

MERRIMACK

MAGAZINE | WINTER 2025





Move in day for
Merrimack's newest
Warriors, the
Class of 2028



18

FEATURE

Together We Rise

Merrimack's most ambitious capital campaign will transform the campus and shape tomorrow's intellectual and spiritual leaders.

24

FEATURE

Breaking Ground on New Residence Halls

Two new buildings will significantly increase on-campus housing and enhance the overall experience for future generations of Warriors.

STAY CONNECTED



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@merrimackcollege



11

30

Hockey Programs Highlight Thanksgiving Tournament Experiences

From Northern Ireland to Nashville, the Warrior spirit traveled to new fans.

“The *Together We Rise* capital campaign is a powerful call to action for every member of our community — and every gift counts toward our goal. Together, we will foster College-wide innovation, pursue the ranks of a nationally recognized research university, enrich the Merrimack student experience, enhance our DI athletics and propel our Catholic Augustinian mission forward. It is no small objective, but one that can be met through the generosity of supporters like you.”

– President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.

18





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

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MERRIMACK

A Magazine for Our
Alumni, Parents and Friends
Winter 2025

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**MERRIMACK
COLLEGE**



“The future success and lasting impact of this College is our collective responsibility.”

Rise With Us

Dear Merrimack College Community,

Among the Merrimack College community's many accomplishments in 2024 — in the classroom, the labs, athletic competition and the community — the one that will ensure our success continues for generations is the *Together We Rise* capital campaign.

Launched this past fall, *Together We Rise* is the College's most ambitious campaign to date and will push us to elevate our expectations and have limitless ambition. This forward-thinking campaign will help us achieve more of the initiatives laid out in our strategic plan, the *Agenda for the Future*, and strongly position Merrimack College to rise to higher echelons in the higher education landscape.

The focus of this campaign is simple: to continue to innovate in teaching and learning, to push the envelope in basic and applied research, to give more students access to an outstanding Augustinian Catholic education to reaffirm our commitment to our Augustinian values and to be a place where winning is expected.

This will be a significant but achievable endeavor. It represents an investment in Merrimack's future to help our students reach their goals, bring pride to our alumni and place the College in the best position for future success. It is about making a greater impact, accelerating

academic excellence, building a reputation of research and providing transformative opportunities.

In this edition of the Merrimack Magazine, you will read more about *Together We Rise*, as well as the people, scholarship, opportunities and service happening today that will be enhanced by support for the campaign.

More and more, Merrimack College is operating as great universities do. We are attracting high-achieving students, recruiting leading research faculty and propelling our mission further than it has ever been before. Soon the impacts we make will be even more enduring. We will not just change lives on our campus but across society.

The future success and lasting impact of this College is our collective responsibility. Your commitment and belief show that the power of togetherness can drive extraordinary change. I thank you for your support of *Together We Rise* and for engaging with others to share in that support so we can accomplish what we know is possible at Merrimack College.

God Bless,

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

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President

TOGETHER WE RISE

The Campaign for Merrimack College



Merrimack's next chapter begins right now. It is time to claim our place among the nation's top Catholic colleges, cement our reputation as a leading research institution, and act boldly and collaboratively to make an indelible mark on our campus, our community and the world at large.

Together We Rise will bring to life the bold and ambitious goals laid out in Merrimack's *Agenda for the Future*. Together we will raise \$100 million to enable our institution to innovate, grow, serve and win for years to come.

When we work together, we rise.

TOGETHER WE INNOVATE

Foster College-wide innovation and research

TOGETHER WE GROW

Elevate the student experience

TOGETHER WE SERVE

Further our Catholic Augustinian mission

TOGETHER WE WIN

Enhance our Division I athletics facilities and performance



WILL YOU RISE WITH US?



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

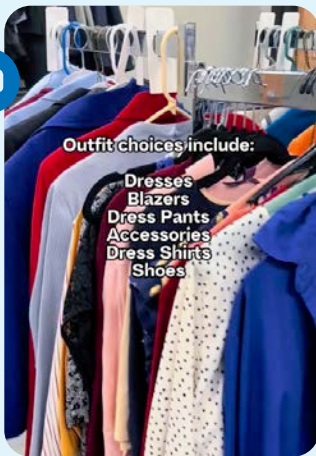
Follow us:     

THANKSGIVING BASKET DRIVE



Giving back is the name of the game in November! The Thanksgiving Basket Drive, hosted in partnership with Neighbors in Need, allowed for many local families to have a full meal to enjoy over the holiday season.

YOUTUBE



Outfit choices include:

Dresses
Blazers
Dress Pants
Accessories
Dress Shirts
Shoes

Mack off the Rack. A career closet initiative by the O'Brien Center to help you dress for success!



The **fall involvement fair** with the Office of Student Involvement and so many clubs and organizations!

LINKEDIN



Alexander Elguezabal '25 has been coding since high school. Now a computer science major, he was drawn to Merrimack for its small class sizes and the strong relationships professors form with their students but found his higher education experience offered much more than what he initially expected.

FACEBOOK



Move-in day for the Class of 2028. The newest Warriors are all moved in and ready to start their MC journey!

INSTAGRAM



Honoring heroes in our hallways and beyond. To commemorate Veterans Day, the Warriors for Warriors veterans student group brought the Merrimack community together to pay tribute to and recognize the sacrifices of those who have served.



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



Merrimack's Bachelor's Degree Completion Program Continues Exponential Growth

Jean Crocker '25 always dreamed of earning her bachelor's degree. Unfortunately, as she put it, "life got in the way" after graduating high school. Eventually, she earned an associate degree and landed a job at Massachusetts' Head Start program.

It was at an early childhood educators conference that she learned about Merrimack College's Bachelor's Degree Completion Program (BDCP), which gives working adults the flexibility, resources and support to earn their bachelor's degree on their own time.

"My boss encouraged me to think about it, as our agency had funding for this type of professional development and she knew it was a dream of mine to get my degree," Crocker said.

She is now on track to earn her bachelor's degree in child and family studies next year. Crocker is one of more than 170 students enrolled in the BDCP, which has seen tremendous growth since it launched in fall 2020.

"We reached our high watermark in the spring with 177 students, and we're looking to grow by at least 75 next year," explained Jacob Turner, the program's academic director and a professor in the School of Arts and Sciences. "The goal is 500 students by fall 2025, so we hope to get halfway there by the end of this academic year. That 500 number might sound daunting, but I think we'll eclipse that in the next five years."

The BDCP offers asynchronous online courses in arts and sciences programs, and added strategic communication, psychology and business administration to its portfolio this school year.

"These students are usually in the workforce already and are looking to shift or elevate their careers," Turner explained. "Or they even just want to get that degree completed so they can tell their children, 'Hey, I got mine. You should get yours.'"

MERRIMACK COLLEGE ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RESEARCHING AI IN THE CLASSROOM

With the enormous growth of artificial intelligence, Allison Seitchik, an associate professor in psychology at Merrimack College, says it would be a disservice not to teach students how to use AI to benefit their education.



"I think we have to change how we teach, and I fully embrace that," said Seitchik. "These generations of students are brought up on social media and with information always at their fingertips. AI ramps it up. We as educators need to step forward and say, 'You are going to use AI and that is great, but here is what you need to know.'"

Seitchik made the pivot to AI research in the spring of 2023 as its prevalence in academia became more apparent.

"I already knew students were using it, but then what I wanted to do was be able to teach my students how to use it ethically," she noted.

Seitchik immersed herself in writings and courses about AI, as well as the programs themselves, such as ChatGPT. She then crafted a manual, now available on Open Educational Resources Commons, to help students learn how to utilize AI for writing research papers.

"My guide focuses on a scaffolding writing process and taking students from 'I have no idea what I want to do' to the actual writing of the paper," she said.

► **Fun Fact** Merrimack's Bachelor's Degree Completion Programs now include strategic communication, business and psychology.

MERRIMACK MOMENTS



MERRIMACK STUDENTS EXPLORE ICELANDIC GEOLOGY

A group of Merrimack students spent part of their summer break learning about the geology of a Nordic country as part of Environmental Geology in Iceland, an experience in the College's short-term study abroad program. The students learned about the unique geology of Iceland, including its black sand beaches and towering glaciers as part of a five-day experience.

FR. GARY MCCLOSKEY RECOGNIZED WITH THE ST. AUGUSTINE MEDAL

As Academic Vice President and Dean of the College during the 2000s, Augustinian friar Father Gary McCloskey, O.S.A., Ph.D. is credited with advancing teaching education at Merrimack. Over 20 years later, he was recognized with the College's highest honor: the Saint Augustine Medal.

Fr. Gary held a myriad of roles and responsibilities across Merrimack during his tenure. He was recognized for his commitment to Merrimack, the Augustinian Order and the greater community at large.

"You make the spirit of Saint Augustine come to life through your work, your scholarship and your contributions to teaching and learning," President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., said to Fr. Gary.

The Merrimack College Saint Augustine Medal is presented annually to a member of the Merrimack community who best embodies the values, teachings and mission of Saint Augustine.



► **Fun Fact** Fr. Gary served as a trustee of Merrimack College from 2011-2021.

Course Spotlight **TAXES (ACC4407)**

Take a closer look at a taxes course that teaches Merrimack students about a wide breadth of tax concepts and principles.

Course Intro

Taxes, ACC4407, covers federal income taxation concepts and principles primarily for individuals and corporations. It also touches upon income recognition, deductions, tax calculations, capital gains and losses, and tax accounting methods.

Students will leave the course with an understanding of various tax entities, including corporations, flow-through entities, and individuals, and how tax requirements differ among them.

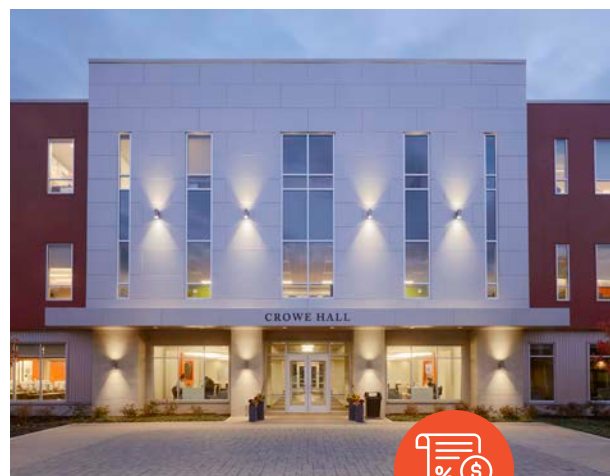
Taught by Anthony Daigle, an adjunct lecturer in the Girard School of Business, the class has various guest speakers with real-world experience.

One recent speaker, a former supervisor of Daigle's, talked about his career path and encouraged the students to take advantage of the opportunities presented to them in the world of finance and accounting.

The Classroom Experience

Daigle engages his students and ensures everyone understands what he is going over by using a clear and concise format. Daigle also uses the class time to discuss current events.

"As a senior going through the interview process and finding jobs after graduation, the guest speakers in this class have helped me realize more about what I need to know for the accounting profession and what works for me," said Olivia White '25.



Course Takeaways

Daigle's class hits on important topics for the real world outside of college. Although the class is mostly taken by finance and accounting majors, all graduates should have some knowledge about taxes, as most career paths require fundamental economic and business awareness skills.



JOY TO THE WORLD CONCERT

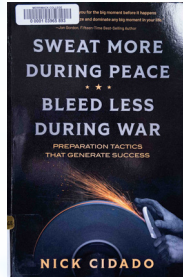
Merrimack's choirs came together for an evening of holiday music, a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE FACULTY AND STAFF RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS



Cibao Atlántico de la A a la Z (Spanish Edition)
Yanitzia Canetti – Assistant Professor of Practice, Spanish

Spanish-language children's book about the northwest coastal area of the Dominican Republic.



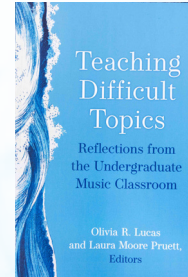
Sweat More During Peace, Bleed Less During War: Preparation Tactics that Generate Success
Nick Cidado M'19 – Graduate Alumnus, Exercise and Sport Science

A step-by-step, tactical blueprint that will reshape the way you think about preparation and give you the tools and techniques to transform your own approach.



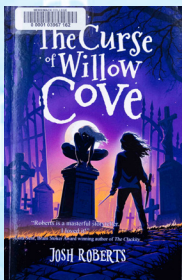
Into the Darkness: A Journey of Love, War, and Emotional Freedom
Dave Fielding M'25 – Graduate Student, Health Promotion and Management

Memoir on Fielding's military career conducting covert operations against terrorists in Iraq and Syria.



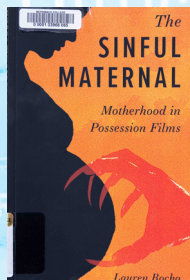
Teaching Difficult Topics: Reflections from the Undergraduate Music Classroom
Laura Moore Pruett – Associate Professor, Music

Provides a series of on-the-ground reflections from college music instructors working in a wide variety of institutional settings about their approaches to inclusive, supportive pedagogy in the music classroom.



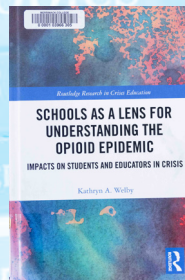
The Curse of Willow Cove
Josh Roberts – Staff, Web Editor, Website Services

Now 14 years old and with a year of witchcraft under her belt, Abby finally feels like things are going her way. That is, until her mother announces they're moving to a new town, her boyfriend stops speaking to her, and her eighth-grade classmates start vanishing in the middle of the night — only to return as something terrifyingly different than before.



Sinful Maternal: Motherhood in Possession Films
Lauren Rocha – Assistant Professor of Practice, English

Examines the role of mothers and motherhood in 10 possession-themed films.



School as a Lens for Understanding the Opioid Epidemic: Impacts on Students and Educators in Crisis
Kathryn Welby – Assistant Professor, Education

Investigates the profound and complex impact of the opioid epidemic on schools in the United States, focusing on diverse aspects such as its history, legislative responses, trends and implications for students, educators and schools.



Graceful Partners, Art and Spirituality
Nancy E. Wynn – Chair, Visual and Performing Arts, & Director, Graphic Design

Documents the 20-year history of the Clare Gallery ministry at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry by sharing essays, exhibition content and community impact statements.



Mack Gives Back Days Preps 150,000 Nonperishable Meals

Few campus events can bring the totality of the Merrimack College community together like Mack Gives Back Days.

The annual service event (sponsored in part by BJ's Wholesale Club) saw students, faculty and staff gather in the Sakowich Campus Center on Nov. 10 and Nov. 11 for one unifying cause: package nonperishable meals for area nonprofits. Started in 2012 by Vice President for Mission and Ministry Fr. Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D., Mack Gives Back Days commemorates both Veterans Day and Saint Augustine's birthday on Nov. 13.

"I've always liked volunteering ever since high school," Eva Oppendisano '28 said while packing apple crisp oatmeal meals. "My friend Emily Bastien ['27] was raving about [Mack Gives Back] so I thought it would be fun to join," Bastien said. She had just completed her third hour-long shift of the day.

The nonprofits Mack Gives Back Days benefit include the Haverhill YMCA, Lazarus House Food Pantry and the Community Pantry and Fridge at Ballard Vale United Church. The Outreach Program of Marshfield was on hand to help distribute the meals.

"We're working with 24 colleges to get 822,000 meals packed before Thanksgiving," said Matthew Martin, regional director of the Outreach Program. "It's been crazy but amazing at the same time. Merrimack is one of our top five schools."

MACK GIVES BACK: BY THE NUMBERS

2

Days

10

Local nonprofits served, including the Haverhill YMCA, Lazarus House Food Pantry and the Community Pantry and Fridge at Ballard Vale United Church.

9

Committee members

800

Volunteers

65

Sports teams, clubs, and organizations participating

150,000

Meals packed

The largest event the Outreach Program has done on a college campus. Of the 426 schools the Outreach Program partners with, Merrimack's program has had the largest impact. Over the 16 years, Merrimack has packaged

720,786

meals to date.



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY,
MERRI



► **Fun Fact** Did you know that more than 100,000 lights shine bright during the holiday season across Merrimack. The hard work of the Merrimack facilities team starts in early November so students can enjoy the Christmas wonderland before winter break.

MERRI, Merrimack's campus comfort dog, celebrated her 5th birthday on Oct. 23. For five years, Merri has been helping the campus community, spreading joy and comfort to all.

WARRIORS WANTED!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WITH WARRIOR SPIRIT? TELL 'EM ABOUT MERRIMACK!

COME VISIT US We offer campus tours and info sessions
Monday – Friday (and most Saturdays)

APPLY FOR FREE Applications are open for the Fall 2025 semester

» **LEARN MORE** at
www.merrimack.edu/warriors-wanted and
see why it's a GREAT time to be a Warrior!





Student Snapshot

Photo by
David Hamilton '26



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

STUDENT PROFILE

MASTER'S STUDENT OVERCOMES TREMENDOUS ODDS TO BECOME DOUBLE WARRIOR

Through courage and resilience in overcoming multiple hardships in her life, **Raquel Perez '20, M'23** exemplifies what it means to be a true Warrior.

As a young girl living in New York, Perez could barely communicate with anyone due to a severe speech impediment.

"Since I was born, I have dealt with not only my disabilities but also bullying from kids and adults at school and in the community," she said. "I would hear things such as, 'You won't be enough,' 'You can't do this or that,' 'How are you going to get a good job if you barely can speak,' and 'You won't be able to attend college.'"

None of these things deterred Perez from her dreams — it only motivated her more. She underwent six years of intensive therapy to improve her speech after moving to Lawrence, Mass., at the age of 18. Once she finally felt ready, she sent an application to her dream school, Merrimack College.

"I drove by the beautiful campus daily as I went about my life," she recalled. "I would often stop and ponder what

it would take for me, a low-income Latina who is a single mom born with a lifelong speech impediment, to enroll ... but I wanted to go to this school so badly it would hurt."

When she was accepted, Perez said she was overjoyed.

As she began her first semester in 2018, Perez was blindsided by an unimaginable tragedy. The 2018 Merrimack Valley gas explosions left her and her two young children without running water or electricity for months. As she tried to keep her household together, her grades began to slip.

"My mind wasn't there," Perez recalled. "We were in the fall going into the winter — the weather would be getting worse and worse."

With nowhere else to turn, Perez went to the McQuade Library staff.

"I told one of the ladies there my situation and how I may have to drop out," she said. "The staff member said, 'No, you're not going to quit school. We're going to take care of you and your kids, and we need you to focus on your schoolwork.'"



Perez was given a small office on campus to do her studies in peace. Meanwhile, various Merrimack faculty members helped her find groceries and child care.

Perez received her diploma and entered the workforce in human services shortly after. Still, she found her new job was not a good fit. After some time, the lure to return to Merrimack for a master's degree became too much. She decided to challenge herself by stepping away from psychology and pursuing business.

"Merrimack is my second home," she said. "I made my dreams come true and nobody can take that away from me."

TOGETHER WE CAN

MERRIMACK, RIVERWALK BREWING COLLABORATE FOR *TOGETHER WE RISE* CAMPAIGN BEER

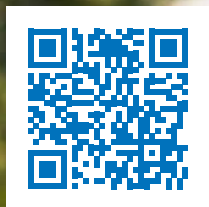
In celebration of *Together We Rise*, the College's \$100 million capital campaign, Merrimack and Riverwalk have launched *Together We Can*, a New England-style IPA available exclusively at campus events.





LECTURE HALL GROUNDBREAKING

This new 19,200 square-foot academic building will house five modern lecture halls where future Warriors will discover their passions, gain new knowledge and be challenged to stretch their minds. The building is slated to be completed for the spring 2026 semester.



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

COME BACK TO GET AHEAD

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

Alumni automatically save at least 25% on tuition for more than 30 career-focused graduate degree programs.

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



Quick Chat



WHAT IS YOUR

FAVORITE MERRIMACK EVENT?



Macktoberfest
– Ava Alexopoulos '27



Taste the World
– Amber Cheuveret '26



Lawler games
– Bella Crowley '26



Augie's
– Jimmy Kritzas '25

Jamie Kimberley, a new faculty member who joined Merrimack College this fall, studies how materials respond to extreme dynamic environments ranging from outer space to underground. Kimberley received his doctorate in aerospace engineering and master's in theoretical and applied mechanics from the University of Illinois, and his bachelor's in mechanical engineering from SUNY-Binghamton.

Q How does Silly Putty help explain your research?

When you pull Silly Putty apart quickly, it breaks apart, and when you pull it apart slowly, it flows like a thick fluid. This helps explain my focus on understanding how materials respond under extremely dynamic environments and how it goes well beyond the popular children's toy. The materials I test, and the rate at which they are hit, bent, prodded and broken, have important implications, from outer space to underground.

Q Coming to Merrimack, how are you planning to expand your research?

I am interested in studying how extreme dynamic environments impact additive manufactured, or 3D printed, materials. There has been a big push in the past 15 years for additive manufacturing, and there are major advances there for areas such as industrial printing.

Q What drew you to Merrimack for your career?

I was drawn to Merrimack to help elevate my career and research, with the College's pursuit of R2 classification. Merrimack's commitment to education was really big for me. Merrimack's size and student-centric mission were also very attractive.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE CELEBRATES MASS LIFE SCIENCES CENTER GRANT



Future scientists who will make groundbreaking discoveries in the life sciences are already honing their skills at Merrimack, thanks in part to a \$750,000 grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC). The Merrimack community celebrated the grant at an event on Thursday, Oct. 24, in Palmisano Hall. Guests, including MLSC leadership, external partners and government officials, had the opportunity to view state-of-the-art instrumentation purchased through the grant that will give undergraduate students valuable research experience and prepare them for co-ops, internships and ultimately careers in the life sciences.

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



FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)
– Tyler Leavy '24, M'25



Cram Jam
– Rebecca Rau '25



Spring Concert
– Emily Riggs '25



Intramural activities, especially kickball
– Nick VanCott '26

MERRIMACK ON THE



TOGETHER WE RISE, the College's most ambitious capital campaign to date, will secure Merrimack's bright future for generations of Warriors.

TOGETHER
WE RISE



The Campaign for
Merrimack College

RISE

The vision for Merrimack College over the next month, the next year, the next decade and beyond is set: to build upon its academically rigorous, innovative, student-centered mission, while enhancing its greater impact on society through science and service.

The next step in this bold vision for the future is the launch of the College's most ambitious capital campaign to date. Harnessing the unwavering support and collective dedication that has sparked Merrimack's remarkable transformation, the *Together We Rise* campaign will allow every community member to contribute to the institution's collective ascent.

Launched in September 2024, *Together We Rise* aims to raise \$100 million over the next five years to transform Merrimack's campus, shape tomorrow's intellectual and spiritual leaders and support the College's bold objectives in academics, research, student life, mission and athletics.

"The message is clear," said Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "With the help of the Merrimack College community, our faculty's imagination, staff's dedication, students' determination, alumni's support and our collective ambition for this institution, anything is possible. *Together We Rise* is about Merrimack

College's future and it will remind everyone what is possible together."

As of Dec. 31, 2024 *Together We Rise* has raised \$62.6 million.

As the College enters the final phases of its strategic plan, the *Agenda for the Future*, *Together We Rise* will ensure Merrimack has the resources to achieve key strategies and strongly position it for continued growth and success.

At a special event on Sept. 19, 2024, more than 300 guests gathered in the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher to celebrate the launch of *Together We Rise*, where Board of Trustees Chairman Kevin '89 and his wife Karen Lucey P'24 were announced as chairs of the campaign.

"To secure Merrimack's rise, we need the help and philanthropy and time of the entire College community," Lucey said. "Merrimack's success will continue because of the work and effort of us all."

Funds raised through the campaign will support many critical goals and initiatives across the College. *Together We Rise* will not only strengthen Merrimack's ability to adapt and evolve in an ever-changing world but also ensure students receive an educational and spiritual experience that will make them valued and respected contributors in their community.

**GOAL:
\$100
MILLION**

**\$62.6
MILLION
RAISED**
as of Dec. 31, 2024



“We are poised for many continued accomplishments and to make a lasting difference within our community and beyond,” said Courtney Johanson, senior vice president for institutional advancement and chief marketing officer. And we are proud and excited to do this together.”

Together We Rise Campaign Priorities

Together We Rise prioritizes four areas that represent the foundation upon which the College built its unprecedented success over the past 15 years:

TOGETHER WE INNOVATE



Fostering College-wide innovation and research

Merrimack College’s pursuit of R2 classification and elevated research status continued its momentum this academic year with the opening of the Massachusetts Life Science Center’s instrumentation lab in Palmisano Hall and the hiring of new faculty, including Jamie Kimberley, professor of mechanical and electrical engineering, and Don Roosan, associate professor of data science.

This continued enhancement of the College’s research infrastructure and human capital is a critical step toward awarding doctoral degrees, a key aspect of earning R2 classification. Funds raised through *Together We Rise* will help to continue to recruit talented research faculty who will support doctoral students and train postdoctoral fellows, while also further building research space, with the ambitious goal to tackle some of society’s most difficult problems through science.

“This is what great universities do,” said Hopey. “They educate. They research. They solve the problems that need to be solved. And they help.”

▶ **Funds raised through *Together We Rise* will help to continue to recruit talented research faculty who will support doctoral students and train postdoctoral fellows.**



TOGETHER WE

GROW

Elevating the Merrimack College student experience

The evolution of Merrimack's rigorous academics has positioned the College to respond to the growing needs of students, as well as the companies, organizations and programs future Warriors will move on to after graduating from Merrimack.

Adding innovative programs in growing fields of study has ensured students are more than prepared to make impactful contributions to the 21st century workforce. More than 70% of Merrimack's students are enrolled in majors that did not exist at the College 15 years ago, including nursing, data science and environmental sciences.

This has been a significant reason why undergraduate applications have increased fivefold in the years since, to more than 15,000 applications annually. Soon, the average size of Merrimack College's annual graduating class will surpass the size of what was once the College's total enrollment.

Similarly, outside the classroom, Merrimack has transformed its student-centered culture to ensure the education, support and readiness of the whole person. Whether that is through increased career development opportunities, mental health and wellness programs, or more affordable pathways to college, Merrimack will utilize investments from *Together We Rise* to benefit the entirety of the community.

▶ **Outside the classroom, Merrimack has transformed its student-centered culture to ensure the education, support and readiness of the whole person.**



Furthering the College's Catholic Augustinian mission

Compassion and service to the community are cornerstones of Augustinian Catholic teaching, as well as the mission of Merrimack College. Today, that dedication to the betterment of others can be found across several aspects of campus life.

Beginning this academic year, all Merrimack College first-year undergraduate students are required to take the "Who Am I?" course, initially part of the Austin Scholars curriculum. The course aims to get students thinking critically and reflectively about their mission and purpose as human beings, not just as students.

The College's Mack Gives Back Days, to honor both Veterans Day and Saint Augustine's birthday, saw the Merrimack community package 150,000 meals for area food pantries and organizations. The evolution of this marquee service event over the past 12 years has furthered Merrimack's commitment to the Merrimack Valley.

Together We Rise will ensure the growth of impactful experiences such as these, while also establishing new ones for the Merrimack community, and propel the College's mission to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives beyond the campus.

Watch a video about the impact *Together We Rise* will have on Merrimack.

▶ The 'Who Am I?' course aims to get students thinking critically and reflectively about their mission and purpose as human beings, not just as students.

TOGETHER WE SERVE





TOGETHER WE

WIN

Enhancing Merrimack's Division I athletics facilities and performance

The demand for Merrimack College athletics is at an all-time high in the 2024–25 academic year. From a new conference to greater media exposure to nationally renowned opponents to international tournaments, the Warriors continue to demonstrate they belong at the Division I level.

The Warriors' ability to perform at the highest level of collegiate athletics is evident just in fall 2024: Both the

women's soccer team and women's volleyball team reached the conference tournament in the College's first year in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; the men's basketball hosted storied program Princeton at Lawler Arena; and the men's and women's hockey teams were invited to prestigious tournaments over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Support through *Together We Rise* will provide athletics with the resources to hire and retain top-tier coaches, who will recruit and develop accomplished student-athletes to play and practice in state-of-the-art facilities and bring greater pride to a supportive fan base.

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

National Chairs

Kevin '89 and Karen Lucey P'24

Vice Chairs

Marybeth McInnis H'17 and
Stephen Boucher

Paul and Joyce Mucci P'07

Committee Leadership

Together We Innovate

Laurence '60, H'11 and
Susan Demers '62, Co-Chairs

Christine '75, H'24 and
James Zampell '75, H'24

Together We Grow

Michael '81 and Mary Gorham
Franco '81, P'12, Co-Chairs

Together We Serve

Karen Cambray '88 and
John Piekos, Co-Chairs

Anthony '93 and
Luisa Borgonzi P'25

Rev. Raymond F.
Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D.

Bill '00 and Karen Grogan
Dennis '77 and Norma Leonard

Together We Win

Ken '80, H'16 and
Jincie Duane, Co-Chairs

Regional Members

Alvin Chapital '86

John '78 and Jeanne Talbourdet



WILL YOU RISE WITH US?

To learn more about *Together We Rise* and how to contribute to Merrimack College's next chapter, visit www.merrimack.edu/together-we-rise/.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE BREAKS GROUND ON NEW RESIDENCE HALLS

The Merrimack College campus' decades-long transformation from farmlands to an innovative and modern hub of higher learning continues with the construction of two new residence halls, which the campus community officially kicked off with a groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, Sept. 20.

"These new residence halls are more than just buildings; they are a symbol of our ongoing commitment to the well being and success of our students," said Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.

"They will not only provide comfortable and modern living spaces but also areas where students can gather, collaborate, learn and thrive as part of our broader campus family."





Construction began at the corner of Rte. 114 and Andover Street over the summer. The two buildings will add 540 on-campus beds, the most significant increase to the College's on-campus housing stock in almost a decade. One building will have traditional dorm rooms and the other will have suite-style rooms. The project also features 12,609 square feet of new academic space, a pavilion for honors students and a fitness center.

A key aspect of the project is that both the front of the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher and the statue of Christ the Teacher will remain visible and accessible from the corner of the streets, ensuring a seamless merging of Merrimack's future and beginnings.

The College is partnering with Greystar Development and Collegiate Housing Foundation on the development of the project through a public-private partnership, which allows for greater private participation in the delivery of projects.

The project is slated to be completed in fall 2026.



Construction progress as of Jan. 10, 2025



WARRIORS AT WORK

In and out of the classroom, Merrimack College students, faculty and staff are taking advantage of many opportunities to prepare the next generation of workers to make immediate and lasting impacts in their careers.

In Associate Professor Brandi Baldock's research program, the discoveries do not take place just inside the spectrophotometers. They also occur among the students who are honing their knowledge and skills to apply them beyond the laboratory bench.

"A major emphasis of both my teaching and my chemical education research program is to help students develop the scientific skills valued by both professors and industry professionals that are critical to their careers, to help them prepare for future professional programs or the workforce," explained Baldock.

Both at the undergraduate and graduate level, Baldock has incorporated hands-on learning opportunities into her curriculum for students to practice laboratory benchtop and scientific processing

skills that will not only help them determine which aspects of science, research and learning they enjoy but also make them more attractive to employers in academia or industry.

All advanced undergraduate and graduate chemistry students have the opportunity to do laboratory research with faculty, giving them ample experience planning and carrying out laboratory procedures, while making significant contributions to the literature that may come out of a research project. They also take seminar courses in which they learn how to explain scientific ideas and describe their research to students, STEM professionals and the general public alike.

"These students crave these experiences because they will actually prepare them for the workforce," Baldock said.

Baldock's dedication to workforce development in the lab is just one example of Merrimack College's larger effort to enhance real-world, hands-on learning for its students. As the College continues its pursuit of R2 classification by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education and become a hub of innovative and impactful discovery, it is also committed to readying students to bring that innovation and impactfulness into their careers.

"We aim to foster opportunities, pathways and connections that can lead students to discover their passion," said Amy Shirley, associate vice president and dean of career and experiential learning. "Hands-on learning really does allow students who may not envision themselves being theoretically the best student in a classroom to gain the confidence to pursue that co-op, internship or career."

The College recently relaunched its Warriors at Work program, which offers a six-month, paid co-op experience while keeping students on track to graduate in four years. In addition to the real-world work experience at an industry partner, students in the Warriors at Work program also receive dedicated career advising, priority course registration and the opportunity to start networking.

Chris Rincon '25, a mechanical engineering major in the Warriors at Work program, got his dream internship at General Electric in part because of connections through Merrimack, and then parlayed that opportunity into a co-op at Draper in spring 2024.

"They really take students out of their comfort zone," said Rincon of his Draper co-op. **"I am making meaningful contributions to projects, including work that is going to be presented to the Navy."**

Through internships and co-op, as well as the support from the O'Brien Center for Career Development, Rincon noted he has acquired new skills on how to professionally present himself and his work. He also credited Merrimack's annual Professional Development Retreat, and the networking opportunities it offers, with helping him come out of his introverted shell.

"I'm really glad Merrimack has resources like Warriors at Work, the O'Brien Center and PDR and puts so much effort into supporting students," Rincon said.

Merrimack faculty are not just sharing their workforce development expertise with their students but also in the fields in which they trained. Traci Alberti, associate dean of nursing and chair of the Department of Nursing, has served on the Massachusetts Nursing Council on Workforce Sustainability since 2022, providing her vision on the profession and future workforce development for nursing.

"The work I have led is creating an interactive illustration on the continuum of the nursing workforce and defining the benefits and potential solutions to challenges," Alberti said. "As a whole, the council is working to take a holistic viewpoint of the nursing profession."

In a post-COVID world, Alberti noted there have been significant changes and challenges within the nursing profession, from critical nursing shortages to burnout to retention to different viewpoints on work-life balance and aspirations for career outcomes. To help address some of those concerns, Merrimack College nursing students take nursing-specific courses in their first year to expose them to aspects of the profession sooner.

Alberti said it is the dual responsibility of nursing programs and health care organizations to prepare students while also ensuring they feel supported as they transition into the nursing workforce.

"Educationally, we are working to better prepare our students for the reality of the workforce, but there also needs to

be innovative solutions to make the work environment supportive and fulfilling," Alberti said. "Nursing is a phenomenal career. It is so rewarding, and you can constantly reinvent yourself."



The Merrimack nursing program is also focusing more on the intentionality of self-care so new nurses know how to take care of themselves and build resilience to withstand the physical, intellectual and emotional demands of the profession.

Merrimack's commitment to workforce development and career readiness is a key component of the Together We Grow priority within Merrimack College's *Together We Rise* capital campaign. Growing the College's educational innovation and accessibility empowers students in their academic and professional pursuits, while also expanding Merrimack's offerings to reach new audiences.

"We want all our students to see the value they can bring to their field," said Shirley.



TRACI ALBERTI

Associate Dean, School of Nursing and Health Sciences



BRANDI BALDOCK

Associate Professor, School of Arts and Sciences



AMY SHIRLEY

Associate Vice President and Dean of Career and Experiential Learning



CHRIS RINCON '25

Mechanical Engineering Major

The Merrimack community came together in record numbers to celebrate Homecoming and Alumni Weekend. Students, parents, alumni and friends showed off their Warrior spirit.

Homecoming & Alumni Weekend



The Merrimack College marching band entertains crowds during the halftime show along with the dance and cheer teams.

Tailgating is one of the highlights of Homecoming and Alumni Weekend.



In the Merrimack vs. Dartmouth game, senior **Jermaine Corbett** rushed for 137 yards and two touchdowns.



HOCKEY PROGRAMS SPEND THANKSGIVING IN BELFAST AND NASHVILLE

From the Volunteer State to the Emerald Isle, Merrimack College's hockey teams spent the Thanksgiving break showcasing their on-ice skills, immersing themselves in local culture and bringing the Warrior spirit to new audiences.

Both teams competed in mid-season tournaments, with the women playing in the SMASHVILLE Women's Collegiate Hockey Showcase in Nashville, Tenn., and the men traveling across the Atlantic for the Friendship Four in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

"The whole trip was really well done," said Scott Borek, head coach of the men's team. "We have a great group of men, and I'm really proud of how they interacted with the community and showed a reverence for the places we visited."

During the weeklong trip, the men's team engaged with the culture of both Ireland and Northern Ireland, including playing the traditional Irish sports of hurling and Gaelic football and visiting the Belfast Peace Walls and Titanic Museum.

"Everyone was so friendly," said Josef Mysak M'25, a defenseman. "That's what made it even better overall. The hospitality was great."

Fellow defenseman Ivan Zivlak '25 added he was impressed by the Titanic's significance to Belfast, where some 3,000 workers at shipbuilder Harland & Wolff helped build the vessel before its fateful voyage in 1912.

"There was this sense of accomplishment for the whole city, not just for the shipbuilders," Zivlak said.

Erin Hamlen, head coach of the women's team, said participating in a mid-season tournament was a great addition to the schedule.



"It was one of the best hockey trips I have ever been on. So many people asked us where we were from and about the hockey program. It was great visibility for Merrimack."

—Madison Cardaci M'25

"It was a very fun experience to be in a tournament and playing for something," said Hamlen. "You don't get those usually until the end of the season, and the feedback I got from the players was it felt like they had gone back to their youth hockey days where you are constantly traveling to and playing in tournaments.

The SMASHVILLE Women's Collegiate Hockey Showcase is held in conjunction with a girls' hockey tournament that promotes the sport in a city with a young but growing hockey history. Girls who attended Merrimack's opening game saw the Warriors knock off No. 13 Penn State, 3-1.

"Being able to beat such a high-ranked team solidified that we have something special here," said Hayley Chang '25, a defender. "We really got to bond as a team during the trip, and that helped us on the ice."

The team celebrated Thanksgiving together with family and friends who made the trip to Nashville and also had the chance to check out the city's famed Broadway and listen to live country music.

"It was one of the best hockey trips I have ever been on," said Madison Cardaci M'25, a forward. "So many people asked us where we were from and about the hockey program. It was great visibility for Merrimack."

Both Hamlen and Borek said they would like to participate in mid-season tournaments in the future, not only because of the experience but also because of the impact it has on the teams when they return to campus.

"I think it grows your team as a group," said Borek. "You come back stronger than when you left and with a greater perspective."



Watch highlights from the men's hockey trip to Belfast.



LEGACY FAMILY SPANS THREE GENERATIONS AT MERRIMACK



Siblings Nadia Athanasiadis '28 and George Athanasiadis '25 essentially grew up on Merrimack's campus. Their mother, Danielle Athanasiadis '97, a standout on the women's soccer team, kept her children involved at Merrimack from a young age. And it was particularly easy given their father, Paul Athanasiadis, has been on the women's soccer coaching staff since 2000.

"My favorite memories were going on the soccer field during my dad's games and chilling with the injured players," Nadia reminisced. "They took me in

as an honorary teammate. I loved growing up on campus — it's like home."

Nadia, an Austin Scholar double majoring in early child education and human development and human services,

said that legacy made the transition from high school to Merrimack a cinch.

Her brother, George, started his senior year this fall. He is expected to graduate with a bachelor's degree in communications with a minor in sports management this spring. Since his freshman year, George has played catcher for Merrimack's men's baseball team.

"[Merrimack] was the first college I reached out to when I was a sophomore in high school," he said. "I've really been able to connect with my professors and build relationships with them. I still talk

to the professors I had since freshman year — they've been able to help me with some of the harder classes I had."

The family's Warrior pride can be traced back to Danielle's father, Mickey Ouellette '69, P'97, '01, GP'19, '23, '25, who was a mainstay on campus for decades. He not only played on the men's hockey team, but he also coached men's soccer.

"My father put a good root down here," said Danielle. "He had us understand how to lead a good path in life. Merrimack was on that path."

As a student, Danielle majored in finance and was an All-American athlete on the women's soccer team. She returned to coach the team for three years after graduation.

After graduation, Nadia hopes to land a job as a preschool teacher. George, meanwhile, is planning to pursue baseball next year. He recently completed a stint with the Greece National Baseball Team this past summer.

THE WARRIOR FUND

TOGETHER WE WIN

Warriors, this is our time. With your support, we will continue to elevate Merrimack athletics — enhancing facilities, recruiting top talent and striving for excellence.

Your gift to the Warrior Fund fuels our pursuit of greatness and continued Warrior pride.



Give today and be part of the future of Warrior athletics!





HOMETOWN:
São Paulo, Brazil

MAJOR:
Neuroscience

FUN FACT:
Martins-Cavalcante has been playing tennis since she was 6 years old.

MERRIMACK STUDENT PURSUES PASSION FOR ALL THINGS BRAIN RELATED

Come for the tennis, stay for the neuroscience.

That pretty much sums up the Merrimack College experience for Giulia Martins-Cavalcante '26. A native of Brazil, she was recruited to join the College's women's tennis team. Once on campus, she began pursuing her passion for all things brain related.

Martins-Cavalcante has been playing tennis since she was 6 years old. When Merrimack scouted her, she said she was impressed with what the College offered academically.

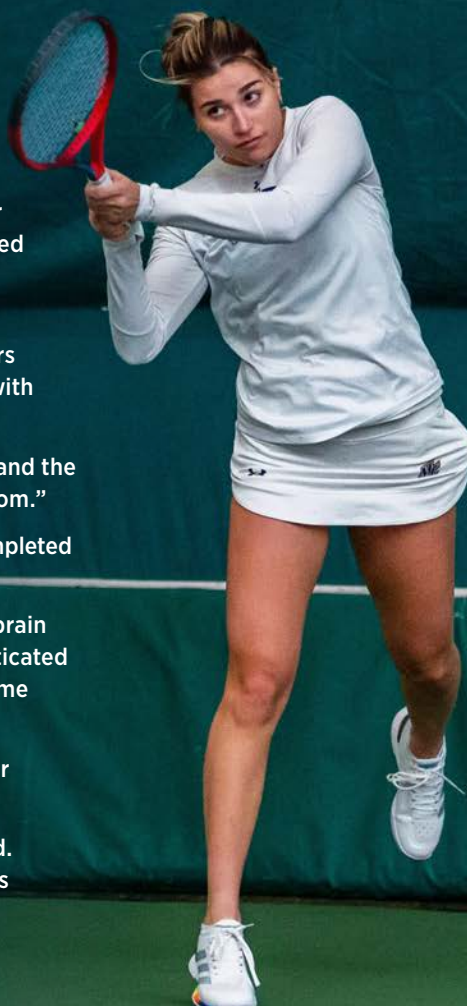
"I've already done direct research," she said of her education, "and the professors are helping me way beyond just things in the classroom."

This past summer, Martins-Cavalcante, a neuroscience major, completed an internship with neurosurgeons at a private practice in Brazil.

"They were treating disorders, such as Parkinson's, using deep brain stimulation," Martins-Cavalcante explained. "It's a really sophisticated kind of surgery. Not many people are exposed to it, not even some doctors, so I am really grateful for the experience."

Martins-Cavalcante said she hopes to become a neurosurgeon or neurologist.

"(Being a surgeon) is a really rewarding (profession)," she noted. "You're so tired after surgery and then the patient's family starts thanking you because you just saved a life."



MERRIMACK COLLEGE ATHLETICS INDUCTS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2024



President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. pictured with the class of 2024 inductees along with former vice president of athletic affairs and deputy chief of staff Jeremy Gibson (not pictured Stéphane Da Costa '17).

Merrimack welcomed another decorated class of Warriors to the Athletics Hall of Fame on Friday, Sept. 27, as part of the College's Homecoming and Alumni Weekend festivities.

Class of 2024 inductees Joe Clancy '13 (football), Stéphane Da Costa '17 (men's ice hockey), Darin (Dee) Mency, Jr. '11 (men's basketball) and Kathryn Morgis '02 (softball) represent some of the most accomplished student-athletes in Merrimack Athletics' history and are part of some of the College's most successful teams.

"These inductees' dedication, hard work and triumph during their time at Merrimack helped to define the attributes this College seeks in its student-athletes," said Jeremy Gibson, former vice president of athletic affairs and deputy chief of staff. "Their accomplishments help set the foundation for all that Merrimack's athletic programs have accomplished and we continue to aspire to; they are Warriors in the truest sense."

Joe Clancy '13
Football

Stéphane Da Costa '17
Men's Ice Hockey

Darin (Dee) Mency, Jr. '11
Men's Basketball

Kathryn Morgis '02
Softball

1960s

DONNA (FOLEY) '62 and **NORMAN MACLEAN '62** are Merrimack Sweethearts who are proudly still in love all these years later! (1)



1970s

TERRY MONAHAN '72 received a California Interscholastic Federation Gold Pass after covering high school sports for the past 50 seasons, starting in 1973. The lifetime pass allows him free admission to any high school athletic event during the regular season, playoffs and state finals.

BILL DUGGAN '79, P'18 attended the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) Scout Jamboree in spring 2024. Over 600 scouts from Texas to Maine attended this STEM-type merit badge University put on by the USNA Scouting Group.

1990s

MATT KRAUNELIS '91 was recently appointed as town manager for the town of Reading, MA. He previously served as Reading's assistant town manager and director of administrative services. Before coming to Reading, he served in senior roles in local government and as a government attorney.

CYNTHIA L. JOUDREY '95 has been named the executive vice president and sector president for commercial and institutional business at CHA Consulting, Inc.

KEITH A. WENTWORTH '96 has been inducted into the 2024 Metal Construction Hall of Fame. Keith, currently serving as president of Dutton & Garfield and president of the Metal Buildings Institute, is being honored for his decades of contributions to his industry.

STEVE CICCARELLI '97 and **MARK O'DONNELL '97**, both Merrimack alumni, along with Ciccarelli's childhood friend Mikey Bortone, founded Watertown Whiskey, a unique coconut-infused rye whiskey, in 2023. The whiskey is now available online and in hundreds of locations nationwide. (2)



VALERIE RHODES '99 married Matthew Goldstone, and the maid of honor was **Lisa Costa '97**. (3)

2000s

JOSEPH BASILE '00, president of Catania Oils, a leading supplier of plant-based oils for retail outlets, bulk purchases and the food service industry, has been promoted to chief revenue officer.

RICHARD M. BARDEN '01 has been named the next principal of Northeast Metro Tech High School in Wakefield, MA.

JASON ALLDREDGE '03 was recently promoted to assistant vice president and mortgage loan sales manager at Thomaston Savings Bank.

PATRICE EXILUS '04 has a new role as the branch manager for Cape Ann Savings Bank's Granite Branch in Rockport, MA.

KATIE (DESPRES) GABRIELLO '08 was recently promoted to director of operations for the town of Reading, MA. where she oversees procurement, risk management and communications.

CLIFF SILVA '06, LAURA (KRABY) ROUNDTREE '05, KATIE WALKER '05, PAUL DEVINE '05, MELISSA (KURAS) BARBERIO '05, and SARAH AND KEVIN FOLY '05 enjoyed a Red Sox game together. (4)



JACQUELYN TONELLI '09 named chief financial officer at Wrike.

EXPANDING STUDENT ACCESS TO THE PELLEGRINAGGIO EXPERIENCE

For **DENNIS '77 AND NORMA LEONARD**, Merrimack's Pellegrinaggio not only provided them with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to follow in the footsteps of St. Augustine, but it also inspired them to help ensure that future students will have access to the same transformative experience, unencumbered by cost.



In May 2024, a group from Merrimack, including members of the College's Board of Trustees (BOT), embarked upon the annual Pellegrinaggio in Italy. Dennis, who has served on the BOT since 2016, and Norma describe the trip as a profound experience.

Pellegrinaggio in Italy provides students and

members of the wider Merrimack community with a unique opportunity to explore the life of St. Augustine and the origin of the Augustinians. The course culminates in a trip to Italy to examine firsthand sites of importance in Augustine's life and in the origin and early history of the Augustinian friars.

As part of their Pellegrinaggio travels, Dennis and Norma, along with several BOT members and their spouses, members of Merrimack senior leadership, President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., and his wife, Cheryl Lucas, had the extraordinary opportunity to meet Pope Francis.

Norma recalled, "When they opened the doors for the Pope and he walked in, you could feel a gasp across the room. I was immediately holding back tears. Even talking about it now, I still get the chills."

After reflecting on the personal significance of their Pellegrinaggio experience, Dennis and Norma expressed a desire to help ensure that any student interested in taking the course had the opportunity to do so, regardless of their ability to shoulder the financial cost.

Together they established the Pellegrinaggio Endowed Fund to award need-based financial assistance for students enrolled in the course.

Norma explained, "I thought if someone was interested in learning more about the life of St. Augustine but unfortunately couldn't afford the expense of the trip, that would be something I would hate to see them miss out on."

Dennis added, "You never know, there could be a situation where a student was considering joining the Augustinian Order, and the exposure to St. Augustine's life and travels through this trip might be the impetus to drive them to that decision."

Dennis and Norma's Pellegrinaggio Endowed Fund is now a part of the larger Merrimack endowment, a dedicated and permanent source of funding that supports all areas of the College. Instead of spending these funds immediately, the College invests the money and uses a portion of the earnings each year to support a wide variety of areas like scholarships, student and faculty research and professorships.

In doing so, the endowment grows over time, providing a steady stream of support for current and future generations — like planting a tree whose fruits we can enjoy today while still leaving plenty for those who come after us.

Dennis and Norma support several local nonprofit organizations and charitable causes near to their hearts but consider Merrimack an especially important component of their philanthropy.

Dennis said, "Merrimack is, I always say, a very special place. It's where Norma and I met, and my experience as a student there helped me grow up. The College has really taken off under President Hopey's leadership and experienced immense growth but still holds true to its Augustinian roots."

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Laurence “Larry” Palmisano, Sr.



The former trustee, generous donor and loyal son of Merrimack College passed away on Dec. 22, 2024.

To best understand Laurence “Larry” Palmisano, Sr.’s ’57, H’19, P’82, ’85, ’87, ’87, ’90, GP’16 love for Merrimack College, and the College’s presence in his storied life, one just needs to look at his name printed in any Merrimack publication.

His name is followed by a catalog of three generations of Palmisano family members who graduated from Merrimack College, as well as the year he received an honorary degree in recognition of his support for the College.

“A patriarch of a proud Merrimack family, Larry’s love for and support of the College was profound and benefited

Palmisano was a champion of Merrimack’s engineering programs and was deeply committed to advancing engineering education at Merrimack. His investment of his vision, resources, expertise and time is a throughline in Merrimack’s story of transformation from a small liberal arts school into a growing research university.

countless students,” said Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. “His belief in Merrimack’s mission was unwavering and allowed us to accomplish many important goals. I am so grateful to have known Larry and will miss him dearly.”

Palmisano was a champion of Merrimack’s engineering programs and was deeply committed to advancing engineering education at Merrimack. His investment of his vision, resources, expertise and time is a throughline in Merrimack’s story of transformation from a small liberal arts school into a growing research university.

He led the fundraising, design and construction of the campus building that bears his name, Palmisano Hall, where students and faculty embark on pursuits of scholarship that will lead to remarkable discoveries.

For all he did for the betterment of Merrimack College, Palmisano was given an honorary degree in 2019.

A member of the class of 1957, Palmisano graduated from Merrimack’s civil engineering program. He went on to lead the family business, developing and managing properties across Southern New Hampshire. He also served as president of Palmer Asset Management, a firm involved in financing and acquiring commercial and multi-family real estate.

His love for Merrimack College grew from his time as an undergraduate student to serving on the Board of Trustees. He was a strong supporter of the *Together For Good* campaign and student scholarships, as well as an avid participant in the President’s Cup Golf Tournament. Palmisano was also one of the founders of the Gold K Club scholarship fund.

Palmisano and his late wife Bobbie were married for more than 57 years and together they raised five children, all of whom graduated from Merrimack College. In addition to his children, Palmisano is survived by 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



2010s

JON LADINO '12 has been announced the new head coach of softball at College of the Holy Cross.

BRITTANY ROCHELEAU '14 welcomed a baby boy named Cameron.

DEREK MCDONOUGH '15, MST, EA, of Westbrook, Maine, has been promoted to manager at BNN's tax practice. Since joining BNN in 2022, McDonough has focused on income tax planning and compliance for high-net-worth individuals and families. Before joining the firm, he served as a tax and operations associate at an investment advising firm. (5)

MIKE MELLO '16 and **BRIANNA O'DONNELL '16** got married on Aug. 21, 2024, at LaBelle Winery in Amherst, NH. (6)

CAITLYN (WARD) CARUSO M'17 was promoted to manager at Marcum LLP.

LEANN DIMAURO '18 and **DREW PERRY '18** got married in August 2024 in Beverly, MA, surrounded by the love and laughter of their Merrimack friends. (7)

2020s

REBECCA DONAHUE '20, M'21 was appointed to the position of firefighter/paramedic in Burlington, MA, making her the first woman to serve as a firefighter in Burlington's 225-year history.

DAN HANSEN '20 and **MARIA D'AURIA '20** were recently engaged at Marshall Point lighthouse in Tenants Harbor, ME. (8)

BRENNA ROBERTS '21 got engaged to **ROB FITZGERALD '21** in June 2024. (9)

RYAN SHEA '23 has been sworn in as a police officer at the Burlington Police Department in Burlington, MA.

TIMOTHY PINKHAM '23, M'24 has been sworn in as a police officer at the Burlington Police Department in Burlington, MA.

DONTE GARCIA M'24 has been hired as an assistant strength and conditioning coach at Ithaca College.

MICHAEL EGLINTINE M'24 was hired by Hobart and William Smith Colleges as an assistant strength and conditioning coach.

AMBER MELIDEO '18, M'20, of Newton, MA, has been promoted to manager in her tax practice. She specializes in tax planning and compliance for closely held businesses, partnerships and high-net-worth individuals.

In Memoriam

Arthur J. Bower '57
 Laurence "Larry" Palmisano, Sr., '57, H'19, P'82, '85, '87, '87, '90, GP'16
 Arlene J. (McCormack) McGovern '58
 Joseph F. Sheehan '58
 Irene (Rheume) Weber '58
 Dorothy M. Lambert '61
 Richard Messer '61
 Michael Ohanian '61
 Edward J. Scahill, Jr. '61
 Augustine X. Doyle '64
 Joseph P. Danahy '65
 Richard C. Raiche '68
 Joseph M. Souney Sr. '68
 Ann H. Mulrooney '69
 Nicholas J. Chapman '71
 Arthur L. Mosher '71
 Philip J. Burch '74
 Norm D. Harkins '75
 Ralph B. Nolet '75
 Robert J. Boches '76
 Ronald J. Berube '77
 Marilyn R. (Toscano) McCarthy '77
 Robert E. Donovan '83
 Muriel R. Henderson '92
 Adria L. (Zilonis) Keuning '92
 Joyce Wholey '01
 Justin C. Clements '13
 Albertino M. Mendonca '14



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ...

visit www.merrimack.edu/update to share life changes, employment updates, accomplishments and pictures.

SAVE THE DATE

**FOR UPCOMING MERRIMACK
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS EVENTS**

MERRIMACK IN FLORIDA ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - NAPLES Saturday, March 15

Show off your pride and represent Merrimack College through the streets of Naples with fellow alumni, parents and friends.



NEW YORK CITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS RECEPTION Tuesday, April 1, Players Club

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



REUNION WEEKEND Friday, June 6–Sunday, June 8

Come celebrate Reunion Weekend 2025 as we honor the milestones of class years ending in 5 and 0. This special weekend offers a chance to reconnect with old friends, relive your time on campus, discover the latest happenings at Merrimack and so much more.



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

HOMECOMING '25

HOMECOMING & ALUMNI WEEKEND 2025

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!



MERRIMACK'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Friday, December 5
Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport

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

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

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF IMPACT: THE MUCCI CAPITAL MARKETS LAB

PAUL AND JOYCE MUCCI P'07 have long been involved with the Merrimack community, beginning when their son, Nicholas Mucci '07, was a student at the College. They continue to support Merrimack in a number of ways, including Paul serving as a trustee, a tri-chair of the Girard School of Business Board of Advisors and a member of the Mucci Capital Markets Investment Funds Advisory Committee.

In 2014, Paul and Joyce decided to take their support a step further, making a gift to the College to establish the Mucci Capital Markets Lab, a center of innovation for advanced financial learning and education within the Girard School of Business.

Containing a full array of 24 Bloomberg terminals, the Mucci Capital Markets Lab simulates a professional trading floor and offers students access to Morningstar, Capital IQ and FactSet, providing opportunities to develop research, financial modeling and analysis skills. This hands-on experience helps prepare students for internships as well as career and graduate school opportunities.

Paul explains, "Having access to the tools offered in this lab allows Merrimack students to gain a competitive advantage; they have the ability to get Bloomberg and FactSet certification and pass the SIE exam and series 63 or 66 to gain a deeper understanding of investments."

The Mucci Capital Markets Lab recently marked the 10-year anniversary of its grand opening and has experienced impressive growth over the past decade. From its inception, it has added more Bloomberg terminals and expanded the array of programs and events it offers each year.

Students can apply to help actively manage three portfolios: the Merrimack Equity Fund, Merrimack Fixed Income Fund and Merrimack Alternative Investment Fund. Paul and Joyce donated the seed money to kick off these funds, and under the management of Merrimack students, the funds have grown from \$100,000 to a combined \$650,000+ in assets.

In addition, the Mucci Capital Markets Lab offers numerous opportunities for students to travel and network with industry professionals, including participation in conferences like the Global Asset Management Education Forum in New York. Paul feels that these experiences positively impact students' learning, noting it "provides them with an opportunity to be a part of something larger."

Paul and Joyce frequently participate in Mucci Capital Markets Lab events and enjoy the opportunity to see first-hand how impactful the lab has been for students. They largely credit its success and continued growth to the efforts of its Managing Director, Mary Papazian.



Joyce shared, "Mary has an amazing relationship with the students and is always available to help them. You can see they have a strong bond and feel as though she has their back."

Paul added, "Mary is dedicated to constantly evolving the Mucci Capital Markets Lab and introducing new ideas like artificial intelligence into investing."

The Mucci family is looking forward to attending the 10th anniversary of the Mucci Capital Markets Lab celebratory event on Tuesday, April 15. To be held at the Rogers Center for the Arts on campus, the event will feature a keynote speaker, student investment presentations and a special awards presentation.

Paul reflected, "To see all of this happen in such a relatively short period of time and to be able to be so involved with the Mucci Capital Markets Lab and its growth has been an indescribable experience. We are thrilled to see this resource continue to expand and grow."

**Learn more about the
Mucci Capital Markets Lab.**



Christmas Celebration

Alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff came together to celebrate the Christmas season at the Boston Hilton Park Plaza at the annual Merrimack Christmas Celebration.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH AT MERRIMACK



JOHN '78 AND JEANNE TALBOURDET believe deeply in Merrimack and its commitment to expanding and enhancing research practices — and are proud to support these initiatives in a multitude of ways.

John and Jeanne, after graduating with degrees from Merrimack College and Cornell University, respectively,

both enjoyed rewarding careers in engineering. Grateful for the role higher education played in their lives, the couple made regular gifts to Merrimack over the years, including establishing a need-based scholarship fund for undergraduate engineering students.

Scholarships are a meaningful area of support for John and Jeanne. Jeanne notes that her ability to attend Cornell was thanks to a generous scholarship, and the couple strive to pay their gratitude forward and help future Warriors have the same educational opportunities they did. John shares, “There are a lot of deserving people that have the ability to improve society but need a little financial help to get their education.”

Inspired by President Christopher E. Hopey’s leadership and vision to elevate Merrimack as a nationally ranked research institution, John and Jeanne also made the decision to include Merrimack in their estate plans.

When John and Jeanne’s planned gift is realized, it will establish two new endowed funds: the Talbourdet Family

Research Fund, to support research within the School of Engineering & Computational Sciences; and Talbourdet Family Term Professorship, to establish a new professorship within the School of Engineering & Computational Sciences.

John and Jeanne feel strongly about funding research initiatives at the College, explaining, “Supporting professors and their research brings a greater depth of knowledge and new research initiatives to the College. By exposing students to the expertise and new ideas of high-level faculty members, the College can ultimately push the envelope of knowledge.”

As members of the *Together We Rise* Campaign Committee, Jeanne and John are sharing their giving experience in hopes others will explore planned giving opportunities as well and join them in making an impact.

Jeanne shares, “We have seen first-hand how the College has grown, and watching that growth in action really encourages you to join in and help move things forward.”

Like John and Jeanne, your gift can help fund cutting-edge faculty research and new learning opportunities for future generations of Merrimack College students. To discover which planned gift is right for you, contact the Office Development and Alumni Relations at giving@merrimack.edu.



**THE 1947 SOCIETY
MERRIMACK COLLEGE**

JOIN THE 1947 SOCIETY

Planned Giving: Your Gift. Their Future.

The 1947 Society was created to recognize those who help ensure a Merrimack education for future Warriors. Everyone who has notified Merrimack College of an estate intention, such as a bequest, a beneficiary designation on a retirement fund or life insurance policy, a charitable trust or a charitable gift annuity, is included as a member of the 1947 Society.

1947 Society members are forward-thinking individuals who make plans today for a better tomorrow.

MERRIMACK ALUMNUS REFLECTS ON 20-YEAR MILITARY CAREER

JOSHUA CARROLL '05 enrolled at Merrimack eager to pursue his academic interests and dream of playing college football. However, a pivotal event took place during his freshman year that changed the course of his life, launching a nearly 20-year military career.



In early fall 2001, Joshua was beginning to settle into his new routine on Merrimack's campus when the devastating terrorist attacks of 9/11 occurred. Deeply impacted by the events of that day, he recalls the feeling of uncertainty he and fellow students felt in the days and weeks that followed.

Seeking to help others in the aftermath of 9/11 and inspired by his uncle's and brother's long-standing service in the Air Force, Joshua enrolled in the U.S. Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), a program that prepares students to become officers in the Air Force while earning their college degree.

He shared, "At that moment, I remember thinking, 'This is my time. I don't want to miss the opportunity to follow this calling to serve.'"

Joshua successfully completed the ROTC program through UMass Lowell and graduated from Merrimack with a bachelor's degree in political science and government. On graduation day, he commissioned as a second lieutenant and moved to attend Intelligence Officer School at Goodfellow Air Force Base.

After completing Intelligence Officer School, he received his first-choice assignment in Hawaii but felt as though he was "missing something." Driven once again by a strong desire to help others, he volunteered for deployment, ultimately completing eight years of active duty in the Air Force before utilizing the Post-9/11 GI Bill to enroll in law school.

Joshua takes pride in recognizing the unique ties between the history of his alma mater and his own military service, noting, "Merrimack was founded after World War II as a small college for returning veterans to use the GI Bill to attain a degree, and I think it's unique that I was able to have a similar experience furthering my education as well."

After earning a Juris Doctor from Duke University, he launched a successful career as an attorney and currently holds the position of vice president and counsel for Wellington Management Co., a Boston-based private, independent investment management firm.

Joshua also maintains a position as Lieutenant Colonel for the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He is approaching 20 years of service in the U.S. Air Force and will officially retire in May 2025.

Reflecting on his military career, Joshua shared, "This will conclude an entire chapter of my adult life that I've spent in uniform. I've been through a lot of different jobs, experiences and adventures, but I'm excited to see what comes next for me."

Between his many professional roles, Joshua also makes time to volunteer for Merrimack, including serving on the College's Board of Advisors for Athletics and assisting with Merrimack's Moot Court competitions, where students argue constitutional issues in a hypothetical case.

He said that no matter how busy life may get, he finds the opportunity to support the College and interact with current students to be extremely rewarding. "I would encourage other alumni to find a way to get back on campus and experience the excitement and energy firsthand — it's reinvigorating and fills you with such a sense of pride."



The
Merrimack
Fund



WILL YOU RISE WITH US?

ANY GIFT

Gifts of any size to The Merrimack Fund add up to create new opportunities for our 4,000 undergraduate and 1,700 graduate students. Your generosity empowers the next generation at Merrimack.

EVERY YEAR

By making an annual gift, you sustain a lasting impact on Merrimack College, supporting every aspect of the student experience and ensuring the College's financial health.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Whether you direct your gift to the area of greatest need or a specific initiative, your support makes a difference. Together, we can rise and make Merrimack stronger.



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WE RISE**
The Campaign for Merrimack College





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TOGETHER WE GIVE • APRIL 3, 2025

Join us for a 24-hour fundraising campaign that unites the Merrimack community in a powerful celebration of generosity. Together, we can make a lasting impact!