



75TH COMMENCEMENT

CLASS OF 2025

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

MACE BEARER

Melissa “Mish” Zimdars, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate President
Associate Professor, Communication and Media

CROSS BEARER

Sarah Dionne
Dean of Students

THE GRADUATES

Led by Father Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D.
Vice President for Mission and Ministry

GRADUATE STUDENTS

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

THE FACULTY

THE DISTINGUISHED ASSEMBLY

Academic Deans
Honorary Degree Recipient and Distinguished Speaker
Board of Trustees
Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost
President

The audience is requested to stand if they are able during the Academic Procession, Invocation and National Anthem, and to remain in place until the Academic Procession leaves at the end of the exercises.

PROGRAM

PRESIDING

John "Sean" Condon, Ph.D.
*Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs
and Provost*

PROCESSIONAL

The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

INVOCATION

Kevin J. Lucey '89, P'24
Chair, Merrimack College Board of Trustees

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Audrey McGill '25 Accompanied by
The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

WELCOME

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President

A MESSAGE FROM MERRIMACK STUDENT LEADERS

Jandy Hernandez '25
Jillian Atwood M'25

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT AND DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

Sunita Williams
NASA Astronaut and U.S. Navy Captain, Ret.

AWARDS

Edward G. Roddy, Jr. Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award

Presented by John "Sean" Condon, Ph.D.
*Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs
and Provost*

2025 Merrimack Medal

Sarah Dionne
Dean of Students

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES AND PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President

CLOSING REMARKS

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President

BENEDICTION

Father Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D.
Vice President for Mission and Ministry

CLOSING OF THE EXERCISES

John "Sean" Condon, Ph.D.
*Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs
and Provost*

RECESSIONAL

Merrimack Anthem

Audrey McGill '25 Accompanied by
The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

MASTER'S DEGREE IN COURSE

Tess Abboud	Jennifer Grant	Francisco Rivera
Amanda Alcox	Itzel Guzman Dominguez	Vicki Robinson
Victoria Alfaro Duran	Katherine Hailson	Steffi Romano
Tabé-Ateke Ayuk	Jane Harrington	Mitchell Root
Justine Bastian	Elisha Hartzell	Elizabeth Sacco
Thomas Boyle	Thavary Hay	Stephanie Sartori
Connie Burianek	Latoia Haynes	Amanda Schiavone
Mitchell Degen	Samuel Heck	Joe Scott-Manga
Victoria Alfaro Duran	Jake Heerman	Margaret Silvestri
MacDonald Anakwe	Madalyn Hymowitz	Shane Singh
Jillian Atwood	Nicholas Iacovella	Katelyn Smalley
Tyler Backus	Carrie Ives	Jaeden Smith
Adam Bagni	Grant Jackson	Allison St.Onge
Michael Bashorun	Alyssa Keane	Lauryn Steed
Justine Bastian	Megan Keil	Julie Surabian
Isabella Beaton	Sean Kelley	Owen Tarpey
Alexa Bergeron	Lauren Kennedy	Kyle Teixeira
Barry Boriss	Jillian Krouse	Hay Thavary
Thomas Boyle	Olivia LeDuc	John Vets
Connie Burianek	Nicholas Lenon	William Walsh
Daniel Camelio	Christopher Levesque	Amira Williams
Cole Cameron	Raymond Lewis	Alison Williams
Hermengarda Catoquessa	Erin Lincoln	
Jacqueline Chianca	Olivia Lombardo	
Andrew Chung	Erin Madden	
Havilland Clark	Valeria Mancera-Saavedra	
Lauren Comeau	Wesley Matthews	
Alexander Conte	Jackson McCarty	
Michael Corley	Seamus McDonough	
Evan Cudmore	Olivia Miller	
Mitchell Degen	Meghan Monson	
Hannah Delaney	Mollie Morrison	
Michael Dellostritto	Michelle Moxley	
Madison Doherty	Reilly Murphy	
Scott Domineau	Maiyele Njuakom	
Colin Dooley	Colby Paolo	
Deborah Etyang	Bailey Parks	
Emmalee Foley	Jenna Peccia	
Nathaniel Frontiero	Meranda Peou	
Melanie Gaudet	Kajal Purohit	

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN COURSE

Benjamin Abdou	Abigail Caraglia	Emily Czarnecki
Stravensky Abelard	Emma Carr	Matthew Dacey
Bzunesh Abrha	Ivony Carrillo Palencia	Sophia Dandis
Joseph Accardi	Rose Caso	Christopher daSilva
Sara Acosta-Terrero	Griffin Castergine	Andrew Daume
Vanesa Aiello	Lucas Castro	Yasmin Davis
Angela Ambrogne	Carly Caswell	Nathan DeBruyckere
Cody Anderson	Sophia Catalano	Hannah DeKarski
Holly Angelone	Christine Catino	Annelise Delaney
Zachary Anson	Blake Cavallaro	Cassandra DeLegge
Marcus Antonelli	Justin Charak	Renee Deleon
Berania Arias	Gabrielle Chase	Tea Dellanno
Estelle Arseneau	Dawnisha Chavez	Mariia Diahilieva
George Athanasiadis	Andy Chen	Patricia Diaz Pena
Patrick Aucella	Tatum Cheney	Katherine DiBari
Sofia Augeri	Kelvin Cheridor	Iris Dilone Nunez
Odette Averett	Cassandra Chouinard	Richard DiMarzo
Isabel Bailey	Faith Clark	John Dollase
Jessica Barra	Sinceree Clarke-Diego	Anthony Dominici
Isabella Belisle	Joseph Coleman	Kyle Donahue
Lindsey Bell	Owen Collins	Rori Donaldson
Cassandra Benedyk	Ruby Collins	Addison Donovan
Haley Bergen	Alana Comeau	Morgan Donovan
Kaylee Blaisdell	Emily Concannon	Mykease Driggers
Ashley Bodenrader	Olivia Conlan	Jenna Dubrule
Marissa Borgesi	Peter Conner	Abigail Dunn
Anthony Borgonzi	Karin Cooney	Janelle Dunn
Angelina Botros	Cassandra Corcoran	Malik Edmead
Emily Bourassa	Mia Corrado	Sharon Ellis
Calandra Boutin	Erin Cosgrove	Gwenyth Faino
John Bowab	Bryan Costa	Thomas Falite
Clare Bowen	Lydia Craig	Paige Felton
Olivia Brooks	Carter Cress	Ashley Fernandez Vasquez
Emily Brouder	Jean Crocker	Alyse Festa
Daniella Buccheri	Brian Cronin	Vanessa Fillion
Elizabeth Buck	Ethan Cuggino-Zensky	Olivia Fils-aime
Aidan Buretta	Cameron Culpan	Kiley Flanagan
Yarianna Burgos	Abigail Cummins	James Fleming
Matthias Butin	Jenny Curran	Jacob Flynn
Alexis Byrne	Charlotte Cute	Norah Foley
Molly Campagnone	Olivia Cutler	Jack Forrest
Katie Cappello	Roxanne Cyrankowski	Yaritza Francisco

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN COURSE Continued

Alessandra Franzese	Caroline Howland	Junior Louis
Demonn Frazier	Amy Hoyt	Alondra Lozano
Henry Frizzell	Ellen Hubbard	Taylor Lucas
Emma Furtado	Adrian Ibeh	Kirsten Lynskey
Tamika Furtado-Rather	Melissa Jean Pierre	Dylan MacDougall
Cassandra Fusaro	James Jennings	Molly Manion
Alexandra Gajewski	Meghan Jeroszko	Margaret Martin
Noel Gallagher	Elizabeth Johnson	Giulia Martins Cavalcante
Dahlia Garcia	Michael Johnson	Evan Matzell
Jennifer Garvey	Allen Jordan	Makayla Mauricio
Nicholas Gera	Stephen Jovellas	Lucy McAllister
John Geraci	Britney Juuko	Logan McCabe
Brooke Gerry	Maria Kapsala	Meghan McCarthy
Meridith Ghizzoni	Erin Katzbek	Ally McDonald
Isabella Giannino	Alexander Keiver	Kyle McDonald
Aidan Gibbs	Madison Kelley	Ben McDonnell
M. Tucker Goldberg	John Kircaldie	Shawn McDonough
Jennifer Gonsalves	Kaitlin Koehler	Audrey McGill
Berkeley Gore	Hayley Kowalczyk	Devin McGovern
Rose Goyette	Kaitlyn Koza	Allison McKenna
Eleanor Grady	Emily Lac	John McLaughlin
Abigail Grossman	Dempsey Lajoie	Miyah Mega
Lydia Gugliuzza	Anthony Lampasona	Josalyn Melendez
Christopher Gwozdz	Ryan Landry	Sade Mendes
Jason Haase	Taylor Landurand	Renee Mickle
Sarah Haley	Gregory Lane	Alexandra Miller
Thomas Hall	John Lanzidelle	Donna Miller
Julia Hamilton	Avery Lapis	Gabrielle Miller
Avery Hansen	Mary Laprel	Isabella Minassian
Kae'la Harrigan	Rachel Lara	Dana Miquilena
Natalie Harwood	Brenna Lawlor	Casey Mitchell
Brianna Hasbany	Kailey Leclerc	Dima Mohsin
Megan Hayes	Bradley LeMasurier	Addison Molloy
Gina Haynes	Emma Leute	Curtis Moore
Jennifer Healey	Lauren Levesque	Nicole Morgan
Paige Herman	Henrik Lindeman	Dennis Moynihan
Jessica Hernandez	Joshua Linnehan	Madison Nagy
Lilia Hessasta	Olivia Llorens	Kihyuk Nam
Blake Hickey	Michael LoDato	Wyatt Newport
Katherine Hilliar	Rehana Lohar	Michaela Niceforo
Valerie Hobbs	Abigale Long	Isabella Nugent
Jennifer Howard	Jack Lopez	Madelyn O'Brien

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN COURSE Continued

Miles O'Brien	Liza Santerre	Jakob Wennik
Summer O'Rourke	Jonathan Santoro	Isabel Wetherbee
Alianna Olivier	Colin Sartini	Ariana White
Joely Ortiz	Prakruthi Sastry	Abigail Wilcox
Jeffrey Palermo	Sophia Scott	Kathryn Wilson
Sofia Palyan	Nadia Shah	Kathleen Woods
Riley Paskow	Sydney Shinopulos	Brian Wrenn
Emma Patch	Cullen Simes	Olivia Yandow
William Pearce	Ian Sipes	
Gregory Pelissier	Steven Smith	
Hannah Perham	Mikaela Sordillo	
Joseph Perkins	Angela Sorge	
Nathan Persampieri	Sumathi Sriram	
Domenic Picone	Jaylen Stinson	
Maxwell Pojednic	Ella Stolba	
Shania Polanco	Mia Sukeforth	
Caroline Pongratz	Audrey Sullivan	
Grayson Poole	Jenna Sunderland	
Angelina Porcaro	Bryce Sweetapple	
Gracie Proulx	Jasmine Syriac	
Thomas Purcell	Grace Talaska	
Faith Purvis	Madison Taveras	
Joycelin Quintana Sambolin	Carly Taylor	
Antonisa Renzi	Sara Thompson	
Isabella Ribeiro	Benjamin Thomson	
Eve Richards	Marjorie Tobin	
April Richardson	Jillian Trudeau	
Yeari Riehs	Dimitrios Tsoumbanikas	
Marcos Rivera	Jeffrey Tuttle	
Timothy Rivers	Lori Uvanitte	
Jackson Roderick	Kelli Vacirca	
Paoli Rodriguez	Yasmely Valdez	
Shelein Rojas	Dezerae Van Dam	
Hector Romero	Spencer Vari	
Liah Rosario	Bryce Vega	
Ajahn Rue	Tatiana Vicens	
Dillon Russell	Carlos Viteri	
Jonathan Rutkowski	Ian Wallace	
Nicholas Sablone	Maalese Wallace	
Gina Saccardo	Julia Watson	
Nicholas Salmon	Merle Weeks	
Carolina Santana	Graham Welch	

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT AND DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

SUNITA WILLIAMS

**NASA Astronaut and U.S. Navy Captain, Ret
Doctor of Humane Letters**

Sunita (Sun) L. Williams was selected as an astronaut by NASA in 1998 and is a veteran of three space missions. She has completed 62 hours and 6 minutes of total spacewalk time over the course of her career, the most of any female astronaut, and fourth on NASA's all-time list. Williams has logged 608 days in space over her three flights.

In June 2024, she became the first woman to fly on a flight test of an orbital spacecraft when she and Butch Wilmore launched aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft, arriving at the International Space Station on June 6. What was originally slated to be an eight-day mission became a nine-month stay on the ISS due to mechanical issues. Williams and Wilmore returned home in March 2025.

Williams received her commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy from the United States Naval Academy in May 1987. After a six-month temporary assignment at the Naval Coastal System Command, she received her designation as a Basic Diving Officer and then reported to Naval Aviation Training Command. She was designated a Naval Aviator in July 1989. She made overseas deployments to the Mediterranean, Red Sea and the Persian Gulf in support of Desert Shield and Operation Provide Comfort. She has logged more than 3000 flight hours in over 30 different aircraft.

Her first two space missions took place in 2006-07 and 2012. During those missions, Williams served as a flight engineer and conducted research and exploration aboard the ISS orbiting laboratory. She is also the first person to run a marathon in space.

She has received the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal. Williams holds a bachelor's from the U.S. Naval Academy and a master's from the Florida Institute of Technology.

DIPLOMA TRANSLATION

The translation of the Merrimack College diploma from Latin to English is as follows:

Merrimack College

To all reading this document

Greetings in the Lord

The President, Faculty and Trustees of Merrimack College

by virtue of properly completing required studies on the recommendation of the faculty

and by the authority vested in us

by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts confer on

name of student

the degree of

name of degree

and grant freely all rights, privileges and honors pertaining to that degree.

In witness thereof we place the seal of the College.

Given in North Andover in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

date of degree

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kevin J. Lucey '89, P'24 *Chair*

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., *President*

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Caitlyn M. Bosworth, Esq., *Assistant Secretary*

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Alfred Arcidi, Jr. '84, P'06, P'18, MP'17, H'21, GP'23

Michael P. Arcidi '85

John (Jack) T. Boyce '81, H'23

Bruce A. Bouchard '79

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Joanne Caruso Bentley '81

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Lynne Ann Chase '90, P'23

Rev. Kevin M. DePrinzio, O.S.A., Ph.D.

Francis "Ken" Duane '80, H'16

Michael J. Franco, Esq. '81, P'12

Rev. Francis J. Horn, O.S.A., J.C.D.

Dennis J. Leonard '77

Paul L. Mucci P'07

Rev. Arthur P. Purcaro, O.S.A.

Kevin R. Rhodes '91

Kevin J. Routhier '99

James E. Scammon '83

Patrick J. Sullivan

ABOUT MERRIMACK COLLEGE

One of only two Catholic Augustinian colleges in the United States, Merrimack College is a rising institution with a decade-long trajectory of growth and innovation. Merrimack is a selective, research-oriented, master's comprehensive institution with approximately 5,700 undergraduate and graduate students from 43 states and 42 countries, comprising schools of arts and sciences, engineering and computational sciences, nursing and health sciences, education and social policy, and business. The College's 220-acre campus is just north of Boston in North Andover, Mass.

MISSION AND VISION

OUR MISSION IS TO ENLIGHTEN MINDS, ENGAGE HEARTS, AND EMPOWER LIVES.

Inspired by the Catholic faith and the Augustinian tradition of seeking truth through inquiry and dialogue, our vision is to

- Prepare students to adapt creatively to tomorrow's realities through excellence in the liberal arts, sciences, and the professions;
- Build a community of scholars welcoming and respecting a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, beliefs, and perspectives;
- Cultivate the intellectual, moral, spiritual, physical, and personal awareness needed to make wise choices for life, career, and service;
- Encourage and support scholarly work that contributes to the wisdom on which society bases its decisions;
- Engage other educational institutions, industry, and agencies of social change in collaborative efforts fostering a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

THE SEAL OF MERRIMACK COLLEGE

Drawing on our rich history, the modern shield of Merrimack College reinterprets elements from the original 1947 college seal.

The shield includes four quadrants:

- The book with the words “Tolle Lege” (“take up and read”), the famous words connected with the conversion of Saint Augustine to Catholicism, proclaiming the College’s founding by the Order of Saint Augustine.
- Wavy pallets, to represent the “swift water” of the Merrimack Valley’s original Native Americans.
- The cross fleurette, from the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Boston, in which Merrimack College is located. The cross fleurette refers to the French ancestry of Bishop Cheverus, the first Bishop of Boston (1810–1823).
- The symbolism of our colors: blue for loyalty (and the cold, rippling waters of the Merrimack River) and gold for wisdom (also the color of the papacy).



THE CEREMONIAL MACE

The mace carried in academic processions derives from medieval times in England when an official was taking office. At that time, the mace was a formidable weapon and was held ready by the mace bearer to protect the dignitary. From the sixteenth century in England and since colonial days in America, the mace has become a symbol of academic office and is carried by a distinguished member of the faculty.

The Merrimack College mace has a young history. It was fashioned for the 1986 Commencement by Cistercian Monks of the Holy Rood Guild at Saint Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. The monks are renowned craftsmen and designers of ecclesiastical vesture.

The Merrimack College mace is thirty-six inches long and is made of black walnut. The front of the mace carries the College's hand-painted, gold-leafed seal. From the intricate coat of arms of the Order of Saint Augustine, the back of the mace is hand carved with an open book symbolizing the conversion of Augustine. On the left hand side of the book is a tongue of flame above a heart pierced with "the burning love of God." An elegantly simple cross adorns the top of the mace.

Since 1986, the Merrimack College mace has been carried by the Chief Marshal at Commencement.

THE CEREMONIAL CROSS

The processional cross is expressive of the Augustinian longing for unity of our minds and hearts in God. It was designed by the Augustinian Contemplative Nuns at the Monastery of Our Holy Savior In Leccetto, Tuscany, Italy. Small replicas of this cross are given to Merrimack students engaged in service to others through Service Learning and the Alternative Break Programs as well as to those who participate in MORE, the Pellegrinaggio en Italia, and other programs that foster self-awareness and spiritual growth.

REGALIA

The origins of academic dress lie in fourteenth century England. The buildings frequented by medieval scholars were often cold and damp; long gowns (particularly with hoods to protect tonsured heads) may have been worn more for warmth than fashion.

The distinctive gown set the student apart from his fellow citizens. As late as the Civil War, students at American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. Whatever the origin, academic regalia grew in diversity and splendor, with scholars displaying distinctive costume for different occasions and achievements. The result was a bewildering variety of designs.

An intercollegiate commission met at Columbia University in 1894 to establish a standard academic costume code, and over the years it has been revised by an official committee of the American Council on Education. The committee's prescriptions, while regulating, still allow for great pageantry at formal academic events.

From the cap, gown, and hood, it is possible to distinguish the institution from which the wearer was graduated, the field of learning in which the degree was earned, and the level of the degree—bachelor, master, or doctoral.

The distinguishing feature of the black mortarboard cap, standard at most colleges and universities in the United States, is the color of the tassel—black for the holder of a bachelor's or master's degree, gold for a doctor's degree or the governing officers of educational institutions.

The gown is normally black, and the gown's cut and trim indicate the level of the degree held. The bachelor's has long, pointed sleeves, while the master's has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, with the front part cut in an arc. The doctor's sleeves are bell-shaped, with three bars of velvet, and the gown is trimmed with velvet down the front as well. The hood tells the most about its wearer. The length of the hood and width of the binding vary according to degree. The hood is lined with the official colors of the college. The color of the hood's binding indicates the area of study in which the degree was granted. Students also wear other regalia, including cords signifying academic honors and stoles representing countries they studied in during their academic career.

At formal academic occasions, the President of Merrimack College also wears the Presidential Medal which incorporates the College seal.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE ANTHEM

Michael J. Rossi, Ph.D.
Rev. Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A.
Rev. Scott C. Ness, O.S.A.

Intro. *In unison*

O— Mer-ri-mack, how shall we hon-or you? With
mind and heart a - wa-kened to the truth. We shall build God's ci - ty in our -
selves and in our world, reach-ing out in ser-vice, our hearts a - fire with
love. The— rest-less quest for wis-dom in the com - pa - ny of friends,
calls us ev-er on - ward 'til in God our hearts find rest. Our— guides are faith and
rea - son on a path that yet un - folds, and come we will to wis-dom through
know-ledge formed in love. O— Mer-ri-mack, how shall we hon-or you? With
mind and heart a - wa-kened to the truth. We shall build God's ci - ty in our -
selves and in our world, reach-ing out in ser-vice, our hearts a - fire with love.



MERRIMACK
COLLEGE