



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

A Message from President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.

Dear Alumni,

We have entered the Christmas season — a time to rejoice in our family and friends, renew our spirits, and reflect on the great gifts we have received throughout 2016.

Christmas is, as we know, the day on which we celebrate the birth of Christ — and as Pope Francis reminds us, “Where God is born, hope is born.”

During your celebration of this hopeful and glorious time, please take a moment to consider all you have achieved this year, and the unique successes we have achieved as a community. We should all be proud of the life-changing work of our faculty, staff, students, trustees, alumni and friends, helping this community draw together and make tremendous strides in making Merrimack a truly outstanding place to learn, live and work.

Please also remember in your prayers our brothers and sisters for whom 2016 was a difficult time, with the faith that, through our faith and good works, we may all share in a better, happier 2017.

I wish you peace, love and joy during this season, and look forward with great hope to the coming year.

A very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year, and may God bless us all.

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President

Celebrating Together

Thank you to the more than 800 alumni, parents and friends of Merrimack College who joined us for the annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 2 at the Four Seasons in Boston! It was great to have so many members of our alumni community gathered together to kickoff the holiday season.

> [Christmas Party Photos](#)

Professional Development Retreat - Alumni Networking Opportunities

The O'Brien Center for Career Development will be hosting its second Professional Development Retreat of the year at the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center (Boston, Mass.), February 16 and 17. The program is designed for students to build emotional intelligence and skills to assist in professionalism, communication, and networking. If you are interested in participating in one of the various alumni networking components (morning, lunchtime and evening options available), please email alumrelations@merrimack.edu.

> [Learn More About the Professional Development Retreat](#)

Young Alumni Spotlight: MaryRose Mazzola '12

"During my freshman year at Merrimack, I worked at a shelter for battered teenage mothers. This experience deepened my interest in fighting domestic violence and led me to an internship with the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, which I received through Merrimack's Political Science Department. I also interned with the National Foundation for Women Legislators in DC and for then-Senator John Kerry in his Capitol Hill press office.

These opportunities taught me how complex and important good public policy is, and they also provided me with real world experience for after graduation. I worked as a Campaign Manager for State Senator Barry Finegold during my senior year at Merrimack, and I continued in that role after graduation. When he won, I served as a Legislative and Press Aide in his State House office and was his Political Director during his race for State Treasurer. I then attended the Harvard Kennedy School of Government to get my Master in Public Policy. I now serve as the Executive Director at the Boston Women's Workforce Council."

> [Read Full Alumni Spotlight](#)

An Update on *Together for Good*: The Campaign for Merrimack College

The *Together for Good* Campaign Committee recently convened for an update on the Campaign's progress. The highlight of the evening was hearing from student speaker Devin O'Reilly '19, captain of the football team, who told his moving story of overcoming adversity before transferring into Merrimack as a sophomore. Devin concluded with a powerful reminder of the impact of supporting Merrimack College:

"What Merrimack has been able to do for not only me but the people around me is truly amazing. What I believe this school is, and what this school can become, is bar none compared to any school in the nation. What this school has taught me is to wake up with clear eyes. In my life I once woke up with tear-filled eyes, but now my eyes are clear, with a vision, a powerful movement. My heart was once cold and shy, but now my heart is full, and that is all thanks to Merrimack. Together, I believe as a family of Warriors here tonight, if we as a whole can wake up with clear eyes, and with full hearts, together we shall not lose. No adversity, no troubles, can stop what my Merrimack family is here to accomplish. Together in the past, together now, together forever, blue and gold, with clear eyes and full hearts, we shall stand, together... for good..." -- *Devin O'Reilly '18*

***Together for Good* has raised an additional \$7 million since launching this October, bringing the total to \$35 million toward our \$50 million goal.**

> [Learn More About Together for Good](#)

Upcoming Events

February 4 | All Day | Women's Basketball Alumni Day | Merrimack College

We invite you to join us on campus for the day as we celebrate the great tradition of Merrimack College Athletics and the Warriors Women's Basketball Program.

> [Register](#)

February 4 | All Day | Men's Basketball Alumni Day | Merrimack College

We invite you to join us on campus for the day as we celebrate the great tradition of Merrimack College Athletics and the Warriors Men's Basketball Program.

> [Register](#)

February 16 & 17 | Professional Development Retreat | Boston, Mass.

If you are interested in participating in one of the alumni networking components (morning, lunchtime and evening components available), please email alumnirelations@merrimack.edu.

Save the Date

March 7-23 | Destination: Florida | Various Florida Locations

Merrimack College is once again looking forward to traveling to Florida in March 2017! Event registration will be open in early 2017.

> [More Information](#)

June 2-4 | Reunion Weekend | Merrimack College

Celebrating the classes of 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007 & 2012 with a *special invitation for Golden Graduates, classes of 1952-1967*. If you are interested in becoming involved with your Reunion Committee, please email alumnirelations@merrimack.edu.

> [More Information](#)

Alumni in the News

Evan Vadenais | Class of 2016

Vadenais won the City of Oaks Marathon in a time of 2:36:56.

> [Read More](#)

Vin Donovan | Class of 1980

Local author's latest book, a story of redemption, features surrounding communities.

> [Read More](#)

William Farrell P'12 | Class of 1977

When it comes to keeping the family business in the family, few have done it better than Farrell Funeral Home.

> [Read More](#)

News from Around Campus

Alumni Highlight Pfizer Networking Event

Nearly 20 Merrimack College students recently met with several alumni representatives from Pfizer's Andover campus to participate in a networking

Track & Field Shines Against DI Teams

Highlighted by two NCAA provisional qualifying marks on the men's side, the Merrimack College Warriors men's and #16 women's track & field

event organized by the O'Brien Center for Career Development.

> [Read More](#)

Senior Gives Helping Hand to S. Africa's Impoverished

Elizabeth "Lizz" Egan '17 spent a month this summer teaching disabled children how to walk and working in a garden growing food for the most impoverished of people in South Africa as part of Project Abroad.

> [Read More](#)

teams shined against Division I competition in a recent meet.

> [Read More](#)

Men's Basketball Downs #19 SNHU, 94-78, to Move into First in Division

Guided by Head Coach Joe Gallo '04, the Warriors knocked off #19 Southern New Hampshire to improve to 8-3 overall and 5-2 in the Northeast-10 Conference. The victory moved them into a tie for first in the Northeast Division.

> [Read More](#)