## MERRIMACK MAGAZINEL SIMMER 2025







20

### FEATURE The Evolution of Graduate

Expanding educational opportunities on the road to R2.

26

#### Market Watch

Celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the Mucci Capital Markets Lab. 28

#### Merrimack's Global Education

Beyond the walls of Merrimack, growing and expanding study abroad programming.



**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.

Email: communications@merrimack.edu

Mail: Merrimack Magazine, Box A-20, Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover, MA 01845

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"I am changing my career path to a more international business focus. I have a strong desire to work abroad someday and with what I have gained from this experience, I am confident I will be able to make that happen."

- Sarah Jenkins '26









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#### **MERRIMACK**

A Magazine for Our Alumni, Parents and Friends Summer 2025

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of our students, the dedication of our faculty and staff and the support of our alumni, Merrimack College will rise to a new level of excellence in the future that we will conceive in the present."

### Merrimack Education, Warrior Spirit, Augustinian Foundation

Dear Merrimack College Community,

When Pope Leo XIV appeared on the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square following his historic election to the papacy in May, he made a declaration that deeply resonated with all Merrimack College Warriors.

"I am a son of Saint Augustine, an Augustinian."

We, Merrimack College sons and daughters of Saint Augustine, learn, serve and grow each day instilled with Augustinian Catholic values. It is at the core of our enlightened minds, engaged hearts and empowered lives.

It has been a cornerstone over the past 15 years of the unprecedented success at Merrimack College. In this edition of the Merrimack Magazine, you will read about some of these successes, including the growth of our graduate education, the renewed popularity of study abroad and the celebration of the Mucci Capital Market Labs.

These advancements and opportunities in academics, experiential learning and student life are built on Augustinian Catholic values and demonstrate that we are on the precipice of the Merrimack College we have strived to become.

From record applications to the launch of innovative academic programs to a growing philanthropic culture to a newsworthy class of honorary degree recipients at Commencement 2025,

we are witnessing the achievements of initiatives first introduced nearly five years ago in our strategic plan, the *Agenda for the Future*.

Those achievements are transforming Merrimack College into a university, focused on groundbreaking and impactful research, world-class education and excellence in teaching, while remaining rooted in our longstanding commitment to an educational and spiritual experience that develops students who are valued, respected and embraced in their community.

And they do so with a Merrimack education, a Warrior spirit and an Augustinian foundation.

The laurels we celebrate in the pages of this publication are important, wonderful and a source of great pride, but we will not rest on them. With the scholarship of our students, the dedication of our faculty and staff and the support of our alumni, Merrimack College will rise to a new level of excellence in the future that we will conceive in the present.

God Bless.

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. President



GOAL: \$100 MILLION

The Campaign for Merrimack College

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.

\$66,256,675 MILLION RAISED

as of July 2025



**WILL YOU RISE WITH US?** 



#### **INSTAGRAM**

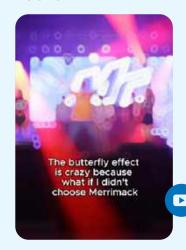


The spring color palette of MC



Getting into the Valentine's Day spirit by spreading some Macks of Kindness on campus

#### YOUTUBE



**Butterfly Effect** Every Warrior's story starts with one choice. #ChooseMerrimack #ButterflyEffect

#### FACEBOOK |-----



Merrimack's Office of Student Involvement is taking Community Coffee out into the campus community! In collaboration with the O'Brien Center for Career Development, students started their Thursday on the second floor of McQuade Library with breakfast, coffee and a side of career resources!

#### LINKEDIN



The inaugural **Warrior Women at** Work event hosted by the Merrimack College O'Brien Center for Career Development welcomed six Merrimack graduates, all of whom became friends on campus

and post-graduation evolved into successful professionals. Merrimack's next generation of female business leaders dined, networked and received sage professional advice about transitioning into the workforce from alumni Katie Walker '05, Melissa Barberio '05, Alison Gilroy '05, Lauren Mercurio '05, Kristen Melle '05 and Kasey Nupp '05.

.....

LEARN MORE: merrimack.me/25Work



## Merrimack College Receives Record Undergraduate Applications



Merrimack College received a record number of undergraduate applications this admission season, eclipsing the 18,000 mark for the first time in the College's history. This tops Merrimack's previous record of 14,070 applications set during the 2024–25 academic year.

"The record number of applications this year is a testament to the growing recognition of Merrimack's transformative impact," said Gianna Voccola, senior associate vice president for enrollment management. "It's clear that students are increasingly drawn to the opportunity to be part of a community that fosters growth, innovation and academic excellence."

In addition to the highest total of undergraduate applications received, the 2025–26 application pool features the largest increase in applicants from outside New England and the largest increase in students with a weighted GPA over 4.0. There were also applications from 1,200 high schools that Merrimack College had not received an application from previously.

Prospective students for 2025-26 are also very interested in some of Merrimack College's newest

and innovative academic offerings. The College received 1,500 applications for combined majors, up from 114 this time last year, and more than 630 applications were received for the Bachelor's in Humanities.

And with record applications comes record attendance at the College's Admitted Student Day (ASD). More than 1,100 students registered for one of three ASD events Merrimack hosted this spring semester, representing a 9 percent increase from last year.

The continued growing interest in Merrimack over the past decade has led to the College's most academically high-performing and motivated freshman classes.

From 2012 to 2023, the number of applicants to Merrimack with a 3.5 GPA or higher rose by an astounding 733 percent. From 2010 to 2020, Merrimack's enrollment has increased 102 percent. Students applying to Merrimack today are more regularly applying to schools such as Tufts, Boston University and Boston College, elevating the College into a new peer institution group.

"Merrimack has a much stronger brand and much stronger recognition in the marketplace," said Voccola. "There have been many smart decisions at the institutional levels that have allowed us to recruit and enroll the students we are." Merrimack College is expecting a near record number of freshman and transfer students, more than 1,150, for the 2025–2026 academic year.

### LIVE FROM LAWLER ARENA, IT'S MCTV

Merrimack College seniors Griffin Castergine '25, Jack Dollase '25 and Demonn Frazier '25 had their first taste of primetime during their live pregame coverage of a Merrimack men's basketball home game against Rider University on Feb. 28.

The production was part of the sports media internship program led by Merrimack College Media Center Director Chuck Scott. The program typically focuses on creating post-game recap videos for various sporting events, but this instance marked their first live production streamed on the Merrimack College TV (MCTV) YouTube channel.

"This was brought up to get the word out about what kind of things [students in the internship] can do if given the opportunities," explained Dollase.

As producer, Dollase was responsible for creating a script outline and rundown sheets, developing ideas for and editing prerecorded packages and helping set up equipment on the day of the shoot.

Castergine and Frazier, meanwhile, served as the on-air talent. The show featured two interviews — the first, conducted live by Frazier, was with assistant men's basketball coach Jimmy Langhurst.





## MERRIMACK COLLEGE COMMUNITY BUILDS BEDS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN IN NEED

The Merrimack College community once again celebrated the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. through the Augustinian tradition of service.

Around 110 students, faculty and staff gathered in the Sakowich Campus Center on Saturday, Jan. 18, to build 20 children's bed frames to benefit A Bed for Every Child (ABEC), a Lynn, MA-based nonprofit that works with families in need living in Middlesex and Essex counties.

"I built beds with A Bed for Every Child back in high school as well," said Bryan Costa '25, one of the event's student organizers. "They have it all down to a science."

This marks the second year Merrimack partnered with ABEC for the College's MLK Day service event. The nonprofit supplied the wood and tools while the Warriors supplied the elbow grease.

**Fun Fact** Merrimack College undergraduate and graduate students come from 43 states and 42 countries.





## Merrimack College and Northern Essex Community College Sign Joint Admissions and Transfer Partnership Agreement

Merrimack College and Northern Essex Community College earlier this year announced a new joint admissions and transfer partnership agreement.

The agreement allows students who receive their associate degree from NECC to seamlessly transfer to Merrimack College to pursue their bachelor's degree. Students can also opt in to simultaneous admission to NECC and Merrimack, with NECC students receiving priority for Merrimack merit scholarships.

"Now more than ever, we must ensure that any student who dreams of earning an associate's degree and bachelor's degree can do so," said Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "And this agreement will make that dream more accessible to more students. We know firsthand the transformative impact higher education can have on its students and the communities they go on to serve."

During the event, President
Hopey also announced that
NECC students who transfer
to Merrimack College after
they earn their associate's
degree will receive up to a
\$10,000 scholarship, or a
\$5,000 scholarship if they
enroll in the Bachelor in Humanities
program.

Merrimack College and NECC have enjoyed a long-standing partnership focused on accessibility and



opportunities for learners in the Merrimack Valley and beyond. Over the past five years alone, about 400 NECC students have transferred to Merrimack College.



#### MERRIMACK COLLEGE WELCOMES THREE NEW MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This summer Merrimack College will welcome three new members to the Board of Trustees, individuals who boast deep ties to the College and a breadth of expertise that will be integral to advancing Merrimack's upward trajectory.

Michael K. Crowe '92, H'17, P'17, Richard Gallant H'15, P'24 and Carmen Scarpa P'17 were elected during the Board's June meeting. All three began their terms on July 1.

"I am thrilled to welcome these three accomplished individuals to the Board of Trustees and I look forward to working with them to continue the College's transformative success," said Chairman Kevin Lucey '89, P'24. "They have already been deeply involved in the Merrimack community and are wonderful supporters of the College's mission."

#### Michael K. Crowe '92, H'17, P'17



An entrepreneur with extensive insurance and technology experience, Michael Crowe has served as CEO of several well-known companies that he led from the start-up phase through acquisition.

He is currently a strategic advisor at Ametros, where he served as chief corporate development officer from March 2021 to January 2025.

This will be Crowe's second time as a Merrimack College trustee, having previously served from 2009 to 2018, including two years as chairman. He also served as co-chair of the Together for Good Campaign and on the College Leadership Council. Crowe is currently on the Merrimack Athletics Board of Advisors. He and his wife Kerridan Crowe made a lead campaign gift during the Together for Good Campaign to name Crowe Hall.

He received his Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University Law School and his bachelor's degree from Merrimack College.

#### Richard Gallant H'15, P'24



An entrepreneur with years of financial and consulting experience, Richard Gallant began his career at Ernst & Young, providing financial consulting services to small and medium-sized companies.

Gallant is known in the hockey industry for his vision in creating Islanders Hockey, LLC. One of the premier development and

competitive hockey programs in New England, the Islanders have more than 750 players competing in leagues around the region.

In 2012, Merrimack College and the Islanders formed a partnership that saw the development and construction of Gallant Rink in the Merrimack Athletics Complex.

He served as co-chair of the *Together for Good* Campaign's Competing for Good committee and currently serves on the Merrimack College Athletics Board of Advisors. He was elected into the Merrimack College Athletics Hall of Fame in 2017.

Gallant received his MBA and Master of Science in Accounting from New York University and a bachelor's degree from Colgate.

#### Carmen Scarpa P'17



Carmen Scarpa is a founding partner of Spring Lake Equity Partners. Prior to founding Spring Lake, Scarpa served as a partner in Tudor Investment Corporation's private equity group, the predecessor to Spring Lake, since 1996.

He has focused on growth companies in the software, digital media, business services and

financial technologies sectors. He currently sits on the boards of Astadia, Forefront Telecare, NetBase Quid, Noodle and One Door.

He received his MBA from Harvard Business School and his bachelor's degree from Harvard.





## SUPPORT TRADITION. SHAPE TOMORROW.

At Merrimack College, every story, every success and every step forward is built on a foundation of generosity. The Merrimack Fund is the cornerstone of that tradition — supporting innovation, enriching the student experience and ensuring that our mission endures for generations to come.

#### **EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.**

Your gift fuels academic excellence, student scholarships, campus life and the spirit of our vibrant, values-driven community. It's not the amount — it's the commitment.

#### **EVERY YEAR MATTERS.**

Annual giving provides consistent support. Year after year, loyal donors sustain the College's momentum, supporting generations of Merrimack students.

#### YOUR IMPACT IS IMMEDIATE - AND LASTING.

When you give to The Merrimack Fund, you directly influence lives today while honoring the legacy of those who came before. You help prepare tomorrow's leaders—guided by purpose and compassion.



Give today. Renew our tradition. Strengthen Merrimack's future.





#### STUDENT PROFILE

#### HER CAMPUS CLUB PRESIDENT BRINGS CREATIVITY TO MERRIMACK

**Addison Molloy '25** came to Merrimack College looking for connections. This spring, she graduated after creating one of the largest student clubs on campus.

Molloy, a communications major with a minor in English, brought Her Campus, the online magazine created for and by college-aged women, to Merrimack during her sophomore year. Since its launch, Her Campus Merrimack has grown from 10 members to more than 100.

"There was an interest on campus for another writing outlet," she said.

On top of serving as club president, Molloy wrote at least two articles per semester.

"I really like writing personal essays, book reviews and pieces on other people," she said. "Really, it's anything that inspires me at the moment." In fact, Molloy encouraged her writers to express themselves through their writing in a similar fashion. Students are allowed to write whatever they want as long as it's nonfiction.

Her Campus Merrimack posts about four articles a week and hosts at least two events per month.

"It's so rewarding when you put yourself out there and find success," Molloy said. "You always think that there's a chance that you could fail, but it feels so good to be welcomed by the community. The success [of Her Campus at Merrimack] feels like it's going to be long-standing after we're gone."



▶ Fun Fact Her Campus is an international organization at 400 colleges that feature an online magazine, targeting female college students.





## Commencement 2025 Honorary Degree Recipients and Keynote Speakers

**Merrimack College's Commencement** 2025 represented one of the most renowned groups of honorary degree recipients and distinguished speakers in the College's history.

The five accomplished individuals, who addressed Merrimack's 2,200 graduates at school-specific ceremonies on Thursday, May 15, and Friday, May 16, boast local connections and astronomical achievements.

This year's honorees were Sunita Williams, NASA astronaut and U.S. Navy captain (retired); Carol Curtin, professor emerita at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School: Joe Preston '84, P'17, president and CEO of New Balance; Carolyn Kirk P'19, CEO of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative; and Kelley Tuthill, president and CEO of Catholic Charities Boston.

"We are honored to recognize this incredibly accomplished group at Commencement 2025," said Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "From the far reaches of the cosmos to the feet of worldclass athletes to the care and support of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to the technology and AI sectors of Massachusetts to the communities of Greater Boston, this year's honorary degree recipients' achievements not only embody Merrimack's Augustinian Catholic values but also serve as tremendous examples for our Class of 2025."



#### **SUNITA WILLIAMS** NASA Astronaut and U.S. Navy Captain, Ret.

Sunita "Suni" 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 and retired U.S. Navy captain Barry "Butch" Wilmore became the first crew to flight test NASA's new orbital spacecraft, the Boeing Starliner, arriving at the International Space Station on June 6. What was originally slated to be an eight-day test flight mission became a nine-month stay on the ISS due to mechanical issues. Williams and Wilmore returned home in March 2025.



#### **CAROL CURTIN, PH.D.**

Professor Emerita, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

Carol Curtin, Ph.D., LICSW, is a professor emerita in the departments of family medicine and community health and psychiatry and the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

Her primary affiliation is with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center at the medical school. She also maintains a faculty appointment at the Moakley Center for Public Management at Suffolk University.

Dr. Curtin has over 40 years of experience working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and psychiatric disorders and their families in a variety of settings and using a variety of clinical modalities. Originally trained as a clinical social worker, she has worked and directed programs in clinical, academic and research settings.



#### **JOE PRESTON '84, P'17** President and CEO, New Balance

Joe Preston is president and CEO of New Balance, a \$7.8 billion global sportswear brand with more than 12,000 associates and 3,200 retail locations worldwide. Privately held New Balance is recognized for its values-led culture and long-standing commitment to domestic manufacturing.

Preston is a dynamic and accomplished executive with a track record of strong leadership and an innate understanding of the global consumer retail and manufacturing industry.

He began his career at New Balance in 1995 and has 30 years of experience in the footwear and apparel industry, where his success has emanated from leveraging innovation and insights on today's consumer to drive unparalleled growth in challenging times. His tenure at New Balance includes seven years in international roles and a decade spent overseeing the company's commercial business, affording Preston firsthand experience with every aspect of product creation from design to manufacturing to marketing and merchandising.



#### **CAROLYN KIRK P'19** CEO, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative

Carolyn A. Kirk has served as CEO of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative since February 2019. Kirk has earned a reputation as a fierce advocate for the state's tech and innovation sector by building strong partnerships across industry, academia and government.

She oversees a team of almost 90 employees, more than 60 percent of whom are women. In 2024, Kirk was ranked No. 72 in the Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts, a list created by The Women's Edge and published in the Women & Power issue of The Boston Globe Magazine.

Under Kirk's leadership, MassTech has spearheaded investments statewide and regionally across several critical industries including advanced manufacturing, bluetech/marinetech, cybersecurity, digital health, fintech, robotics and quantum computing.

Notably, in 2023, Kirk steered the agency through a highly competitive process that secured \$19.7 million to establish the Northeast Microelectronics Hub (NEMC), a regional U.S. Department of Defense Microelectronics Commons Hub funded through the federal CHIPS and Science Act. And in 2024, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey signed the Mass Leads Act, which entrusted Kirk and MassTech with \$100 million to establish the Massachusetts Al Hub.

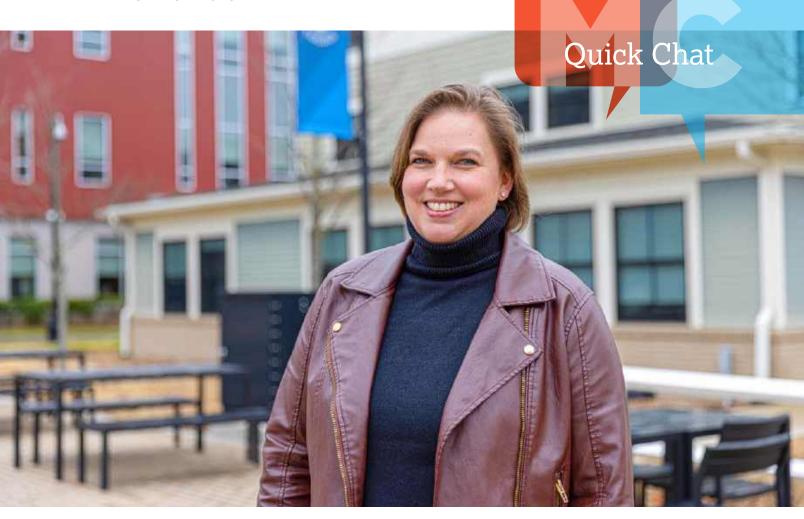


#### **KELLEY TUTHILL, ED.D.** President and CEO. Catholic Charities Boston

Kelley Tuthill, Ed.D., was appointed president and CEO of Catholic Charities Boston in 2024. In her role, she develops the vision and strategic plan for the \$50 million agency and works closely with leaders and policymakers across key organizations to advance Catholic Charities Boston's mission to welcome and serve all those in need with dignity and respect.

A seasoned fundraiser, her team has achieved notable successes under her leadership in securing major gifts from private donors and foundations and raising \$1.5 million at its 2024 annual fundraiser, more than double the previous year. She led the agency's response to the humanitarian crisis stretching from the nation's border to Boston, working with Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey's administration to expand agency shelter capacity by 130 percent and open two new facilities.

Prior to being appointed in her current post, Dr. Tuthill served as chief operating officer, overseeing advancement, government and community relations, human resources, legal and marketing and communications. Her leadership has been pivotal to the agency's aspirations to generate more resources for programs, strengthen the brand and improve business functions.



## WHAT IS YOUR

### **FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS**



Kevin Salemme '95 **Media Center** - Chris Brieva '28



Sparky's - Rajahan Cooper '26



Fit and Rec gym - Katherine Caldwell '26



The Sakowich Campus Center - Kelsey Atkinson '27

Dorie Mansen serves as the associate vice president for mission and ministry and previously worked as director of the Austin Scholars curriculum. She has spent her academic career exploring the historical aspects of religion and organizing community service and engagement programs. She previously served as the director of the Austin Scholars curriculum.

How did you find your passion in studying religion from an academic standpoint?

I went to public high school and one of my favorite classes was world religions, which was offered through the social studies department. I fell into biblical studies again through my studies at Boston College. I realized that studying ancient history and ancient literature was what I was most passionate about.

What brought you to Merrimack College and the Austin

One day, I was pondering and discerning what my next steps were professionally. That night, the priest with whom I was traveling received a phone call from someone at Merrimack College asking if I might be interested in working with the Austin Scholars. That was one of those moments where I felt like the Holy Spirit hit me with a sledgehammer.

• How would you describe the Austin Scholars program?

Austin Scholars is really unique in higher education. We tend to compartmentalize our academic, community service, spiritual and professional lives. Austin Scholars is really a hallmark of holistic student formation at Merrimack because it acknowledges that we are not compartmentalized people.

What is your favorite part about working with the students in Austin Scholars?

What I find remarkable is when students have that aha moment. They realize what they're learning in the classroom is informing what they're experiencing at service. They realize it's changing who they are and how they want to be in the world.

Fun Fact Dorie Mansen was the recipient of the 2025 Edward G. Roddy Jr. Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, presented annually at Commencement.



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



**Honors Commons** - Julia Angelo '28



Kevin Salemme '95 Media Center - Matt O'Connor '27



The Hub - Addison Molloy '25



**Merrimack Athletics Complex** - Emma Dolan '28

**Welcome to Your New** 

# HOMECOMING AND ALUMNI WEEKEND, WARRIORS

An enhanced Homecoming and Alumni Weekend on Oct. 3-5, 2025, will feature new and one-of-a-kind fan experiences to celebrate the rise of Merrimack College and Warrior athletics.



LIVE MUSIC AMPUS TOURS

KIDS ENTERTAINMENT REUNIONS



For Homecoming details, visit: www.merrimack.edu/homecoming

Favorite traditions, new memories and Warrior pride will swell during Merrimack College's enhanced Homecoming and Alumni Weekend this fall.

More than 15,000 people are expected on campus Oct. 3–5 to reconnect with old classmates, celebrate the best of Merrimack and cheer on student-athletes. Anchored by the football team's home game against Robert Morris University on Saturday, Oct. 4, at Duane Stadium, Homecoming and Alumni Weekend will feature familiar festivities, new events and one-of-a-kind pregame experiences.

Beginning this fall, Homecoming, Reunion and Alumni Weekend will bring together our most cherished traditions with the vibrant energy of Homecoming festivities. This reimagined weekend welcomes every Warrior back to campus to reconnect with classmates, engage across generations and experience the energy of Merrimack in the fall — alive with students, families and unmatched school spirit. From tailgates and alumni gatherings to family-friendly fun, there is something for everyone — and endless memories and new traditions waiting to be made.



#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

Noon Field Hockey vs. New Haven

**4 p.m.** Explore Campus with Admissions Ambassadors

4:30 p.m. **NEW** Alumni Cocktail Reception

5:30 - 8 p.m. NEW Macktoberfest and Decades at Duane Stadium Food Truck Fest, Pop-ups by decade for alumni, live music, screening on Duane Stadium of the Men's Ice Hockey vs. UMass Lowell, fireworks, kids entertainment and much more!

8:30 p.m. Augie's Late Night

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

8:30 a.m. Tailgate lots open

**8:30 a.m. NEW** "Warrior Path" opens Live music, bar, food, entertainment and more!

9 - 10 a.m. Parent, Family & Alumni Reception

**9 a.m. - 12 p.m. NEW Tailgate Toast** Bloody Mary & Mimosa Bar

10 a.m. MackTalk: The Future of Merrimack Athletics

11 a.m. MackTalk: Celebrating the First Augustinian Pope

11 a.m. NEW Game Day Kick-Off - Hosted by MCTV

1:00 p.m. Football vs. Robert Morris

7 p.m. Family Big Prize Bingo

Schedule subject to change



Secure your tailgating passes and tickets for Homecoming, Reunion and Alumni Weekend. Visit www.merrimack.edu/homecoming. Don't miss your chance to be part of one of the most exciting weekends on campus!





Graduate education at Merrimack
College has expanded exponentially
in the past decade, establishing
the bedrock for Merrimack's
transformation from a liberal arts
school to a research university.



#### New Programs Launching Fall 2025:

- » Ed.D. Educational Leadership
- » MBA (9 concentrations)
- » M.S. Speech and Language Learning (SLP)
- M.Ed. nonprofit
   Management &
   Community Engagement

The first degrees bestowed by Merrimack College in 1951 were in fields synonymous with a baccalaureate, liberal arts education: religion, philosophy, English and history.

Presenting diplomas at that June 3 ceremony on Sullivan Quad, the Rev. Vincent McQuade, O.S.A., Merrimack's founding president, could not have fathomed the levels of academic degree the College would one day award.

Today, alongside the baccalaureate studies that remain at the core of Merrimack's educational mission, Warriors earn master's degrees in applied chemistry, data science, athletic training, nursing, spirituality and soon speech-language pathology. And before the next decade, Merrimack College will award its first doctoral degree.

The expansion of Merrimack's graduate education, particularly over the past 10 years, is central to the College's unprecedented, transformative growth. A more significant commitment to graduate education has led to increased enrollment, further integration of basic and applied research, less dependence on undergraduate revenues and an enhanced reputation for the College.

"The growth and development of the graduate programs at Merrimack College fundamentally strengthens the institution," says John "Sean" Condon, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. "We have built these programs upon a core piece of Merrimack's identity of giving our students the skills to thrive in their careers and reach their full potential."

The numbers speak for themselves when it comes to the growth of Merrimack's graduate education.

In 2012, 162 of Merrimack's 167 graduate students were enrolled in the School of Education and Social Policy. By 2024, all six of Merrimack's schools boasted at least 100 graduate students. Enrollment for graduate education was 453 in 2015. Today, it stands at more than 2,500 students (a 450 percent increase) enrolled in more than 30 graduate programs that span in-person and online modalities.



"Bringing us all together offers an opportunity to increase interprofessional communications and support among faculty, to strengthen the training we provide to graduate students, and to increase our impact in meeting the needs of individuals, families and communities within society."

- Michael Mobley, Ph.D., academic dean and director of the Graduate School of Counseling and Social Work

Continuous, strong growth of graduate education to ensure Merrimack's future success was a key initiative in the College's strategic plan, the Agenda for the Future. Particularly, expanded graduate education would serve as the foundation on which Merrimack would build its plan to become an R2 classified institution by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education.

"It has helped to put us in a category to now reach for that R2 Carnegie classification and become a national research university," says Condon. "Without the graduate growth, we would not be in a position to make this leap."

As part of the expansion, Merrimack continues to enjoy numerous firsts in graduate education. Fall will bring two historic moments in the College's history: the launch of the first doctoral program and the launch of the first school dedicated exclusively to graduate education.

#### **New Graduate School**

The connective tissue of the three programs that comprise Merrimack's first school dedicated solely to graduate studies - clinical and mental health counseling, social work and school counseling — mirrors the foundation of the College's Augustinian values, explained the school's inaugural academic dean.

"In terms of bringing these programs together under one roof, it is because at the heart of each of them is a focus on establishing supportive, therapeutic and caring relationships," Dean Michael Mobley said. "The students who graduate from our programs will go on to help individual clients, students and families set and achieve goals based on the type of change they desire in their lives."

Merrimack's Graduate School of Counseling and Social Work will open this fall, reinforcing the central role graduate education has in shaping the College's academic identity.

These already existing programs boast more than 500 students collectively. They also tell the story of how online education provides greater access to students and brings the Merrimack brand to new learners.

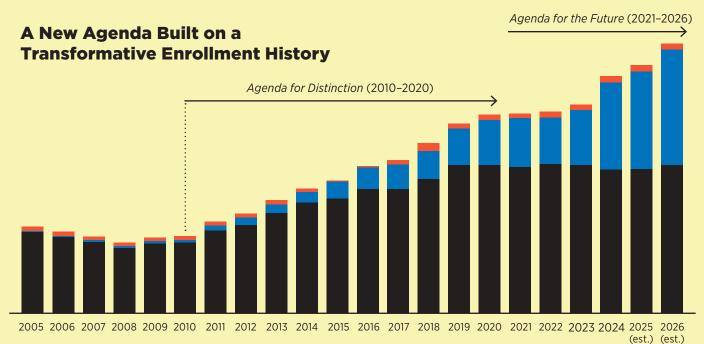
In just the past few years, all three programs have seen tremendous enrollment growth, thanks in part to online offerings. From fall 2022 to fall 2024, clinical mental health online enrollment went up more than 500 percent, while school counseling experienced a 78 percent increase in online enrollment from 2024 to 2025.

"Mental health counselors, social workers, and school counselors each possess skills to support their clients' needs and growth," said Mobley.

Mobley, previously the director of the clinical mental health counseling program, noted that because the programs are already established, his focus the past few months has been fostering a culture for the new school and identifying potential synergies between curricula and programs.

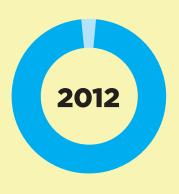
"I have been thoughtful and intentional about imagining possibilities for our school culture," said Mobley. "Bringing us all together offers an opportunity to increase interprofessional communications and support among faculty, to strengthen the training we provide to graduate students, and to increase our impact in meeting the needs of individuals, families and communities within society, especially those within

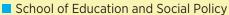
## GROWIII



■ Undergraduate degree-seeking ■ Graduate degree-seeking ■ Non-degree seeking

### **Growth in Graduate Student Enrollment by School**



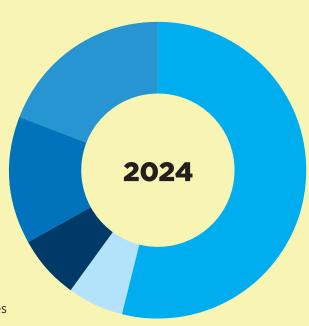


School of Arts and Sciences

School of Engineering and Computational Sciences

■ Girard School of Business

■ School of Nursing and Health Science





450%

INCREASE IN GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN THE PAST 10 YEARS **30**+

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS** 

**2,500** 

ENROLLED GRADUATE STUDENTS IN 2024

the Merrimack Valley, North Shore, as well as across the commonwealth of Massachusetts and beyond."

And in keeping with the College's aspirations, Mobley noted that enhancing faculty research and providing research opportunities for students will be priorities at the new school. There are also plans to explore doctoral programs, but the designation of offering Merrimack's first doctorate goes to the School of Education and Social Policy.

#### **Doctor of Education**

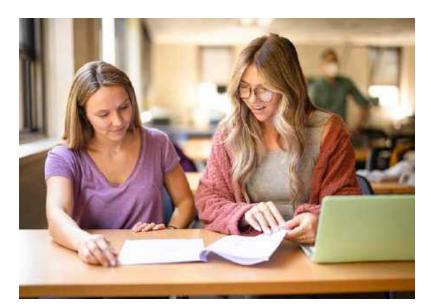
With Merrimack's decades-long commitment to teaching the next generations of teachers, supporting new teachers and surveying teachers' career satisfaction, it should come as no surprise that the College's first-ever doctoral program will be in education.

Following approval on April 24 by the New England Commission of Higher Education, Merrimack College will offer a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) beginning in fall 2025. It marks a significant achievement in Merrimack's ongoing mission to enhance its academic excellence and research endeavors.

Discussion about an Ed.D. program began in early 2020, explained Susan Marine, program director and professor in the School of Education and Social Policy. Plans were put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic but began in earnest as the College saw increases in graduate enrollment and started its pursuit of R2 classification.

"It felt like the right time to capitalize and build on that momentum," Marine explained.

The Ed.D. curriculum will focus on developing skilled education practitioners, with coursework including case studies and problem-based research. While most courses





#### **Future Doctoral Degrees:**

#### **UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

- » Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular **Biology and Biochemistry**
- » Doctorate in Applied Engineering and Computational Sciences

#### **PROPOSED**

- » Ph.D. in Nutrition and Population Health
- » Ph.D. in Neuroscience
- » Psy.D. in Counseling Psychology

will be offered asynchronously. Marine noted that the program will have three-day, on-campus residencies twice a year, and there will be regular connection opportunities for students, faculty and program leadership.

"It is designed for anyone who wants to advance their skill set, be a transformative leader, conduct meaningful research and be strategic in their problem-solving," said Marine. "Students want flexibility. They want the convenience to do the work whenever it works for them because they are working professionals. They want information, knowledge and coursework that helps them feel ready to face the challenges of the 21st-century classroom, agency and organization."

Marine acknowledged the collaboration among the School of Education and Social Policy faculty to get this program off the ground, highlighting their collective desire to build a degree for practitioners across the education field. She also

> explained that because of the program's focus on direct application of skills and practice, as well as a strong community focus, they believe the program will be attractive to those who work in the human services field.

> "Our plan for the long term is to have our doctoral students serve as research assistants for our faculty," Marine said. "To have people who are already skilled practitioners supporting faculty research endeavors is going to be a game changer for the College."

The program's first cohort will be about 20 students. It is expected that students will take about three years to complete the program, meaning the first Doctor of Education degree at Merrimack College will be awarded in 2028.

More than 75 years after Fr. Vincent McQuade presented the first undergraduate degree.



### The Merrimack College Mucci Capital Markets Lab, which just celebrated its 10th anniversary, bridges finance theory with practice for Merrimack students.

Stock tickers are flashing bright green and red numbers. TVs switched on to CNBC and Fox Business hum softly in the background. Students are click-clacking away on computer keyboards. Despite all this commotion in Merrimack College's Mucci Capital Markets Lab, Saketh Hegde '26 remains focused on his Bloomberg Terminal.

"I'm working on some last-minute assignments for my international finance class," said the finance major.
"I use the Mucci Lab in all my classes and projects. I also like to go in my free time just to keep up with the markets."

Across the room, Jack Bondhus '25, portfolio manager of the Merrimack Alternative Investments Fund, researches new ways to implement Al tools for more refined stock analysis.

"I've spent more time here than anywhere else on campus," he said. "Working as a lab assistant here played a significant role in helping me secure an internship and full-time offer at Fidelity Investments."

This is a typical day in the Mucci Lab, located in the Girard School of Business. Its 24 terminals simulate a professional trading floor to offer students hands-on experience in Bloomberg, Morningstar and Capital IQ technologies.

"It bridges the theory with the practice," said Mary Papazian, Mucci Lab's founding director, "and it offers hands-on learning with the latest and greatest technology. I feel that students learn and retain more if they're actually doing."

This past April, Merrimack's Rogers Center for the Arts was buzzing louder than the New York Stock Exchange as it celebrated the Mucci Lab's 10th anniversary. Current students, alumni and various business professionals spent the evening networking and witnessing the labs impact.

"Everyone really loves the Mucci Lab — students are thankful for the tools, experiences and knowledge. A lot of representatives from different companies were coming up to me and asking, 'Who's graduating? We're hiring.' That night, I felt like we were doing something good," Papazian said after the event.

Midway through the event, guests heard presentations from the portfolio student managers from Merrimack's three investment funds: Equity, Fixed Income and Alternative Investments.

"Just two weeks ago, we got back from our annual trip to New York," said Kaylie Sheffield '25, chief economist and portfolio manager of the Fixed Income Fund, during her presentation. "We connected with many alumni who work at some of the biggest investment banks in New York City. We are very grateful for the opportunity to get some valuable insights into the industry through this amazing network the Mucci Lab has created for us."

Afterwards, Paul Mucci P'07, a Merrimack trustee and the lab's namesake, took to the stage.

"I've seen Mary's tireless and endless dedication to the lab and to the students," Mucci said. "I've seen how she works with students, builds their confidence, develops their abilities and challenges them to be their best. She improves the lab by constantly bringing in new ideas."

Papazian came to Merrimack in 2012 with more than 20 years of banking experience. She was previously an adjunct professor at Harvard University's Graduate School of Management.

"When I arrived at Merrimack, we didn't have experiential learning," she noted. "We were lacking in the presentation, stock pitching and evaluation skills, so I helped launch the College's three funds and the lab. I believe we prepare the students for the real world. We give them the experiential learning they need."

The results speak for themselves. In 2022, the Equity Fund placed third in the Core Portfolio Division at the Global Asset Management Education (GAME) Forum, the largest studentrun finance conference in the world. The following year, Fixed Income won second place in the Fixed Income Division.

"Alumni will constantly call me or write to me when they get a new job," Papazian said. "Because they could do a certain project or articulate a certain skill during a presentation, they were able to get hired. I have students write and present like they're in the real world. When you come to my class, it's like you're going to work."

Still, there's plenty of room for play in the lab. All students are welcome to stop in, check their stocks and chat finance with other students. The lab is open until 9 p.m. seven days a week, something Papazin says is unlike labs at other universities.

"It's a great place to meet people with similar interests," said Jeffrey Holton '27, a member of the Merrimack Investment Club. "Being in the lab has broadened my horizons to people I would have never met before on campus."

Faculty members also love the lab, as it aids in their professional research.

"I've been actively using the Mucci Lab in my research on corporate misconduct, CEO decision-making and pharmaceutical industry litigation," said Omer Unsal, associate professor of finance. "The lab's access to rich legal and financial data, particularly on lawsuits, product recalls and regulatory issues, has allowed me to examine how leadership backgrounds influence firm outcomes."

Unsal says the lab comes in handy when crafting a curriculum.

"Students use real case data to analyze disclosure practices, risk exposure and firm performance," he explained. "The Mucci Lab has been a tremendous asset for both faculty and students, providing tools that support rigorous academic research and hands-on learning."

After 10 years, Papazian said she's still in awe of what students can do with the tools available in the lab.

"I recently taught the Intro to AI class in the lab and it was the most fascinating class that I ever taught," she said. "This class had all different majors and ages. By the end, they were building chatbots and large language models. It's amazing what you can do when you give the students the tools to put theories into practice."







Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the College has worked to grow and transform its study abroad program.

## **MERRIMACK'S** GLOBAL EDUCATION

Sometimes, it takes a trip around the world on a cruise ship to put things into perspective.

Just ask Sarah Jenkins '26, a business major with a concentration in marketing. Since participating in Semester at Sea during the spring 2025 semester through Merrimack's study abroad program, she's been rethinking her entire career trajectory.

As part of the program, Jenkins visited Asia (Vietnam, Malaysia and India), Africa (Kenya, South Africa, Ghana and Morocco) and Europe (Spain and Germany).

"This program opened my eyes to the wide variety of different jobs the world has to offer," she said. "I am changing my career path to a more international business focus. I have a strong desire to work abroad someday and with what I have gained from this experience, I am confident I will be able to make that happen."

This experience would not have occurred without Global Merrimack, the College's study abroad office. Simona Sharoni, dean of international initiatives and global engagement, is constantly assessing and building networks with

higher education institutions around the world. And she is not content with iust a Zoom check-in — Sharoni needs to see the institutions for herself.

"I visited dozens of institutions to identify the ones best aligned with Merrimack College's mission, curriculum and the type of services and support our students and their parents expect," she said.

To date, Sharoni has worked with nine partner institutions to tailor semesters abroad specifically around degree tracks at Merrimack, from working in a Dominican Republic healthcare facility for nursing and health science credits to studying street art in Belfast at the Summer International School in Northern Ireland to enrolling in cooking classes in Italy as part of a Mediterranean Diet and Lifestyle course.

"We work very closely with students from the moment they express interest in studying abroad until they graduate," said Sharoni. "We help leverage their life-changing experiences to reach personal and career goals."

Jenkins worked with Sharoni after hearing about Semester at Sea during her freshman year.







- Sarah Jenkins '26





"I wanted to see the entire world rather than just one country," she explained. "I was on a small German cruise ship with 500 students. 150 staff and faculty and 50 lifelong learners and ship kids who had signed up to be on this voyage with us."

Like most study abroad programs, Merrimack's was put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic due to travel restrictions. For students like Matthew Conley '23, that meant waiting to fulfill a college dream.

"Right when I went to Merrimack, I was trying to go abroad," said Conley, who earned a bachelor's degree in business with a marketing concentration. "Because of the pandemic, it was difficult to get off the launch, but I stayed in contact with Simona and the Global Education Board. By senior year, they told me they were ready."

After travel restrictions were lifted, schools like Merrimack took the opportunity to transform and rethink the entire study abroad experience. For example, Global Merrimack now handles all financial transactions and credit transfers related to the programs.

"In the old model, students were able to choose where they wanted to go and the responsibility was on them to handle everything through the

provider that offered the program," Sharoni explained.

When his time to study abroad finally came, Conley chose to study at John Cabot University in Rome for the fall semester of his senior year. Taking the trip late in his college career had some perks.

"I've saved all my electives so I could go abroad and not worry about my credits transferring," Conley explained. "I took all philosophy electives. I got to learn how people and cities operate. There were some linguistic challenges, though. Any place that doesn't primarily speak English will never be a cakewalk, but it gives you an appreciation for people who speak and learn different languages."

Alison Sullivan '26 recently returned from her semester at John Cabot University at the start of the year.

"Me and my three roommates were really interested in Rome," she said. "The process went smoothly — Simona played a big part in that."

Outside of the required courses for her health sciences major, Sullivan took a handful of history classes.

"I also took a class called Rome Modern City," she said. "Our professor walked us around Rome to the aqueducts, the Colosseum and a bunch of different parks. It was all very hands-on."

"I would say it was the best experience of my life, and it opens up a lot more opportunities as well."

- Alison Sullivan '26

Both Conley and Sullivan joined Merrimack's Global Ambassador program after returning to campus. Ambassadors help advertise the College's study abroad program and serve as a resource for prospective students and families.

"I would say it was the best experience of my life, and it opens up a lot more opportunities as well," said Sullivan. "It looks great on resumes. Not that many people study abroad, and employers see that you did something out of the ordinary. It separates you from other job applicants."

As an ambassador, Conley said he would advise students to "bring a comfortable pillow."

"Planning is everything," he added, "and take initiative. People who go abroad are usually the type to challenge themselves, but it's always good to remind yourself to stay active and not fall into the comfort of staying in your room."

To this day, Merrimack's study abroad program continues to grow. Starting in the fall 2025, the College will offer four new Merrimack courses designed to prepare students to study abroad: Global Perspectives on Education Abroad, Global Field Experience, Global Career Pathways and Global Leadership.

"And, starting next summer, Merrimack students will also have the opportunity to choose to do a paid co-op in selected locations abroad," added Sharoni.

Merrimack College
Celebrates the Election of

## POPELEO

The first American and first Augustinian to become pontiff received an honorary degree from Merrimack in 2005 when he was Prior General of the Augustinians.



"We are humbled and incredibly honored. This is a great honor for the Augustinians. As our prior provincial [and Merrimack College trustee] the Rev. Robert Hagan, O.S.A., said, it is like seeing a member of your family being elected pope."

- Rev. Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D., vice president for mission and ministry



In the St. Ambrose Friary, the residence for Merrimack College's Augustinian friars, there is a schedule sheet the friars fill out to let each other know what nights they will be home for dinner.

When the Rev. Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D., vice president for mission and ministry, first arrived at Merrimack College in 2008, the scheduler was held onto the refrigerator by a magnet with a photo of Pope Benedict XVI. When Pope Francis ascended to the throne of St. Peter in 2013, the friars replaced the magnet.

And now with the historic election of Pope Leo XIV, the first American and first Augustinian to be elected pope, the magnet has been replaced again. Only this time, it is not just a photo of Pope Leo. It is a photo of an Augustinian colleague and spiritual mentor.

"We are humbled and incredibly honored," said Fr. Ray of Pope Leo's election in May. "This is a great honor for the Augustinians. As our prior provincial [and Merrimack College trustee], the Rev. Robert Hagan, O.S.A., said it is like seeing a member of your family being elected pope."

Beyond being a member of Merrimack's founding order, the new pope has a personal connection to the College. In 2005, when he was prior general of the Augustinians, then Rev. Robert Prevost, O.S.A., received an honorary doctorate from Merrimack for his devotion and leadership of the order. He also celebrated Baccalaureate Mass.

Like Fr. Ray, as well as fellow Merrimack College Augustinians the Rev. Bryan Kerns, O.S.A., vice president and chief of staff to the president, and the Rev. Dan Madden, O.S.A., director of the Grace J. Palmisano Center for Campus Ministry, Pope Leo XIV is a graduate of Villanova University.

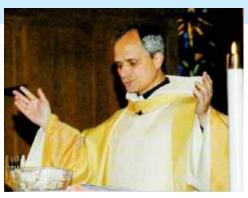
Both Fr. Ray and the pope attended the Augustinian university in Philadelphia in the late 1970s and took some classes together.

"[Pope Leo XIV] is just a really nice, very down-to-earth guy," said Fr. Ray. "You will see someone who is truly a servant of his fellow Christians."

Fr. Bryan lived with the Holy Father for a year when he served as director of formation. Additionally, when he was a bishop, Pope Leo XIV ordained Fr. Dan a deacon.

Born in Chicago, Pope Leo XIV was ordained an Augustinian priest in 1982. He served as prior general from 2001 to 2013, after which he was bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, until 2023. Pope Francis then named him prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, the office in charge of recommending candidates to be bishops.

In his first public address on the balcony above St. Peter's Square, Pope Leo XIV quoted St. Augustine, saying, "With you I am a Christian, for you a bishop. So may we all walk together toward that homeland that God has prepared for us."

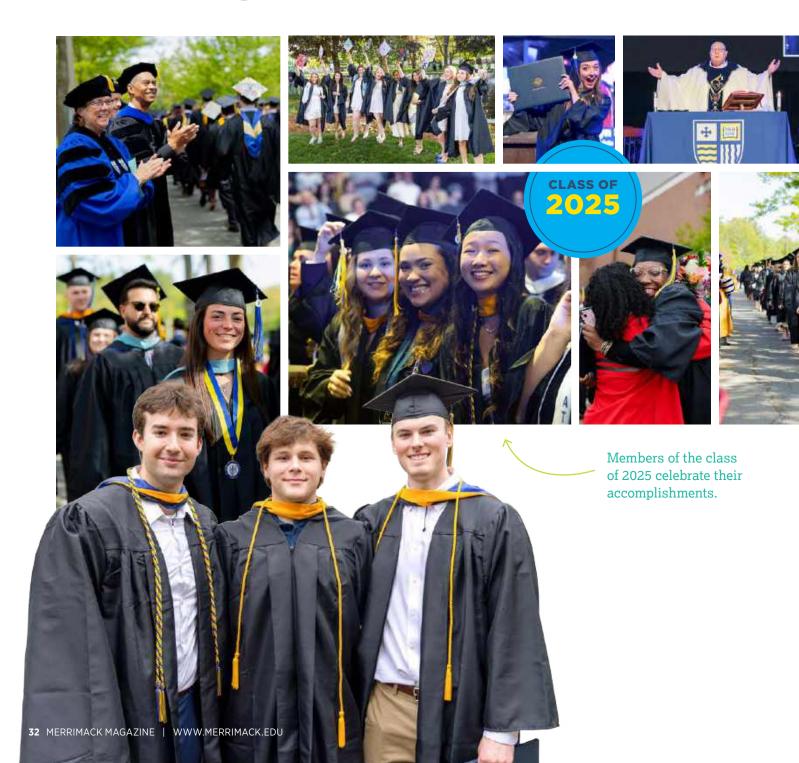








## Congratulations





## Graduates

#### More than 2,200 graduating seniors and master's students packed Lawler Arena together one last time to receive

their hard-earned diplomas during Merrimack College's Commencement 2025.

Despite the heavy rain on Thursday morning, there was a palpable sense of excitement as students from the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Nursing and Health Sciences celebrated their academic journeys. On Friday, students with the Girard School of Business, the School of Engineering and Computational Sciences and the School of Education and Social Policy had their time to shine during their respective ceremonies.

In total, some 20,000 people visited Merrimack's campus over the two-day Commencement.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL: FROM MERRIMACK PLAYERS TO MERRIMACK COACHES



When it comes to the coaching staff under former men's basketball head coach Bert Hammel, the apples don't fall far from the tree.

Three members of the 2024-25 Merrimack College men's basketball coaching staff — head coach Joe Gallo, assistant coach Micky Burtnyk and assistant coach Chris Mohr — played for and served as assistants for Hammel, a Merrimack Athletics Hall of Famer. during his 36-year coaching career.

"There is just a different level of pride when you are coaching at the place where you went to school," said Gallo '04, now in his 10th season as head coach. "There is a greater responsibility and standard to uphold that I don't think you get with a staff of coaches from all different schools and programs. Having all of us on staff, there is this unspoken chemistry that we have."

The bond between Gallo, Burtnyk and Mohr goes beyond having worn the same uniform and working for the same coach. Mohr recruited Burtnyk to North Andover in 2004, and Gallo hired Mohr back to the Warriors bench for a second stint as an assistant in 2023.

"We are happy to carry on Bert's legacy in whatever way we can," said Burtnyk '08, who scored more than 800 points in his playing career at Merrimack. "It was always high intensity in practices and games with Bert, and I am sure that rubbed off on all of us in some way."

Gallo noted that intensity meant that in practices, there was always some type of competition: There was a time. a score, a winner and a loser, elements that he continues to incorporate in his practices.

One of the basketball coaching tree's newest branches is represented by Merrimack standout Juvaris Hayes '20, who is now in his third season as an assistant on Gallo's staff. Haves played from 2016 to 2020, earning All-American honors at the Division II level. All-Conference honors at the Division I level and setting several program records.

"Coming through this system, I've seen everything you could see," said Hayes. "So I try to be that extra hand for the younger guys, to help them be more comfortable in situations and to prosper in the same ways I have."

The men's basketball coaching staff is rounded out by Jimmy Langhurst, who is in his first season with the Warriors and is a graduate of Robert Morris. When asked if Langhurst ever felt left out because he didn't graduate from Merrimack, the four Merrimack alumni said no, because they all bond over something else: winning.

"There is just a different level of pride when you are coaching at the place where you went to school. There is a greater responsibility and standard to uphold that I don't think you get with a staff of coaches from all different schools and programs. Having all of us on staff, there is this unspoken chemistry that we have."

- Joe Gallo '04, head coach





You can call the Merrimack women's basketball team underdogs, but there's not denying that their run during the 2024–25 season was nothing short of impressive. **HEAD COACH KELLY MORRONE** and the culture she's created thanks in part to her motivational pregame speeches, the team appeared in the semifinals during their inaugural season in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.



### MERRIMACK COLLEGE ATHLETICS, NEW BALANCE ANNOUNCE SPORTSWEAR PARTNERSHIP

Merrimack College Athletics announced it has agreed to a six-year partnership with global sportswear brand New Balance that will make the Boston-based company the official footwear and apparel provider for the Warriors.

Beginning with the fall 2025 season, student-athletes, coaches and staff with all 28 of Merrimack's varsity sports will be outfitted with high-performance New Balance apparel, footwear and accessories. The partnership also furthers New Balance's foray into college football as the Merrimack College football team will be among the first Division I programs in the country to wear New Balance uniforms.

From home competitions at Duane Stadium, Lawler Arena and Martone-Mejail Field to away competitions across the country, this partnership will enhance the student-athlete experience at Merrimack, elevate the Warrior brand and bring together two institutions with deep ties to the Merrimack Valley.

"We are excited to partner with New Balance, a global brand with strong local ties that shares our values of excellence and community, and begin this new chapter for Merrimack Athletics," said Joe Foley, Merrimack's director of athletics. "As the Merrimack College brand continues to grow and our teams continue to compete at the highest level, it will do so with New Balance's support, resources and high-quality, innovative products."

This partnership also reflects a personal connection between New Balance President and CEO, Joe Preston who graduated from Merrimack College in 1984 and was recently presented with an honorary doctorate from Merrimack.

A member of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference and Hockey East, Merrimack College has experienced tremendous success since its transition to Division I in 2019, including NCAA tournament berths (men's hockey and

"We are excited to partner with New Balance, a global brand with strong local ties that shares our values of excellence and community, and begin this new chapter for Merrimack Athletics."

- Joe Foley, Merrimack's director of athletics

women's bowling), team conference championships (men's basketball and women's bowling), individual conference championships (women's country), as well as Coach of the Year Awards, Player of the Year Awards and All-Academic Honors.

A \$7.8 billion global sportswear brand with more than 12,000 associates and 3,200 retail locations worldwide, New Balance is recognized for its values-led culture and long-standing commitment to domestic manufacturing. Just up the road from Merrimack College's campus in North Andover, Mass. is New Balance's global design development and production center in Lawrence as well as a second footwear factory in Methuen.

Merrimack College men's basketball superfans Jack McCarthy, blue jersey, and his brother, Will McCarthy, yellow jersey, cheer on the Warriors at a home game at Lawler Arena.





PURCHASE TICKETS AND TAILGATING PASS TO CHEER ON THE WARRIORS.

#### JOE FOLEY NAMED MERRIMACK COLLEGE **DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS**



Joe Foley has been named the new director of athletics at Merrimack College, President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., announced on April 7.

Foley comes to North Andover after serving as assistant vice chancellor for development, athletic giving and senior associate athletics director at Texas Christian University (TCU) since 2023.

"I am very excited to welcome Joe to Merrimack College and the Warrior family," said Hopey. "During our nationwide search. Joe quickly established himself as the top choice for us. His wealth of experience. particularly in fundraising and philanthropy, will be extremely valuable as we continue to grow **Merrimack Athletics' national** reputation in the ever-changing college athletic landscape."

"Thank you to President Hopey and Fr. Bryan Kerns, O.S.A., for entrusting me with this opportunity," Foley said. "It is an incredible honor to be joining an elite and value-driven academic institution with such great competitive tradition. The momentum behind Merrimack College and its athletics

programs is extraordinary, but it is the potential and opportunities ahead that really excite me. My family and I are thrilled to join the Merrimack College community as we will seek to pursue comprehensive excellence and championship-caliber experiences for Warrior student-athletes."

As TCU Athletics' chief development officer, Foley oversaw all aspects of major giving, annual giving, stewardship, alumni

relations and marketing programs through the Frog Club, the department's principal fundraising office. He also worked closely with TCU Athletics' external relations operations and the TCU NIL collective.

Prior to TCU, Foley spent seven years at Penn State University, where he led all of the athletic department's fundraising efforts through a \$2.1 billion university-wide campaign. He has also held fundraising, development and revenue-generating leadership roles in athletic departments at the University of Maryland, Boston College, the University of Richmond and Ohio University.

Foley was a four-year letter winner on the Northeastern University track and field team, helping the Huskies win five America East Conference titles. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing from Northeastern and received his Master of Business Administration and Master of Sport Administration from Ohio University.

A native of Worcester, Mass., Foley and his wife, Emily, have three children, Thomas, James and Peter.

**MERRIMACK ATHLETICS** BY THE NUMBERS Department-wide grade point average achieved by Merrimack College student-athletes for the 2024-25 academic year 109.5 Total number of points earned by Merrimack College in the 2024-25 Richard J. Ensor, Esq. Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Commissioner's Cup **Number of Merrimack College** student-athletes to make All-MAAC First Teams for the spring season - Ellen Hubbard, softball - Prakruthi Sastry, women's golf - Mateusz Gradzki, men's tennis meters - New program best in the men's discus set by Owen LaRoss this season



#### Brady Antaya's official connection with Merrimack College's men's soccer team through Team IMPACT, spanning 12 years, ends this summer as he graduates from high school.

As a 6-year-old in 2013. Brady Antava stood on Martone-Meiail Field alongside the Merrimack College men's soccer team's starting lineup as the program's newest member through Team IMPACT, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit that matches children facing serious illness and disability with college athletic teams across the country.

Eleven years later, it was men's soccer head coach Tony Martone who stood alongside Antaya as his confirmation sponsor.

So is the story, and impact, of Antaya's connection with Merrimack men's soccer, which has gone from the pitch to hospital rooms to birthday parties to confirmations and a high school graduation.

"He's been an inspiration for me and our program," said Martone. "I think in some ways, we probably get more out of the relationship than he does. This hasn't been your typical Team IMPACT relationship; it has gone way beyond that."

That connection, the longest in Team IMPACT's history, officially ends this summer as Antaya graduates from Methuen High School.

"My relationship with Coach Martone is a very personal one," said Antaya, whose 12-year tenure with the Warriors is exceeded only by Martone's 43 years. "It definitely reached beyond the soccer field. I had my confirmation last year and I asked him to be my sponsor. So that was something that was very meaningful to me. He's also been there through all my medical challenges."

Those medical challenges are a result of CHARGE syndrome, which Antaya was diagnosed with at birth. CHARGE is a rare genetic condition that affects about 1 in 10,000 newborns. It can cause hearing and vision loss, heart defects and developmental delays, among other significant symptoms.

"He's been fighting every day," said Martone. "I'm amazed he has been able to deal with the physical challenges and accomplish so much. Once I became familiar with his challenges and treatments, the thing that really stands out to me is I can't remember one time when he came down to the field without a smile on his face."

Over the years, Antaya has met and engaged with hundreds of players, participating in practices, walking out with the team's starting lineup at games, having players visit him in the hospital and being part of Merrimack men's soccer history.

"The fondest memory I have would probably be in 2018 when we won the Northeast 10 Championship against Bentley," said Antaya. "I think it was like 20-something years since they last won the championship, so being able to be a part of that championship team, being able to experience that moment with all of them, is probably my fondest memory."

#### "[Brady Antaya] has been an inspiration for me and our program."

#### **ALUMNI NEWS**

#### 1960s

ATTY. THOMAS F. CAFFREY '60 received the Award for Humanitarian and Community Service at Central Catholic High School.

#### 1970s

GINO J. BARONI '78 received the Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement at Central Catholic High School.

MICHAEL BEEMAN '78 completed his 48th consecutive Boston Marathon on April 21. He has run the marathon every year since he was a senior at Merrimack.

For the third year, Merrimack graduates (Phi Kappa Theta and Nu Phi Kappa fraternity members) from the classes of 1970-1975 gathered in Falmouth, MA for three days of golf, reminiscing and friendly competition. This began with a small core group and has grown to include 20 participants. Graduates came from New York, New Jersey, Florida, Connecticut. Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The 2026 event is already being planned. (1)



In the photo from left to right: JAMES KEARNEY '74, GENE GRAHAM '73, PIERRE BEAULIEU '73, JACK PASINI '73, STEPHEN BARBERIO '73, PAUL AMNOTT '73, PETER SPANG '72, KEVIN LEWIS '73, RICHARD DECOUX '70, TOM O'KEEFE '71, JAMES LEAHY '73, JACK WALSH '72, ROBERT COUGHLIN '72, STEVEN PITHIS '74 and JACK DRISCOLL '74.

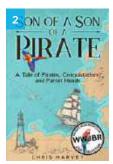
#### 1980s

VINCENT DONOVAN '80 published his fifth novel, "Secret Seeds," which will be released in mid-July. The novel shines in its portrayal of complex relationships — between mother and children, between oppressor and the oppressed, and between those seeking refuge and those who offer refuge with strings attached.

RICHARD CONNELL'84 was promoted to U.S. and EU president at WuXi AppTec.

WILLIAM C. SHOULDICE IV '86 was named the commissioner of the Department of Taxes by the governor of Vermont, Phil Scott.

#### 1990s



CHRIS HARVEY '91 has published his debut novel "Son of a Son of a Pirate: A Tale of Pirates. Conquistadors, and Parrot Heads." The novel follows John "Teach"

Taylor, a modern-day Key West tour guide and the descendant of infamous pirate Blackbeard. His quest to uncover his family's long-lost treasure weaves together three interlocking storylines across 500 years. (2)

JOHN LAWN '91, state representative in the Massachusetts legislature, was honored as the House Champion of Youth on March 26, 2025, at the State House for his tireless advocacy on behalf of the Boys & Girls Clubs. He met with Jeff Bercume '04, who serves as CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster. (3)

WAYDE D. MCMILLAN '94 has been elected to Hologic Inc.'s board of directors, effective April 4, 2025.



MICHAEL "MIKE" LEAL '98 was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Central Catholic High School.

#### 2000s

LAUREN ADMIRAND '04 launched her own real estate firm, Admirand Commercial Real Estate Services, or ACRES, specializing in tenant advocacy through comprehensive real estate site selection, lease negotiation and construction management.

JOHN MULDOON '04 has been named the next superintendent of the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District in Vermont.

#### 2010s

MARYROSE MAZZOLA '12 has been named as Eastern Bank's new Senior Vice President, Director of External Affairs. MaryRose received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Merrimack and will be focused on advancing policy development and advocacy efforts locally around economic advancement and inclusion and community building with state and local government officials, agencies, community stakeholders and coalitions. (4)



GINA (RUSSO) SCOLA '17 recently welcomed a new baby, James Joseph (JJ).

EVAN DOWNS '16 and MARIA REED '18 were married in Charleston, SC on April 14, 2023, surrounded by Merrimack friends. (5)



#### 2020s

JAMES "JAY" HOWLETT III M'21 was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Central Catholic High School for football, basketball and golf.

ALEXI NOWOKUNSKI '21 was promoted to director of public affairs at Benchmark Strategies, a leading consulting firm that focuses on public affairs and strategic communications.

**CAMERON PROULX '22** was featured in the Watertown Daily Times for his growing success selling toys and other bespoke items through his 3D printing business.

CHRIS DOLAN '23, M'24, recreated a photo with NASA astronaut and 2025 Merrimack commencement speaker Sunita Williams H'17 after their first meeting 17 years ago at the 2007 Falmouth Road Race. (6)

ABIGAIL MCLEAVY '24 won the honor of throwing out the first pitch at the annual Red Sox Nurse Night at Fenway Park on May 22, 2025. The event celebrates the nurses within our community. She was nominated among 10 finalists who were honored on the field during pregame ceremonies. (7)

CASSANDRA DELEGGE '25 will be participating in the Disney College Program for the fall of 2025.









#### **WE WANT TO HEAR** FROM YOU ... visit

www.merrimack.edu/update

to share life changes, employment updates, accomplishments and pictures.

#### In Memoriam

Jacqueline (Pedneault) Sheehan '55 Joan (Cox) O'Brien '56 Jean (Collins) Hull '57 Joseph O'Riordan '57 Daniel Buckley '58 Miriam (Forrest) Buckley '58 Patricia (Trainor) O'Malley '58 Maureen (Driscoll) Savastano '59 Stephen Stepenuck Jr. '59 William Dwver '60 William Stahl '60 Patricia (Watson) Cain '62 Normand Duchesne '62 Donna (Foley) MacLean '62, GP'16 Alfred Sotera '62 William Marion III '63 Frances (Mele) Kingman '64 Elaine Mamonas '64 Thomas Pettingill '64 John Splendore '64 Peter Dierauer '65 Frank Griswold Jr. '66 Paul Smith '66 Stephen Toomey '66 Anthony Campagna '67 Robert Cunningham '67 Dennis Ahern '68 Robert Cuomo '68, P'93 Cynthia (Demers) Micavich '68 Catherine (Perham) Reinhardt, Ph.D., '69 Carol (Marshall) Scarpaci '69 Frank Serio, Jr. '70 Kathleen (Mohan) Blain '71 Richard Hamel '71 Mary Ellen (Reardon) Molinaro '71 Thomas Moran '71 Thomas Enright '72 Paul Egan '73 John Leney '73 Eileen Logan '73 David Bowman '74 Frances Lahey '74 Donald Pelletier '74 Bro. Richard McFeeley '75 Bruce Christie '76 Julia Saab '77 Joseph Sheehan Jr. '77 Judith Alson '78 Mitchell Dyeak '78 Ruth (Holmes) Tremblay '78 Thomas Vlack '78 Thomas Concannon '81 Carol (MacNeil) Raiche '81 Joseph Gaidis '83 David Jeremiah Manfredi '87 Elizabeth Kozak '88 Barbara Valorose '89 Robin (Brosco) Licata '92 Timothy MacLean '94 Roberta Kearns '00 Atil Tokcan '03 Tucker Phippen '20



#### **ALUMNI NEWS**

#### MERRIMACK COLLEGE UNVEILS FRANCO FAMILY LOUNGE

The generous gift from Michael Franco '81 and Mary Gorham Franco '81, P'12 celebrates the friendships and camaraderie from their time at Merrimack.

Nearly 42 years to the day after Michael Franco and Mary Gorham, both in the class of 1981, were married in Merrimack College's Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, the pair returned to the lower level of the church for a different celebration.

On Thursday, June 5, the Francos were joined by family, friends, Merrimack trustees and senior leaders to mark the dedication of the Franco Family Lounge.

"(Merrimack) is where we met, where we grew up in many ways and where we built the foundation for the life we share," said Michael, a member of Merrimack's Board of Trustees.

This honor is in recognition of a generous gift from the Francos to Together We Rise, Merrimack College's capital campaign. The Francos serve as

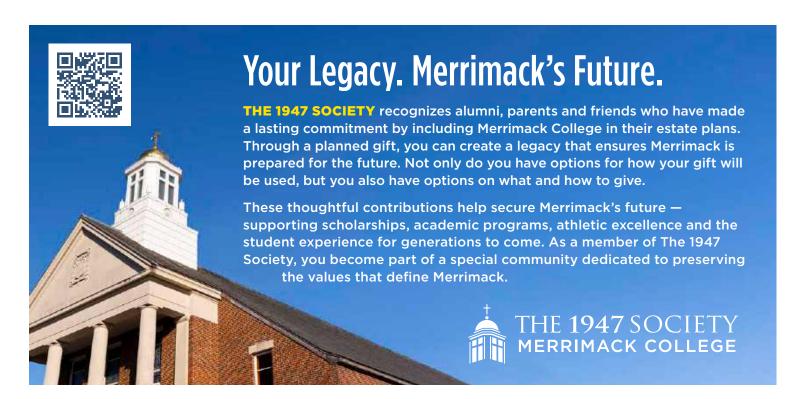


co-chairs of the "Together We Grow" subcommittee, focused on enhancing the Merrimack College student experience.

"For more than 40 years, Mike and Mary have been part of the Merrimack College family," said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "As proud alumni, parents of an alumnus, trustees, capital campaign leaders and generous donors, they have given so much to Merrimack. I am so happy their family name is now prominently displayed above the entrance of one of our most popular campus spaces."

The Francos reminisced about spending time in the space as students. It was a place where dances were held, classmates gathered to debate, solve the world's problems and socialize.

"We hope that this newly named space will not only carry our name but also our spirit of friendship, camaraderie and fun," said Mary, a former trustee. "This gift comes from a deep place of gratitude. We see this not just as a donation, but as a way to give something back to a place that has given us so much."



#### THE BUZZELLS: STAYING CONNECTED AND GIVING GACK



#### For **TIM** '94 and AMY BUZZELL P'26.

being a part of the Merrimack experience means offering support, sharing advice and building a community with families walking the same path.

When Tim and Amv's son Hayden '26 was accepted to Merrimack College, it was more

than just a proud moment for their family — it was a homecoming for Tim. "I had a wonderful experience at Merrimack, so having my son attend is really special," he said. "The campus has expanded a lot in 30 years, but the core values that define the school haven't changed."

That strong sense of connection to the Warrior community, both to the past and what lies ahead, inspired Tim and Amy to join the Parents Leadership Council (PLC). "We were eager to become more involved, as parents and community members," Amy shared. "This is where our son is learning and growing, and we want to be a part of his journey."

Through their contributions to the PLC, the couple has gained a deeper understanding of Merrimack's evolving programs, priorities and strategic direction. "There is so much happening," Tim noted. "From Warriors at Work, the College's career co-op program, to new academic pathways, like the Bachelor of Arts in Humanities degree, there are a lot of exciting developments. The future is looking bright."

Participating in PLC events, such as open houses and admitted student days, has also enabled Tim and Amy to support incoming families. "It's rewarding to talk with parents who are just beginning the college process," Amy said. Tim agreed: "You can provide a little reassurance during a time that can feel overwhelming — especially for first-time college families. Sometimes, just letting them know what's ahead makes a real difference."

Their advice for other parents looking to get involved with the College? Do not hesitate. "Serving on the PLC is very accessible. It fits easily into our schedule and is such a fulfilling way to make a difference," Tim said.

Ultimately, Tim and Amy's PLC experience is about much more than volunteering and philanthropic support — it is a way to play an active role in shaping the future for their son and other students. "The Merrimack community is just exceptional," Amy observed. "Seeing the breadth of opportunity available to Hayden and other students is so inspiring."

For Tim, it is a powerful reminder of what first drew him to Merrimack — and a chance to help ensure that future generations experience the same sense of belonging and purpose. "It feels good to give back to a place that gave me so much," he said. "And even better to do it in a way that helps my son at a time when the College is thriving in so many ways."

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

## 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 Merrimackspecific community

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

**SHOWCASE** your alumniowned 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.





#### **OCTOBER 2025**

#### HARVEST HOPS @ RIVERWALK

Saturday, October 25, 2025 **Riverwalk Brewing Newburyport, MA** 

Join fellow Merrimack alumni for great company, delicious pizza and refreshing Riverwalk beer. Attendees will also have an exclusive opportunity to purchase Riverwalk's special Merrimack-branded beer!



#### **MERRIMACK'S ANNUAL** CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Friday, December 5, 2025 **Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport** 

Celebrate the holiday season with alumni, faculty, staff and friends at Merrimack's annual Alumni Celebration.



#### **MARCH 2026**

#### MERRIMACK IN FLORIDA

St. Patrick's Day Parade - Naples Saturday, March 14, 2026

Show your Merrimack and Irish pride as we march in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Naples, FL.

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



Join President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. and members of the Board of Trustees for an opportunity to celebrate all that is special to Merrimack College.





#### MERRIMACK ALUMNUS RUNS 48TH CONSECUTIVE BOSTON MARATHON



If anyone understands the thrill of the race or the electrifying energy of the scream tunnel, it's Merrimack College alumnus MICHAEL

**BEEMAN '78**. Beeman marked an extraordinary milestone by running his 48th consecutive Boston Marathon this past April. "Same number of years as I have been out of Merrimack," he said.

Inspired and encouraged by fellow Merrimack

alumnus and current Boston Marathon Race Director Dave McGillivray '76, H'12, Beeman embarked on his marathon journey back in 1977, during his junior year at Merrimack. After cheering on his former teammate, McGillivray, with other members of the Merrimack cross-country team, Beeman said to his coach, "I'm never going to watch again; I'm going to run it."

He began his Merrimack distance running career after being recruited by cross-country coach Fr. Thomas Walsh, who stopped him while making his basketball pre-practice run on Route 114. Many alumni would be proud to have spent four

years as a multi-sport athlete, but Beeman kept going. He runs not only to maintain his health but also for the pure joy it brings him. He mentioned that between himself and McGillivray, whom he maintains a close friendship with, they have run over 100 marathons. Additionally, they rank fifth and second, respectively, among the top five individuals with the most Boston Marathon runs. "No other college can boast that," Beeman said.

He embraced social media just a few years ago, originally to provide content to his students, and saw a window for older running influencers. Now he uses it to document his training regimen and share running tips, rapidly amassing a significant following on TikTok. His vibrant presence online translated into real-life support at this year's marathon, where spectators cheered him enthusiastically and fans eagerly approached him before the race for photographs. His post-race TikTok video received over 1 million views.

When asked what part Merrimack played in his life, Beeman proudly noted that the College had taught him "the most important thing you can learn" is balance in sport, in work and in life. Beeman has an infectious love for all things Merrimack and has maintained many close connections throughout the years. He offers this advice for his fellow alumni, whether choosing to run a marathon or dealing with the challenges of daily life: "You have to be patient, and you have to be disciplined."

#### BY THE NUMBERS

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR ALUMNI, PARENTS, STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS, MERRIMACK'S FIRST DAY OF GIVING WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS.



\$245,515

1,268

544
NEW DONORS

ATHLETICS TEAM WITH THE MOST PARTICIPATION Women's Lacrosse

41
AREAS OF SUPPORT

1954
THE OLDEST CLASS
THAT PARTICIPATED

ALUMNI YEAR WITH THE MOST AMOUNT RAISED 2003 ALUMNI YEAR

ALUMNI YEAR
WITH THE MOST
PARTICIPATION

**CONSTITUENT PARTICIPATION** 

39.3% ALUMNI AND TRUSTEES

30.5% FACULTY AND STAFF

14%
PARENTS

16.2% STUDENTS AND FRIENDS

#### **ALUMNI NEWS**



















Beginning this fall, Reunion will take place during Homecoming Weekend — Merrimack's largest annual event. We are also proud to launch a new tradition for our Golden Graduates, who will also be honored each May at Commencement. More information to follow in the coming months. Want to help make your class celebration even more memorable? Consider becoming a Homecoming, Alumni and Reunion Ambassador. To learn more, email





alumnirelations@merrimack.edu.











#### MERRIMACK ALUMNUS ATTENDS LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ ANNIVERSARY



In late January, thousands of people from around the world gathered to solemnly honor the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The event drew a diverse group, including a

high-profile delegation from the United States and the heads of state from several European nations, such as France, Germany, and Great Britain. Among those in attendance were 50 survivors of the Auschwitz concentration camp, who were there to reflect on their personal experiences. Notably included in this distinguished delegation was Merrimack alumnus THEODORE KEMPINSKI '96.

Kempinski was appointed as Honorary Consul of Memory for the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial during the National Council for Social Studies conference. The appointment marked a significant milestone in his career, and he was honored as the sole teacher selected from the United States to attend such a momentous occasion. Throughout his 25 years of teaching history in the Haverhill, Massachusetts school system, Kempinski has earned a reputation for his dedication to educating students about the importance of historical remembrance. His passion for teaching history is evident in his efforts to engage young minds with the lessons of the past, ensuring that future generations will continue to learn from the mistakes of history.

In fact, Haverhill High School was the first American school to participate in online tours of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial, an initiative that was recognized by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation as a groundbreaking way to introduce students to the memorial's significance and history. Through this program, students are able to experience the somber realities of the Holocaust and better understand the importance of preserving the memory of those who suffered and died under such horrific conditions.

Throughout Kempinski's journey, he has had the guidance of professor emeritus Dr. Joseph Kelley, who has served as both a mentor and advisor. Kelley's invaluable counsel has been instrumental in furthering Kempinski's mission of promoting education about the Holocaust.

The anniversary ceremony itself was held on the solemn grounds of Auschwitz. which now stands as a memorial site dedicated to remembering the victims of the camp and educating the public about the atrocities that took place there. The memorial serves as a reminder to future generations of the consequences of hatred, prejudice and intolerance. The original broadcast of the ceremony, which featured powerful speeches and testimonials from survivors can still be viewed on the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial's YouTube page, allowing individuals from all over the world to witness the event and reflect on its significance.

After returning home from the ceremony, Kempinski continued his important work with a feature on the CatholicTV talk show, This Is The Day, as well as developing a program for Haverhill students to serve as tour guides to their peers for a traveling Anne Frank exhibit.

#### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF MERRIMACK, TOGETHER





For ANTHONY '93 and **LUISA BORGONZI P'25**,

supporting Merrimack's Together We Rise campaign is a meaningful way to invest in students' potential and help shape the College's next chapter.

As proud parents of a 2025 graduate, Anthony and Luisa have become deeply woven into the fabric of the Merrimack community. Over the years, they have generously shared their time and talents with the Board of Advisors. Parents

Leadership Council and most recently, the *Together We Rise* campaign committee.

Each role has strengthened their connection to the College: "I'm a Merrimack alum, and volunteering provides a great opportunity to leverage my expertise to make a tangible difference in the lives of students," Anthony said.

The couple's commitment to expanding educational access fuels their support for the Together We Rise campaign and their generous contribution to Merrimack's Pioneer Scholars Program. "There are more barriers than ever to quality education, and we're dedicated to breaking them down," Anthony said. "Witnessing the success of the Pioneer Scholars Program, and its near 100% graduation rate, has been truly inspiring."

For Anthony and Luisa, giving back is also a meaningful way to build lasting connections and foster community. "Beyond

donating and volunteering, I think it's important to be present - to help shape the College's direction," Luisa shared. "It helps us connect with the students and understand the unique challenges they're facing, which are different from the challenges we faced in college. When students see alumni and parents playing an active role, that sends a powerful message."

Ultimately, both parents are passionate about building something that will have a lasting impact on generations to come. "One of the most rewarding parts of this work is shaping new programs — whether it's rethinking the MBA curriculum or developing a new major. To see those ideas come to life, knowing future students will benefit, has been incredibly meaningful," Anthony said. Luisa agreed: "You don't realize your impact until you're in it. And then the gift is giving back to you."

The couple felt a great sense of pride during their son Anthony's recent graduation. "There's something profound about watching your child walk the same path you once did," Anthony reflected. And while personal memories keep Anthony and Luisa grounded in the Merrimack experience, moments like the 2025 commencement — where astronaut Suni Williams delivered a powerful keynote — continue to inspire their commitment to the College's future. "Suni captured an inspiring message: Just get to the starting line," Luisa recalled. "When it comes to volunteering, people don't know where to start, but knowing you want to do something - whether it's donating your time, experience or money that's all it takes. No contribution is too small."

And the couple has no plans of slowing down. "We're confident Merrimack is heading in the right direction," Anthony said. "To be part of an institution fueled by passion and strong values — who wouldn't want to be part of that?"



**IN MEMORIAM** Remembering Fr. Edward Joseph Enright, O.S.A.

Fr. Edward Joseph Enright. O.S.A., an admired member of the Merrimack College community, passed away on May 10, 2025.

He was born on May 16, 1947, in Medford, Massachusetts, the son of Edward J. and Doris V. (Hill) Enright.

Fr. Ed was received into the Order of Saint Augustine as a novice on Sept. 9, 1965, and after a year at Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, New York, he professed first vows. He then attended Villanova University, Augustinian College, Washington, D.C., and Catholic University of America. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 1973, at Saint Agnes Catholic Church in Arlington, Massachusetts, by Bishop Jeremiah F. Minihan, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston.

He held several teaching jobs at the high school and college levels, including Merrimack College and Villanova University.



# SAVE THE DATES! GOMES!

## HOMECOMING AND ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

Friday, October 3-Sunday, October 5

Join fellow Merrimack alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff and friends to celebrate all things Merrimack. Show your Merrimack spirit wearing your best blue and gold as you cheer on our Warriors throughout the weekend. Visit the website in the coming months for an updated schedule of events including: Macktoberfest, class year celebrations, athletic events, tailgating and more!





