (SULLIVAN) O'NEILL, KATHY (SWEENEY) CARROLL, ROSEMARY MCCARTHY, SHEILA (DONOVAN) NUSSBAUM** and **PENNY (TINKER) FIRLA** reunited to celebrate 61 years of friendship, first formed when they met in the Monican Center in 1964. (1)



1970s

DR. RICHARD POTEEMBER '75, a faculty member at Johns Hopkins University and member of Merrimack College's Board of Advisors for Research and Engineering and Computational Sciences, was among 162 inventors inducted as a Senior Member of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) during the NAI's 14th Annual Conference in June 2025.

1980s

DWIGHT KITCHEN '84 has been named chief revenue officer at MaxLite.

MIKE ALLEN '86 has been named executive director at Waterstone at Wellesley, a senior living facility offering sophisticated independent and assisted living for adults age 62 and older.



1990s

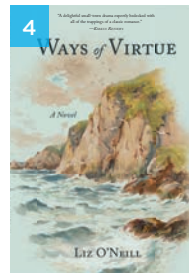
BRENDAN LOCKE '92 was named Marblehead High School's varsity boys ice hockey head coach for the 2026 season.

DANIELLE (OUELLETTE) ATHANASIADIS '97, P'25, P'28, member of the Parents Leadership Council, and her father, **Mickey Ouellette '69, P'97, GP'25, GP'28**, traveled to Greece to support her son, **George Athanasiadis '25**, who played for the Greece National Baseball Team during the EuroBaseball Tournament 2025. (2)

WILLIAM "BILL" WYMAN IV '97 has been appointed by Tufts Medicine as the president of MelroseWakefield Hospital and Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

2000s

KEVIN MARTIN '02, NISHANT JHAVERI '03, Raj Jhaveri, BRYAN J. STONE '02 and **MATTHEW J. VARAKIS '01, P'27** met up at Homecoming, Reunion and Alumni Weekend. (3)



ELIZABETH (DEMEO) O'NEILL '02 published her first novel, "Ways of Virtue." The historical novel takes place on Cape Cod and has been called "a delightful small-town drama expertly

bedecked with all of the trappings of a classic romance." (4)

LAUREN ADMIRAND '04 was recognized by Marquis Who's Who for her significant achievements in the real estate industry.



JESSICA ANN (JANCSY) ELLIS '05 recently released her children's book, "Got Your Back, Always," a charming tale designed to help young readers remember the

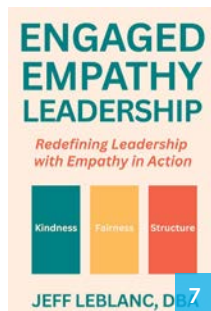
strength they have while exploring the world. (5)



CHRISTINE DEVANE '06, M'08 debuted her children's book "Elephant Beach" which takes a fun and unique

approach to helping shy students succeed in life and the classroom. (6)

JEFF LEBLANC '09 recently released his book "The Engaged Empathy Leadership Model," which explores



how leaders can balance kindness, fairness and structure to engage today's multigenerational workforce and navigate the human side of AI-driven change. (7)

2010s

DAVID P. GERRY, JR. '12, a member of the Girard School of Business Board of Advisors, has been named Entrepreneur of the Year by the New Hampshire Tech Alliance.

BRIAN PANARESE '15 and **ALLISON LANGONE '16** were married on July 11, 2025. (8)



SHANE HALL '17, M'18 was promoted to vice president of marketing at Polish National Credit Union.

ALISON HANLON '18 married Alexander Pereira. Photo (left to right): **Elaina Cosentino '18, Tyler Moccio '17, Arpi Parseghian '20, Rachel MacKelcan '18, Danielle Galli '20, Alison Hanlon '18** (bride), **Alexa Emma '18, Sarah Dunne-Kozik '18, Jeremy Kozik '16, Kendra Varone '18, Ashley McLaughlin '19, Kevin Gill '17, and Marvin Sandaval M'17.** (9)



Merrimack alumni gathered on the Cape to celebrate the wedding of **KYLE STENBERG '18** and Victoria O'Keefe, whose parents, **Lawrence O'Keefe, Jr. '84** and **Renee (Busca) O'Keefe '85**, are also proud alumni. (10)

Pictured in the photo:
Bottom row: **Tommy O'Brien '18, Joey Diaco '18, Blake Boudreau '18, Jack Pace, Dean Prouty '18, Kyle Stenberg '18** (groom), **Evan Zakow '16, Leah (Hart) Diaco '19, M'22, and Jim Bassett '18.** Top row: **Hunter Schmell '18, Derick Tinsley '19, Bobby O'Brien '18, Michael O'Connell '19, Pat Nevins '18, Jack Trask '18, Tim Towler '17, Max Allen '17, Shea Towler '16, Michaela Allen '18, Mitch Green '18, Clare Blomberg-King '17, Eric Coburn '18, Keelyn Crowe '17, Kirsten Kirven '18, Larry O'Keefe '84, Renee O'Keefe '85, and Joel Brown '84.**

MICHAEL BABCOCK III '19 has been named assistant coach of the San Diego Gulls.

MADELEINE COX '19 and **JAMES MCHALE '18** were married on February 22, 2025, at the Woodstock Inn in Woodstock, VT. (11)



JACOB ROBINSON '19 was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame at Riverhead High School for track and field.

2020s

TAYLOR GALUSHA '20, M'21 has been appointed director of communications for the Town of Lexington, MA.

DANIEL DONEGAN '21 recently founded Ironwood Safety Group, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business based in North Andover. Dan is a career firefighter whose company specializes in AED sales, fire protection, compliance programs and Red Cross-certified CPR/AED training for organizations across New England.

JANELLE HAVENS '21 was selected as a workshop speaker for the 2025 National Prevention Network conference in Washington, D.C. Her workshop focused on an anti-stigma initiative in Manchester, NH, that she created and has led, focused on preventing substance use in the city. (12)



ALUMNI NEWS

BROOKE SCHOFIELD '21 graduated with her Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School.

ETHAN BARE M'22 has been named director of strength and conditioning at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

ZACH VINNELL '22 has been named assistant coach of the Atlanta Gladiators.

COLE BIRDOW '23, M'25 was signed by the Edmonton Elks, a professional Canadian football team based in Edmonton, Alberta.

EM WOOD '23, M'24 moved to Los Angeles earlier this year and is producing an LA-based web series called UnSmall, telling the kinds of stories that too often go unseen. There are 10 episodes total.

RYAN DYER '25 captured his fourth straight win at the Gloucester, RI, Fourth of July 5.5-Mile Road Race. Ryan also holds the course record with a time of 30:08, which he set in 2024.

JACOB SYMMES '25 and **HARRISON BELL '24** are both pursuing master's degrees in Ministry and Theology at Villanova University, where they serve as Graduate Resident Ministers. In their roles, they support first-year students emotionally, socially and spiritually in the residence halls while working with Villanova's Mission and Ministry team to foster faith reflection, community engagement and student involvement in service trips, retreats and other programs.

In Memoriam

John Donovan '53
Helene (O'Brien) Tosone '55
William Fanning '56
Bartholomew Cahill '57
Daniel Buckley '58
Leonard Flynn '58
Edward Palladino '59
Dean Quinlan '61
John O'Connor '62
Arthur Boudreault '63
Rosemary (Foley) Collins '63
Donald Gallant '63
Marcia (Sledziewski) Leverone '63
Albert Brien '64
William Lyons '64
Carol Dingle '65
Ronald McAllister '66
Robert O'Neill '66
M. Suzanne Wicks '67
Gerald Duff '68
William Flynn '68
John McDonnell '68
Francis Kearns '70
Richard Hamel '71
Duncan Kelly '71
Michael Lagrossi '72
Edward Lynch '72
Ann (Rousseau) Wilk '72
Joseph Gabriel '74
Clifford Springer '77
Joseph Shola '78
Amy (Harnett) Carignan '81
Francis Chase III '82
Joan (Beres) Dexter '83
Stephen Hanlon '83
Linda Pomerleau '90
Kathleen Makiver M'16

➔ **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ...**
visit www.merrimack.edu/update to share life changes, employment updates, accomplishments and pictures.

MERRIMACK PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Join the Merrimack Professional Network (MPN) to connect with faculty, staff and fellow alumni, showcasing decades of experience in industry.

Through the MPN, you can:

CONNECT with peers, faculty, staff and students in a Merrimack-specific community

ACCESS a Merrimack job board with relevant, real-time connections

SHOWCASE your alumni-owned business to current students and fellow alumni

MENTOR current students looking for career support, advice and networking

SIGN UP

at mpn.merrimack.edu
to get started. Questions?
obriencenter@merrimack.edu.



Your Legacy. Merrimack's Future.



THE 1947
SOCIETY
MERRIMACK
COLLEGE

THE 1947 SOCIETY recognizes alumni, parents and friends who have made a lasting commitment by including Merrimack College in their estate plans. Through a planned gift, you can create a legacy that ensures Merrimack is prepared for the future. Not only do you have options for how your gift will be used, but you also have options on what and how to give.

These thoughtful contributions help secure Merrimack's future — supporting scholarships, academic programs, athletic excellence and the student experience for generations to come. As a member of The 1947 Society, you become part of a special community dedicated to preserving the values that define Merrimack.

Create a legacy that empowers tomorrow's Warriors.

To learn more about planned giving, contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at giving@merrimack.edu.



MERRIMACK COLLEGE 2026 COMMENCEMENT WILL BE GOLDEN

Joining Merrimack College's Class of 2026 at its Commencement in May will be a group of individuals who have decades worth of experience as Warrior alumni.

Beginning with the Class of 1976, Merrimack this academic year is launching new traditions to honor its Golden Graduates, alumni who mark their 50th reunion and beyond. The highlight of these traditions is an invitation to members of the Class of 1976 to process at the School of Arts and Sciences' Commencement on Friday, May 15, in full regalia, to help celebrate the newest class of Merrimack graduates.

"Our Golden Graduates processing through Lawler Arena is going to be a profound moment of Merrimack College pride," said President Christopher E. Hohey, Ph.D. "I look forward to welcoming these alumni to campus to share in their memories and achievements, and to show our gratitude for the standard they set for today's students."

Dave McGillivray '76, H'12 said he is excited for the opportunity to celebrate the next generation of Merrimack alumni and participate in Commencement, once again, with his classmates.

"The values I learned here at Merrimack have stayed with me my entire life," said McGillivray. "Getting the opportunity to share in this special moment with the Class of 2026 will be another wonderful memory for the 50th Reunion Class. I encourage the Class of 1976 to come out and be part of this great show of Warrior pride."

Additionally, all Golden Graduates are invited to a breakfast and luncheon in their honor on campus on Friday, May 15.

Merrimack's 2026 Commencement will take place from Wednesday, May 13, to Friday, May 15, and will include four ceremonies at Lawler Arena, as well as a Legacy Family Social and Baccalaureate Mass.

The largest and most significant event at Merrimack College, Commencement is expected to bring more than 20,000 people to campus over the course of the three days.

For more information contact alumni@merrimack.edu



SAVE THE DATE

FOR UPCOMING MERRIMACK ALUMNI AND FRIENDS EVENTS

PUTT & SIP AT PUTTSHACK

Saturday, February 7, 2026
58 Pier 4 Blvd. Seaport District, Boston
1 – 3 p.m.

Connect with fellow alumni and friends, play indoor mini-golf and enjoy food & beverages.



NEW YORK CITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS RECEPTION

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Penn Club, 30 W 44th St, New York, NY

Merrimack alumni and friends are invited to a networking reception in New York City.



REUNION CELEBRATION OF OUR GOLDEN GRADUATES & THE CLASS OF 1976

Friday, May 15, 2026



We are proud to launch a new tradition celebrating our Golden Graduates and those celebrating their 50th Reunion.

Golden Graduates are invited to participate in Commencement, including the special honor of walking in the Commencement procession — a powerful moment that will bring together generations of Warriors and celebrate their lifelong connection with Merrimack. The celebration includes a Golden Graduate Luncheon. Please contact alumni@merrimack.edu for more information.

MERRIMACK IN FLORIDA



St. Patrick's Day Parade & Luncheon Saturday, March 14, 2026 Naples, Florida

Show off your Irish pride and ride the Merrimack College trolley through the streets of Naples with alumni, parents and friends. Following the St. Patrick's Day Parade, join Merrimack alumni, parents and friends for lunch on 5th Ave in downtown Naples.



Alumni Reception | Naples, Florida Thursday, March 26, 2026 The Club at Mediterra Naples, Florida

Join President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., and members of the Board of Trustees for a special opportunity to celebrate together.



For more information and to register for events, visit our website.

Please note that some of these dates are subject to change.

ALUMNA, TRUSTEE NAMED TOP WOMEN BOSTON LEADER



Merrimack College Trustee **LYNNE ANN CHASE '90, P'23**, was recently named to the *Women We Admire* Top 50 Women Leaders of Boston for 2025. Chase, who joined the Merrimack College Board of Trustees in 2022, was No. 10 on the list.

According to its website, *Women We Admire* is a membership organization comprised of some of

the most accomplished women executives and leaders across the U.S. and Canada, providing powerful leadership insights and a close-knit community of extraordinary women.

She has excelled in the property management and real estate industry for 35 years, advancing within the Winn organization to her current position as chief accounting officer for WinnResidential, WinnResidential Military Housing Services and WinnDevelopment.

In her position, she is responsible for directing the accounting operations for more than 116,000 apartment homes in the company's owned and managed portfolio, including more than 32,500 homes managed under the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI).

As chief accounting officer, she leads all areas of accounting, treasury management, budgeting, financial reporting and internal controls for company affiliates — WinnResidential,

WinnResidential Military Housing Services and WinnDevelopment. Her responsibilities also encompass management operations systems and support, and business analytics.

She leads a team of 130 team members and has assisted WinnCompanies' growth as a leading manager of multifamily apartment communities, operating the nation's largest portfolio of affordable housing. The company has also been a top manager of privatized housing for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families since 2001.

Chase is a member of WinnCompanies Board of Directors, executive leadership team, Connected Communities Board of Directors and treasurer of the Winn Employee Relief Fund. She is the first female chair of Central Catholic High School's Board of Directors.

As an alumna, Chase has remained very active in the Merrimack community. In addition to serving as a trustee, she is co-chair of the Athletics committee, has served on the College Leadership Council and as a Warriors at Work mentor.

She and her husband Bill established a scholarship for the Pioneer Scholars Program, as well as generously contributing to other Merrimack student scholarships, the Merrimack Fund and the School of Arts and Sciences.

Chase received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Merrimack College in 1990. Her son Harrison Chase is a member of the Merrimack College Class of 2023, brother Brian R. Pilat, Class of 1993, and niece Gabrielle L. Chase, Class of 2025.

WAYS TO MAKE AN IMPACT

Your generosity shapes the future of Merrimack College. There are many ways to help our institution innovate, grow, serve and win for years to come.

For questions or to learn more about ways to make an impact, contact giving@merrimack.edu.

CASH GIFTS – make an immediate difference.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS (DAFS) – recommend a grant directly from your fund.

STOCK OR SECURITIES – maximize tax benefits while giving back.

REAL ESTATE OR PROPERTY – create a lasting legacy through appreciated assets.

LIFE INSURANCE – designate Merrimack College as a beneficiary to leverage your resources while providing an extraordinary gift for future Warriors.

PLANNED GIFTS – include Merrimack in your will or estate plan.

CORPORATE MATCH – match your donation with funds from your employer. Check with your Human Resources office to see if your company offers a match.

FROM RECOVERY TO RESEARCH TO THE RESEARCH OF RECOVERY, ONE MERRIMACK ALUMNUS'S JOURNEY TO WHOOP

What was the first thing **LUCAS HOLDEN '20, M'21** noticed after stepping back on Merrimack College's campus after five years?



“All the construction projects,” he said. “It is nice to see the campus expanding and all the new programs that are coming. It feels like a lot has happened in not that much time.”

As a research associate for wearable technology company WHOOP, Holden was invited back to campus for The Future of Workplace Wellness, a new conference held in September by the Merrimack College Center for Business Impact.

Holden participated in “The Role of AI in Workplace Health and Wellbeing” panel discussion, where he outlined WHOOP’s innovations and the factors the company considers when implementing the technology.

“I was happy to be back on campus,” he said. “A week before, I had talked with [Clinical Professor] Andy Cannon and [Professor] Janet Blum about some adjunct teaching opportunities. I’ve always been interested in teaching.”

Another interest Holden holds is sports. He played catcher in baseball from Little League to high school. Unfortunately, while playing for his high school team, he tore both labrums in his hips, which kept him off the field for months.

“It needed serious recovery,” he explained. “The injury wasn’t really from one incident — it was just buildup from all the training.”

While the recovery process was time-consuming and difficult, it ultimately sparked an interest in the health sciences and exercise.

“I had really good doctors and physical therapists that walked me through the injury and what my body would do to try to recover,” he said. “Getting that insight from them was what initially got me interested in pursuing that major in college.”

By the time he got back on his feet, it was time to apply for college. As a Billerica, Mass., native, Holden was already familiar with Merrimack from a young age.

“My friends played some hockey tournaments [at Merrimack] so I’d cheer them on at Lawler,” he recalled. “When it got close to applying for college, I had some friends who had just completed their freshman year and they spoke really positively of it. It was a pretty easy choice for me [to apply to Merrimack], and it had the added benefit of being near my family.”

Freshman year felt a bit sink-or-swim, Holden said, but he ultimately found his independence on campus.

“It was all about keeping myself and my schedule organized,” he said. “I had to make sure to set time aside for studying and working out. Although it felt like I was thrown into the fire a bit, I felt like the first year at Merrimack was essential to set that foundation for building good habits.”

The following year, Holden landed a job as the Sakowich Campus Center’s building manager.

“Traveling off campus for part-time work wasn’t worth the stress,” he explained. “Working on campus gave me a sense of involvement similar to joining a club. I worked with Associate Director of Campus Operations Brandon Clinton and Domenic DiVincenzo [former director of campus operations] — they were great to work under. It helped me develop a lot of professional skills as well.”

As for academics, Holden said he loved pursuing his undergraduate degree in exercise science. Initially, he had dreams of becoming a physician’s assistant but later decided against it after taking on a couple of internships.

“I was so set on it at the time that I didn’t really know what I wanted to do after,” he said. “I knew I didn’t want to do athletic training or strength and conditioning, but I also wasn’t interested in the physical therapy route either. I almost switched my major to education at one point.”

During his senior year, he found a path forward. After taking a four-credit research block with Cannon, Holden said he saw himself doing similar work professionally.

“Being able to see an entire research project from start to finish, including the administrative things that get it approved, was really great insight to have before graduation,” Holden said.

Graduation wasn’t the end of his Merrimack journey, however. Holden immediately re-enrolled in the exercise and sports science program.

“I didn’t look anywhere else,” he explained. “I had a great experience during undergrad, and I knew my previous professors were teaching classes in the master’s program as well. The fellowship program was really intriguing. Getting experience from pretty reputable institutions was appealing.”

Once his fifth year at Merrimack started, Holden hit the ground running.

“I really took advantage of my professors’ office hours,” he said. “I wanted to make sure I used my resources well and that I was absorbing everything I needed to know in my classes. I really enjoyed the integrated labs that combined lectures and hands-on learning.”

Through the fellowship program, Holden earned a spot as a contractor at the U.S. Army Research Institute for Environmental Medicine. There, he served as a primary author for a research paper on energy expenditure as it coordinates with height.

“Seeing my name get out there at conferences and in journals was an incredibly important experience,” he said. “It played an important role in getting me more opportunities after graduation.”

WHOOP was one such opportunity.

“I worked on implementing ECG, passive AFIB detection and blood pressure estimation features on the app,” he explained. “A lot of this is training algorithms that the engineers are building, but they need a wealth of data to train it appropriately. We make sure the data is representative of the people using these features.”

Now a Double Warrior, Holden is well equipped to take on any challenges the professional world throws at him.

“When WHOOP began developing VO2 max metabolic tests, it was a brand new thing that no one in the lab had worked on before,” he said. “I was able to raise my hand and say, ‘Actually, I know how to do this. I did it in my undergrad and during my fellowship — we’re good.’”

MERRIMACK COLLEGE

DAY OF GIVING



24 HOURS. ONE GOAL.

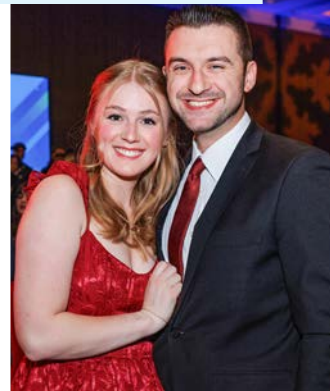
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04.09.2026



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

More than 1,000 alumni, donors, parents, faculty, staff and friends came together to ring in the Christmas season at Merrimack's annual Christmas Party. Held at the Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport, the evening was filled with festive cheer as guests reconnected and celebrated this beloved Merrimack tradition.





Together We Rise Reception

In August, alumni, parents and friends gathered at the Club at New Seabury in Mashpee for a summer reception with President Christopher E. Hohey, Ph.D., and an opportunity to welcome Merrimack's new athletic director, Joe Foley.



Harvest Hops at Riverwalk Brewing

Alumni and friends came together at Riverwalk Brewing in Newburyport for an afternoon of connection and craft brews featuring Merrimack beers: Mack Attack and Together We Can.

ALUMNI NEWS

WITNESSING CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

When he comes to campus to attend hockey games or spend time with his son, Sam, **JAY CRABTREE '92, P'26** is always taken aback by the Merrimack College of today, compared to the Merrimack College he attended as a student more than 30 years ago.

“When I’m on campus on weekends, I see so many more people than when I was a student,” Jay explained. “There are just so many more opportunities for students today, and there is a greater focus on being part of the culture within the institution.”

As a student, alumnus and parent of a student, Jay has had a front row seat to Merrimack College’s transformation in the ever-evolving higher education landscape. And the impact Merrimack had on Jay was so significant, he said if he had to go through the college application process again, Merrimack would be at the top of his list.

“I am a truly proud graduate of Merrimack College,” he said. “There is a special place in my heart for Merrimack, and I am just very proud of what is happening.”

Sharing that love with his son was not something Jay expected, as the College was not even on Sam’s initial shortlist for schools. As Sam has grown and found success during his undergraduate years, Jay’s love for his alma mater has only intensified.



“It is a community that cares,” Jay said as he reminisced about an interaction his wife, Becky, had off-campus with an employee. “The employee remembered Sam and asked how he was doing, and it is just that remembering and caring that makes Merrimack so special.”

His passion for Merrimack and the experience of navigating the college selection process were among the reasons Jay joined the College’s Parents Leadership Council, which seeks to strengthen Merrimack’s mission and reputation, and enhance the student experience overall through philanthropic leadership.

Jay says the breadth of today’s students’ backgrounds and experiences is truly fascinating compared to the makeup of the student body when he attended Merrimack.

“If you sit and chat with 10 students, you are very likely going to get 10 different stories,” Jay said. “And what brings them all together is this place that wants to make sure they are successful.”

To learn more about the Parents Leadership Council, please email giving@merrimack.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering the Rev. Kevin Francis Dwyer, O.S.A.

The Rev. Kevin Francis Dwyer, O.S.A., former Merrimack College Augustinian and teacher, died peacefully on Aug. 23, 2025. He was 89 years old.

During his more than 40 years at Merrimack College, he led the Department of Religious and Theological Studies from 1973 to 1978 and from 1989 to 1990, and taught hundreds of students during all those years in the classroom.

He also served as the archivist of the College from 1968 to 2002, and received an honorary doctorate from Merrimack College in 2007.

“Helping our students to mature as educated people of faith has been my passion, my goal and my vocation during my 44 years of teaching at Merrimack,” he said after receiving his honorary degree.



Fr. Kevin was born on April 18, 1936, in Boston, the son of Francis L. and Helen R. (Donovan) Dwyer. He had two sisters.

He was received into the Order of St. Augustine as a novice on Sept. 9, 1954, and after a year at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, New York, he professed first vows on Sept. 10, 1955. He professed solemn vows on Sept. 10, 1958, and was ordained to the priesthood on Feb. 3, 1962, in the Christ the Teacher Chapel, Merrimack College, by Richard Cardinal Cushing.

Fr. Kevin’s first assignment was to Saint Thomas Monastery and to Villanova University as a teacher from 1962 to 1963. In 1963, he was assigned to Merrimack College, where he spent the rest of his years of active ministry for the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.



The
Merrimack
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Strengthen Merrimack's future.**

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