

# MERRIMACK

SPRING 2017



THE ELEMENTS OF ACADEMIC **SUCCESS**

# MERRIMACK

A Magazine for Our Alumni, Parents and Friends

Spring 2017

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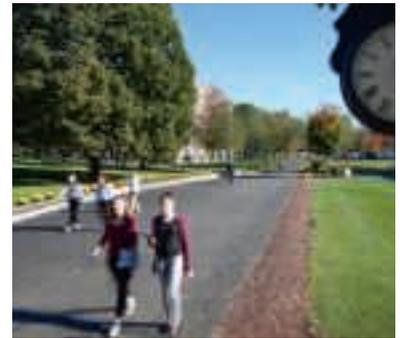
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MERRIMACK  
COLLEGE

8



24

**Features**

**6 Meet Merrimack's new Provost**

**8 Talented and Passionate Faculty:** Our educators and their big impacts in the classroom

**Sections**

**18 Seen and Heard:** News and events from the campus community

**26 Together for Good:** A campaign update

## ROOTS AND WINGS

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We live in an era marked by change and disruption; higher education institutions are being challenged like never before, by changing demographics, changing expectations, even changing politics.

Institutions can bend with those changes, as everyone must to some degree. But an institution can also stand as a rock, upon its value and its values, upon the fundamental truths and the academic essentials. This is the path Merrimack has chosen. “We develop the intellect, spirituality and creativity of every student. We still believe in rigorous academics, in scholarship among faculty and students, in experiential learning and in a holistic residential experience.

“The techniques and technology we employ to deliver those basics does indeed evolve with the times. What Merrimack College stands for does not. And we, and our students, thrive because of that.”

There is an old saw about the importance of giving our children roots and wings. As with most folk wisdom, this one is deeply rooted in experience.

We are grounded by our academic mission and Augustinian values—our roots. We provide intellectual, spiritual and ethical roots to the students who come to us not yet fully formed but eager to learn.

Tending those roots are Merrimack’s constant gardeners—the faculty, who nurture students’ minds and hearts and help them become the people they want themselves to be and find the paths they want to pursue.

Without a strong faculty and intellectual grounding, a college withers. Merrimack has, however, built success upon success precisely because we have a passionate, hardworking and truly caring faculty, who maintain both a boundless interest in our students and alumni and a boundless capacity for constant growth themselves, through research, service and, indeed, through teaching.

And along with these roots, our faculty provide students with wings.

Merrimack students and alumni have used those wings to find lofty economic perches, at institutions like Bank of America or Berkshire Hathaway. They have flown to Nepal to rebuild poor villages after earthquakes, and to hundreds of American school systems where the daily work of educating the next generation is truly a vocation of love. They have taken wing to the priesthood and to public service, to business start-ups and pharmaceutical laboratories, to graduate school classrooms and to higher education leadership.

The wings Merrimack faculty provide take Merrimack students and alumni to these heights. The roots we provide mean that, when they arrive, they know what to do and how to do it, and most importantly, how to do it with compassion and a sense of their place in community and in the world.

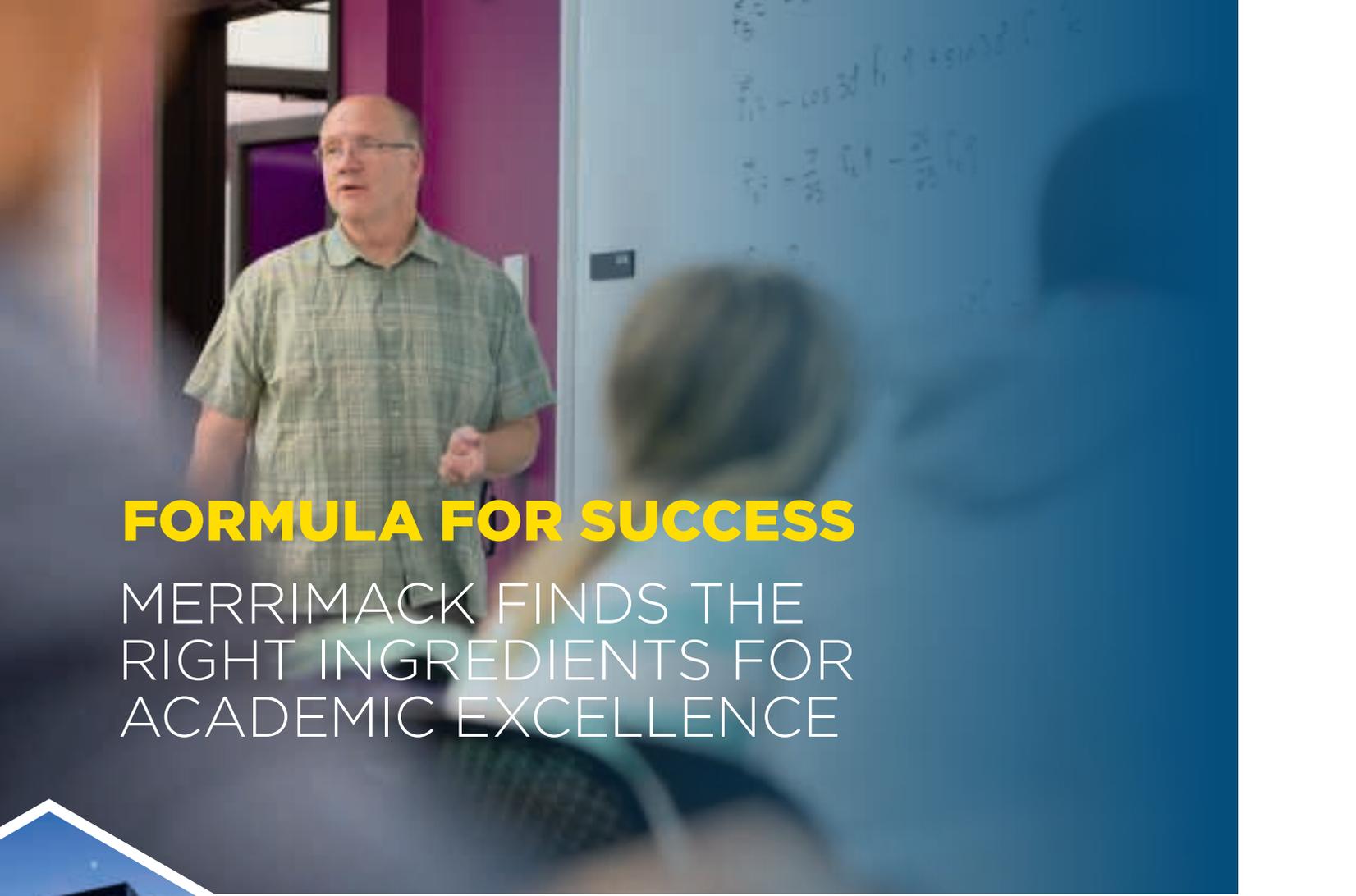
In this issue, you will read about those roots and those wings. We hope you enjoy digging in, and reading stories that make your spirits soar.

Best,



Dr. Christopher E. Hopey  
*President*





## FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

# MERRIMACK FINDS THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



**Higher education is changing.** We hear that all the time, as a justification for any number of sudden shifts by any number of institutions striving to stay relevant to a declining pool of 18- and 19-year-old high school seniors.

Higher education *is* changing, though, and in very specific ways. Federal funding cuts could mean less support for public institutions, and also less aid for students interested in attending a private institution. An effort to curb federal regulation could trim costs—estimated by the Boston Consulting Group at up to 11 percent of an institution’s budget, taking up to 15 percent of faculty and staff time—but could allow a host of new for-profit, online institutions to enter a crowded marketplace and create a different kind of competition.

The institution that thrives in this era of uncertainty will be that which builds upon a solid foundation of strategic planning, a deeply supportive alumni community, a strong faculty, a history of success—and a genuine story to tell about adding value to students’ lives.

It will be the institution that has built its reputation in the realms of higher education and ideas, of creating a thriving

residential community and teaching the skills and reinforcing the values of its students—one that knows what it does best and then does it very well.

In short: Merrimack College.

“Merrimack is an institution bucking all the trends, in all the right directions,” said Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., president of Merrimack since 2010.

The college has clearly been on an upward path for the past several years: Total enrollment, once less than 2,000, now approaches double that number, including more than 575 graduate students; the college is on track to enroll its second-largest freshman class ever in fall 2017. Merrimack has added more than 70 full-time members of the faculty, built seven new residence halls and in fall 2017 will open a new academic building, the first since the early 1990s, along with a new athletic stadium; two more academic and administrative buildings will follow.

And the Merrimack community has certainly been supportive and responsive to the momentum: *Together for Good*, the \$50 million capital campaign launched with great fanfare in 2016, has already raised more than \$38 million.

None of this happened by chance. It required diligent, strategic planning, overseen by the president and involving trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, alumni and students.

“Success doesn’t come from short bursts and midnight inspiration,” said Hopey. “Merrimack’s way forward has been, and will continue to be, part of a planning process that takes into account this institution’s great strengths and core competencies, the evolution of society’s expectations for education, and the best wisdom about our shared future.”

Merrimack’s 10-year *Agenda for Distinction* broadly laid out the college’s road in 2011, allowing for flexibility along the way. Hopey’s assembly of a seasoned senior leadership team has implemented the agenda while working together proactively to keep it, and Merrimack, on track.

The vision was divided into five strategic priorities, each with a set of specific tactics and goals to move the college forward:

- Create a modern academic enterprise grounded in innovative teaching, learning and scholarship.
- Develop a contemporary Catholic mission.
- Create an intellectually vibrant, socially engaged, entrepreneurial student experience.

- Inspire and engage our people, culture and community.
- Strengthen our value proposition and competitive position.

#### ACADEMICS ARE AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO

Investments in academic resources are at the forefront of Merrimack’s reputational success. Creating an academically respected and intellectually vibrant institution has heightened the college’s appeal to prospective students and future employers, and added value to alumni degrees.

“From the day the *Agenda for Distinction* was created, it has been our mission to ensure that students attending this institution are doing so not solely to graduate, but also to have the opportunity to develop as individuals with the creativity, imagination and knowledge to change the world,” Hopey said.

The elements comprising Merrimack’s academic success have been strategically chosen, carefully assembled and assiduously honed. They are: expanded program offerings, an outstanding and passionate faculty, new centers of learning and support, investments in technology, experiential-education opportunities and respect for our Augustinian roots.

With regard to the first “element,” Merrimack has introduced 11 new undergraduate and 20 new graduate programs during Hopey’s presidency, in areas such as business, engineering, and education and social policy. This has enabled the college to secure its place in the market while meeting emerging needs and preparing its students to address urgent global issues. Case in point: two new online master’s programs, in data science and business analytics, designed to give data scientists and business analysts the knowledge and skills they need to take on critical management positions in their rapidly growing field.

Central and most critical to the success of Merrimack students are the faculty who devote themselves tirelessly to



“From the day the *Agenda for Distinction* was created, it has been our mission to ensure that students attending this institution are doing so not solely to graduate, but also to have the opportunity to develop as individuals with the creativity, imagination and knowledge to change the world.”

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY, PRESIDENT



provide life-changing learning opportunities. Since 2011, the institution has increased its full-time faculty ranks by more than 60 percent, with a goal of reaching 230 full-time faculty by 2021.

To support these professors in their work, Merrimack in 2013 created the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Through fellowships, teaching circles, workshops and conferences, the center assists faculty in developing and implementing creative, effective and innovative teaching methods that enhance student learning and support academic success. Today, the center stands as a national model and resource for similar institutions, particularly the community of small Catholic colleges and universities, to adopt and develop best practices in teaching and learning.

In the classroom, Merrimack is incorporating more digital tools, online resources, collaborative learning spaces, 3-D printers and state-of-the-art equipment. As part of these efforts, the college rolled out Mobile Merrimack, a program that equips faculty and new students with iPads in order to enhance the learning experience. Students can move from the classroom

The college has clearly been on an upward path for the past several years: Total enrollment, once less than 2,000, now approaches double that number, including more than 575 graduate students; the college is on track to enroll its second-largest freshman class ever in fall 2017.

to the workplace and beyond, becoming proficient with mobile technology as an information literacy and collaboration mechanism.

On a much larger scale, the School of Science and Engineering recently received a \$500,000 grant that will fund purchase of a confocal imaging microscope, ICP spectrophotometer and bone densitometer for use in a new interdisciplinary imaging and analytical science lab. The equipment will greatly expand the analytical foundation for Merrimack students in their preparation for careers in the life sciences, officials said.

Outside of the classroom, Merrimack is devoted to providing innovative resources and programs to help all students reach their full potential. One notable example is the Academic Success Center, a modern and spacious facility on the third floor of the library, which provides students with one-on-one coaching, test-prep help and tutoring in math and writing, and houses the college's novel bridge programs, Compass and Promise. The center is even set up to assist students who have mobility issues or other health challenges.

Reaching success doesn't only happen on campus or in the classroom. Integrated into the curriculum and the fabric of the institution is experiential education, a formal program that emphasizes experience at its core. Through co-ops and internships, student-faculty research, service learning, semester-long and short-term study abroad, practicums, fellowships and more, students forge the connection between classroom theory and real-world practice, and broaden their global perspective.

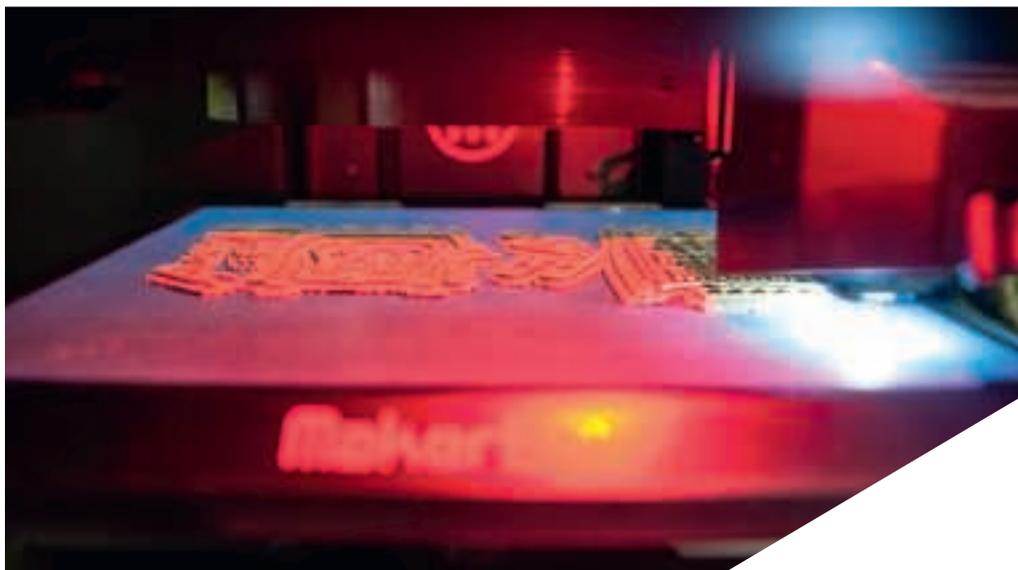
"When students come to an institution, they're looking for the whole experience—something that is meaningful. And Merrimack delivers." Hopey said.

The business school's Mucci Capital Markets Lab, which provides cutting-edge resources for students interested in careers in finance and investing, may epitomize Merrimack's commitment to global learning.

"We help them understand how a change in our political system impacts the markets—what it means and why it's important," Hopey said. "Merrimack is doing a tremendous job with some of these things. And, of course, we want to do even more."

The college's tripartite motto gives equal weight to three crucial goals of a Merrimack education: enlighten minds, engage hearts, empower lives. That means not only laboratory and classroom learning—coupled with experiential education—it means embracing Merrimack's Augustinian roots by working toward a more just, peaceful and sustainable world.

Virtually every day throughout the year, you can find a Merrimack student helping to better the lives of the world's poor and underserved. Through Hands to Help, they tutor aftercare students in Lawrence,



Massachusetts. During alternative spring break, they rebuild homes in New Orleans for victims of Hurricane Katrina. As part of Mack Gives Back, they clean up parks and stock shelves at food pantries in the Merrimack Valley. At Thanksgiving, they deliver turkey dinners to needy residents. And at Christmas, they buy gifts for underprivileged youth and families.

“Augustinian values stress not merely moral behavior, but creation of community wherever a student finds him- or herself,” Hopey said.

Investments in academic resources are both human and capital. The North Campus Academic Pavilion, future home of the Girard School of Business, is one such example. The 50,000-square-foot building, scheduled to open this fall, will house 14 flexible learning environments, the Mucci Capital Markets Lab, the Comprehensive Business Advising Center and the Financial Capability Center, making it an ideal focal point for academic and social growth.

“It is not the construction of the building, or what will be housed within its walls, but the opportunity it will offer our students to use additional resources on campus where they may come together to learn, grow and develop into leaders,” Hopey said.

Further enhancements are already in the works. By 2018, the president said, Merrimack will establish a School of Health Sciences, renovate buildings to support science and engineering and make improvements to current academic spaces for majors such as communications, psychology and the performing arts.

Taken together, Merrimack’s many successes in the academic arena are cause for contentment, but not complacency.

“The college’s reputation has never been stronger, its position in the competitive New England higher-education landscape, never more favorable,” Hopey said. “But we have mountains yet to climb. We have successes still not dreamed of.” ■





“AS LONG AS I  
CAN REMEMBER,  
SCIENCE HAS BEEN  
PART OF MY LIFE.”

# MERRIMACK NAMES NEW PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## 10 QUESTIONS FOR ALLAN T. WEATHERWAX, PH.D.

Allan Weatherwax, former dean of the School of Science and Engineering at Merrimack, was elevated in January to provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. A physicist and astronomer, he has conducted geophysical research in the Antarctic and Arctic for decades, and served as a member of the Polar Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences. The Weatherwax Glacier in the Antarctic stands as testament to his contributions to the field. We spoke in his office at Austin Hall.

### **Q: So, what's the greatest benefit of having a glacier named for you?**

(Laughs.) I always joke that, with global warming, it could be a fleeting honor. You know, I've dedicated a large portion of my life—over 20 years—to working in the Antarctic. Having the glacier named for me is a nice recognition of my work, but it hasn't exactly brought me fame and fortune. I guess the greatest benefit is it makes a nice ice-breaker at an event where they ask you to say something unusual or unexpected about yourself.

### **Q: Can you recall the first time it occurred to you that you wanted to be a scientist?**

It's funny you ask. My mother recently came across one of my class assignments from second or third grade, where I talked about wanting to travel to the South Pole. It must have been after I read a story about the Antarctic explorers. As long as I can remember, science has been a part of my life. In high school, I started working at a planetarium. That's when I truly knew I was going to be an astronomer and a physicist.

### **Q: Can you describe the feeling of cold in the Antarctic to someone who has never been there?**

When you go out into the field on the coastline of Antarctica, you can see the

penguins and the orcas, and that's fun. But when you start going into the interior, at 10-, 12-, 14,000 feet, on the icecap, that's where you feel, "This is Antarctica." It's completely white, it's cold, and you're enveloped by this beautiful isolation and desolation. It's powerful. It's a cold you've never felt—a constant cold—where you understand if you're not adequately protected, you will die, quickly.

### **Q: What's the secret to surviving in an environment like that?**

First, it's good planning. I'll begin preparing a year in advance for our team to go out and put experiments out in the field. Second, it's knowing what your limits are. I'm very good in the field, but we always take along a mountaineer, usually someone who has climbed K2 or Everest, and who really knows what they're doing. And third, it's not taking chances. On a ski slope, you can go out of bounds a little bit, and you know you're going to get there. In the Antarctic, if you cut corners, you and your team could be killed.

### **Q: What's your favorite place on campus?**

I enjoy sitting by Mendel Pond, on one of the Adirondack chairs, later in the afternoon and doing a little reading or catching up on email. I also love going to the (Mendel) observatory. I often take students there, but occasionally I'll go up by myself, and it's a very peaceful experience.

### **Q: Name three people, living or dead, whom you most admire.**

I've done a lot of work on the history of polar exploration, so the first person who comes to mind is (Ernest) Shackleton. He was a great leader of men—and back then, it was all men—who survived some of the worst conditions imaginable. Another person is John Toll, the former president

of Stony Brook University and former chancellor of the University of Maryland. He also was a great leader, a great physicist and someone who was a true mentor to me later in my life. Finally, I'd say Mozart. I'm a huge lover of classical music, and there's absolutely no mistaking his genius.

### **Q: Three words that your friends would use to describe you.**

Collegial, honest and upbeat. I'd be very content if that's how my friends thought of me.

### **Q: What's your dream vacation?**

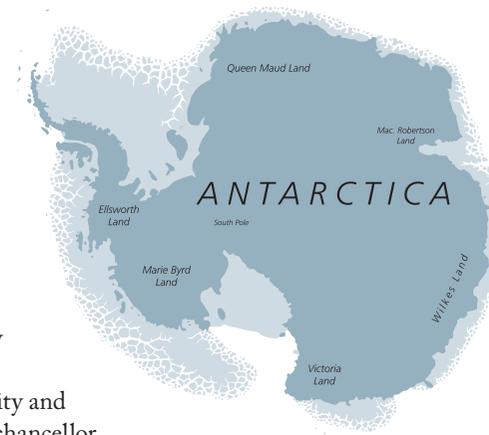
For a quiet and peaceful vacation, I love New Zealand. I've had a chance to visit there many times, and I never get tired of it. The other place I love is Paris. Between the food and the art, it would not be a problem to spend a couple of months there.

### **Q: Teach me something I don't already know.**

If you could see in the microwave spectrum, the whole world, when you looked out, would glow, all the time. This is due to the background radiation of microwaves that are remnants of the Big Bang. It's called the cosmic microwave background, and it was discovered by (Arno) Penzias and (Robert) Wilson in the 1960s.

### **Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

As a president of a college or university. I'd be looking to lead an institution that has mission at its core, as Merrimack does. That's what really resonates with me. ■





Research partners  
Charlotte Berkes, Ph.D.,  
and Jimmy Franco, Ph.D.,  
interpret lab results with  
students.



# A SEARCH FOR A CURE

*Hands-On Learning at the Intersection of Chemistry and Biology*



**On any given day, you can find Merrimack students in the lab or in the field conducting original research guided by Merrimack College School of Science and Engineering faculty.** “Mentoring undergraduate research is an important part of our teaching,” explained **CHARLOTTE BERKES, PH.D.**, associate professor of biology. “We believe students benefit from conducting hands-on research in the lab. It helps them understand and analyze a problem, say an infectious disease, down to the molecular level.”

Berkes found a kindred spirit in organic chemist **JIMMY FRANCO, PH.D.**, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry. Together, they have embarked on a long-term, multidisciplinary, antifungal drug development initiative aimed at finding a cure for histoplasmosis, a life-threatening disease caused by a pathogenic fungus.

“Several of my students use a combination of organic synthesis, biochemistry, and computational chemistry to identify and synthesize compounds in a quest for a cure,” said Franco. “Not only does it help them understand the importance of what they’re doing; it makes them feel good about the work they’re putting into it.”

Their research into histoplasmosis has already yielded promising discoveries. “In recent years, there haven’t been many advances in the treatment of histoplasmosis—creating great need for the development of novel therapies. At Merrimack, we recently discovered that a subset of kinase inhibitors are potent inhibitors of *Histoplasma* growth,” remarked Berkes. Franco agreed,

saying, “When you first start these adventures, there’s no guarantee it will work out, so that first breakthrough was a very exciting moment.”

Two years ago, Berkes presented their collaborative research findings at an antimicrobial chemotherapy conference, which inspired the Structural Genomics Consortium at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to share a pharmaceutical compound library—the GlaxoSmithKline kinase inhibitor library—with Merrimack. “This was a huge win for us. Last spring, two Merrimack students screened the entire chemical library of 320 compounds, and we identified a handful that are strong inhibitors of *Histoplasma* growth, which we presented at the American Society for Microbiology General Meeting,” said Berkes.

The benefits of hands-on research experience extend far beyond the classroom. “Many of our students have gone on to pursue master’s degrees—their interest often sparked by their drug discovery experience,” explained Franco. “Yet, these advanced degree programs are really competitive. So having solid undergraduate research experience, sometimes even presenting work at a conference, really helps Merrimack students stand out.” ■



# THE POWER OF THE SPOILER ALERT

**In modern entertainment, spoiler alerts have become just as common, if not more, as the movie trailer push just before opening night.** A study is now showing that these declarations made by members of the media and conversational partners before an integral part of a show could be the reason why more are tuning in.

**LISA PERKS**, associate professor of communication in Merrimack’s Department of Communication and Media, found the existence of spoilers—and people’s reactions to them—compelling enough to perform extensive research with co-author Noelle McElrath-Hart dissecting this phenomenon.

Perks’ research began with the concept of marathon or “binge” watching by “time-shifters”—those who record or wait to watch a program online, on demand or on DVR versus viewing it when it airs. Through this research, she discovered the power of the spoiler—both positive and negative—particularly on the “time-shifter” demographic.

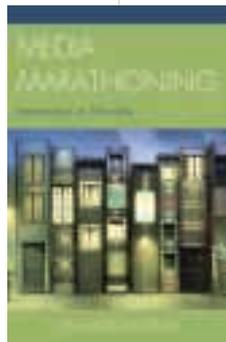
“People have such strong reactions to spoilers and I wanted to get to the bottom of why people react that way,” said Perks. “Not all people dislike spoilers. Some people love spoilers—they expect them in today’s media climate. Some people enjoy the content regardless of knowing what happens ahead of time, and they just enjoy seeing what leads up to it. It has all become a new normal.”

Through her research, Perks has learned that the definition and timing of a spoiler varies from person-to-person. For example, does a spoiler expire? Is it okay to reveal information about a show a week, a month or year after it broadcasts? Perks found that opinions varied dramatically.

Perks also discovered that some people were using spoilers as narrative teasers for shows they haven’t viewed yet, or maybe never would have watched. They see or hear a spoiler and become interested in the story line, and ultimately, they become avid viewers.

Overall, Perks’ academic research analyzes media representations of marginalized groups and audience reception processes. She recently published the book *Media Marathoning: Immersions in Morality*, and her work regarding spoilers is being published in three separate scholarly publications.

Perks earned a Ph.D. in communication studies from the University of Texas at Austin, an M.A. in communication arts and sciences from Pennsylvania State University, and a B.A. in communication and sociology from Wake Forest University. Her teaching and scholarship revolve around culture, power, and media. Perks comes to Merrimack College from Nazareth College, where she was the communication and media program director and an assistant professor. ■





**“I wanted to explore if spoiler attitudes can be changed and show people different sides to them—even the benefits.”**

LISA PERKS

# BUSINESS PROFESSORS COLLABORATE TO CREATE STUDENT ENTREPRENEURIAL COMPETITION



**JOSEPH STASIO, associate professor and chair of marketing, and VALERIE BELL, assistant professor of management, are working together to bring a campus-wide student entrepreneurial competition to Merrimack.**

The Great Ideas Competition—which is open to all students, regardless

of area of study—invites students to join in the running for the best business venture, with a top prize of \$3,000.

What started as a small team competition in Stasio’s class for the last three years morphed into a much larger competition this year when Bell, who assigned her international entrepreneurship students to create new ventures for a foreign market, asked Stasio to pool entrepreneurial efforts.

“The Great Ideas Competition brings students from all different majors across Merrimack’s campus together for the first time, to turn some of their great ideas and inventions into real, new business opportunities which may drive the economy in the future,” said Bell. “It also gives our students true hands-on experience with actual business challenges that they may face in other careers they may enter in the future. It’s experiences like this that make Merrimack different from other colleges.”

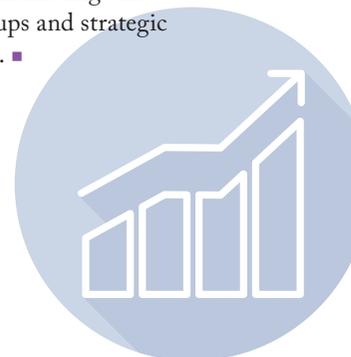
The competition has attracted over 20 teams made up of two to six Merrimack students, and the business faculty provides mentoring support for all of the teams throughout the competition.

Each team created a 60-second pitch of their new venture idea at the end of February, and a miniature business plan and a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation by April 30. Each student team will then compete on May 6, where a team of external judges made up of bankers, angel investors and successful entrepreneurs from the Greater Andover area will select the finalists. On May 8, those finalists will compete for the prizes—the first-place winners will receive \$3,000, second place \$2,000 and third place \$1,000.

“The purpose of the competition is to bring the subject of entrepreneurship to life for students so they experience what it is like to try to take an idea to market,” said Stasio. “By presenting their work to professional bankers, entrepreneurs and other professional business people, they receive ‘real world’ feedback about their efforts. As business students, there is probably no better way to bring their studies to life than through challenges like this one. As an instructor, it is most gratifying to witness the transformation of students as they engage in the process and live with the results.”

Valerie Bell earned a Ph.D. in management, and an M.Sc. in international business and emerging markets from the University of Edinburgh. Her research interests are international entrepreneurial opportunities and internationalization processes, and the acquisition of knowledge in multinational firms in the food and pharmaceutical industries.

Joseph Stasio earned a B.S.B.A. from Salem State College, and an M.B.A. and A.P.C. at Suffolk University. He is also a Certified Marketing Professional. His research interests and publication record involve all aspects of marketing and entrepreneurship with an emphasis on start-ups and strategic planning for new and growing organizations. ■







# PROGRAMS TO FIT YOUR GOALS

## PROGRAMS

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- Accounting
- Athletic Training
- Business Analytics (online)
- Civil Engineering
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Community Engagement
- Community Health Education
- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Data Science (online)
- Exercise and Sport Science
- Health and Wellness Management
- Higher Education
- Management
- Mechanical Engineering
- Public Affairs
- School Counseling
- Teacher Education

## BENEFITS

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- One-year, part-time, and two-year formats
- Evening classes
- Internships and field-based opportunities
- Scholarships and Financial Aid
- Fellowship and Assistantship programs

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**MERRIMACK COLLEGE**  
 NORTH ANDOVER, MA

## NEW M.S. DEGREE PROGRAMS FOCUS ON DATA SCIENCE AND BUSINESS ANALYTICS

To address the growing demand for high caliber data scientists and business analysts, Merrimack has launched online Master of Science in Data Science and Master of Science in Business Analytics degree programs through a unique interdisciplinary partnership between the School of Science and Engineering and the Girard School of Business. These online programs will provide an employer-aligned curriculum designed for busy working professionals.

“Merrimack College is committed to providing the highest quality education to all students,” said Allan T. Weatherwax, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. “For busy working adult professionals, our online data science and business analytics master’s programs offer a unique opportunity to learn in a flexible and convenient environment. Our graduates will be prepared to take on critical management positions and become leaders in the growing field of data science and business analytics.”

The launch of the Master of Science in Data Science and Master of Science in Business Analytics programs coincides with a growing demand for leaders in these rapidly evolving fields. The McKinsey Global Institute notes that “demand for deep analytical talent in the United States could be 50 to 60 percent greater than its projected supply by 2018.”

The result, the institute adds, may be a shortage of 140,000 to 190,000 people with deep analytical skills.

Critical input from a broad range of industry experts and employers enables the data science and business analytics programs to be tightly aligned with industry needs. Leading industry experts and employers contributed to



our program’s curriculum so students will develop the skills and knowledge most valuable to employers. Merrimack’s innovative online programs produce graduates who are poised to become leaders in the fields of data science and business analytics.

“There’s clearly a critical need for a high-quality program like this in the Boston area that can meet both employer demand and employer-determined competencies,” said Mark Cordano, dean of the Girard School of Business. “That’s exactly why this program was designed, with industry leaders, to ensure the curriculum is focused on mastering the advanced analytical and business decision-making skills that employers are looking for when making hiring and promotion decisions.”

The programs—which can typically be completed in 15 months—are highly personalized and blend real-time, faculty-

led sessions with self-paced learning elements to ensure maximum flexibility. Eight courses are offered in eight-week formats with multiple enrollment points throughout the year. Along with faculty who are practitioners and have experience in the fields of data science and business analytics, students will have a dedicated success coach to guide them through the curriculum.

Course projects and assignments are based on authentic, real-world data issues that allow students to use cutting-edge tools and approaches while providing real-world business scenarios and data sets. The curriculum is infused with examples from their own professional experience to provide practical knowledge and problem-solving skills that can be utilized in their current organization while earning their degree.

For more information, visit the program website at [onlineDSA.merrimack.edu](https://onlineDSA.merrimack.edu).



FRED DRISCOLL '65

## THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

*Perspectives from Fred Driscoll '65, Dean, College of Engineering and Technology, Wentworth Institute of Technology*

More than five decades at an institution will give you deep perspectives on the changing landscape of higher education. Just ask Fred Driscoll '65, Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology at Wentworth Institute of Technology. Now celebrating his 52nd year at Wentworth, Dean Driscoll has witnessed countless changes across nearly all facets of higher education—from technology to housing to experiential learning to academic programs. We asked him to reflect on the most significant transformations and share insights about the changes that lie ahead.

### **Q:** What brought you to Merrimack College?

I grew up nearby in Everett, Mass., and my cousin had graduated from Merrimack in 1957 with a degree in civil engineering, so I was aware of its reputation. I graduated in 1965 with a degree in electrical engineering.

### **Q:** How did you end up in the field of academia?

After graduating from Merrimack, I worked for the government in Washington, D.C., but I didn't like the job. I saw an opportunity to teach in the electronics department at Wentworth and decided to apply. I said, "Oh, I'll do it for two years and see how it goes." That was 52 years ago!

While I was working at Wentworth, I decided to pursue a master's degree at Northeastern University, which is right across the street. From there, I started writing textbooks.

### **Q:** What has kept Wentworth interesting to you after all these years?

I've been offered a tremendous amount of flexibility to pursue my interests. In particular, I've had the opportunity to develop timely programs that address today's technological and engineering challenges—and prepare students to solve tomorrow's. Our biomedical engineering program is a prime example.

Biological engineers work at the intersection of life sciences and engineering. This type of degree can lead to careers in medicine, conservation, water treatment, clean energy, food quality, tissue culture, and the environment, to name just a few. We want engineers to be creative, to design the future, and to make the world a better place. With a degree like this, you'll make an impact—not just in this country, but in the developing world.

We're also constructing a new 70,000-square-foot academic building to house new labs for our present biomedical engineering and civil engineering programs, and our innovation and entrepreneurship makerspace as well as our new biological engineering program beginning this fall semester. It will be an exciting place for students to study, complete lab experiments, do applied research and collaborate with faculty.

**Q: How did Merrimack inspire you to pursue a career in academia?**

Merrimack gave me a very good undergraduate education, which I enjoyed immensely. Along with my engineering courses, I took humanities, social sciences, philosophy, psychology, history, and religion courses. It didn't hit me at that time that I would ever go into academics. But, I quickly found that the students were great and my colleagues were outstanding. When people ask me how I became dean, I always tell them "longevity."

**Q: What have been the biggest academic changes that you've seen in your career?**

When I started, Wentworth only provided Associate degrees, then in the 70s, we moved to a three- and four-year model, and then we moved to the co-op model 40 years ago. Today, we're 4,000 students strong.

We provide hands-on opportunities. For example, our co-op office helps prepare students through mock interviews, resume writing workshops, and career fairs.

All of our classrooms are wired, every student gets a laptop when they register, and we now have classrooms inside laboratories.

**Q: When was the last time you visited Merrimack's campus?**

A few years ago, I had my 50th reunion at Merrimack, which was great. Every five years, a group of electrical engineers—which includes some of my best friends—come back to campus.

I live in Andover, so I can see the transformation on campus. New buildings and lots of changes—it's been fantastic.

**Q: What's next for you?**

I'm always thinking ahead. Here at Wentworth, we're innovating, developing new programs, and planning for the future. Besides, I don't intend to leave before our new building is complete!

SAVE THE DATE  
**SUMMER SIPS** 2017

**SIPS IN BACK BAY**

Thursday, June 15  
6–8 p.m.

**Liquid Art House**  
100 Arlington St.  
Boston, MA 02116

**SIPS IN SEAPORT**

Thursday, July 13  
6–8 p.m.

**Committee**  
50 Pier Four Blvd.  
Boston, MA 02210

**SIPS IN ASSEMBLY ROW**

Thursday, August 10  
6–8 p.m.

**River Bar**  
661 Assembly Row  
Somerville, MA 02145

**EACH EVENT IS \$5 PER PERSON.**

For more information, please contact Krystal Quezada at [quezadak@merrimack.edu](mailto:quezadak@merrimack.edu)



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### **She Floored Them**

World champion gymnast Aly Raisman, center, vaulted into Merrimack in April to support the college's annual Relay for Life, an American Cancer Society event that raises money for cancer research. Following a short talk before a packed house in Lawler Arena, where she shared the personal story of her late paternal grandmother's brave fight against cancer, Raisman visited with and signed autographs for cancer survivors and student members of the event leadership team. Student Francie Grasso '20, right, was moved to tears as Jenna Virnelli '17 looked on.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Your gift to Merrimack College is important! Our fiscal year ends at midnight on **June 30, 2017**. Show your Warrior pride and donate today!  
» [merrimack.edu/gift](http://merrimack.edu/gift)

## THE MERRIMACK FUND

Annual gifts to **The Merrimack Fund** provide student scholarships, increase financial support for faculty, build state-of-the-art athletic facilities, and support student life initiatives.



Live 2 Give, a student organization, received national recognition for its awareness efforts around the College's annual Relay for Life.



185% growth in Alternative Break participation from 2011 to 2016, with service trips to 11 locations.



288 students attended Wellness Week events, while 350 students attended Fresh Check Day, an event where students engage in dialogue about mental health.

## THE WARRIOR FUND

Gifts to **The Warrior Fund** help to provide the highest level of training and equipment, out-of-region travel, leadership development and recruitment of the very best student-athletes.



Six NE-10 Fall Academic All-Conference Honorees, highlighted by a men's soccer player earning the Sports Excellence Award.



First-ever Hockey East Playoff Appearance for Women's Ice Hockey, in just its second season of NCAA Division I Competition.



13 U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Region Honorees—the most ever.

**Make your gift today at [merrimack.edu/gift](http://merrimack.edu/gift)**



## GLOBAL EDUCATION PREPARES STUDENTS TO ENGAGE



Study abroad at Merrimack is upping its game.

Since the start of the 2016–17 academic year, the program has a new director, **LIESL SMITH**; new offices, in

the “red house” on Rock Ridge Road; and a new name, the Office of Global Education.

The changes reflect Merrimack’s commitment to more intentionally weave global education into the academic fiber of the college.

“The phrase ‘study abroad’ is associated with an older vision of what students are supposed to get out of an overseas experience,” explained Smith, who joined Merrimack last June from Gordon College, in Wenham, Massachusetts. “When students say ‘study abroad,’ they’re thinking, ‘I want to go to Florence and have a beautiful semester. I love Italian food.’ The finishing-school experience, if you will.

“We want them to view this experience as an integral part of their Merrimack education, as an extension of their academic goals for their major, their professional goals as they work their way through,” she continued. “Yes, we want that personal development, but we really want them to come out of the experience as citizens of a larger world in which they’re prepared to engage.”

This heightened academic focus is reflected in the criteria for participation: Students must have at least a 2.8 GPA; submit references from a faculty member and student affairs; and participate in an interview with the global education office, where the seriousness of their application is assessed.

Students studying abroad are encouraged to take a full course load of four or five classes—at least two or three in their major and at least one in the culture of their host country—plus an internship. They earn academic credit for those courses in which they attain a grade of C or higher. “So, there’s lots of incentive to do well,” Smith said.

In the current academic year, 64 students participated in a semester-long global-education program in one of six world cities on Merrimack’s approved list—Buenos Aires, Argentina; Dublin, Ireland; Florence, Italy; London, UK; Shanghai, China; and Sydney, Australia. Smith hopes to greatly expand both the number of participants and destination cities over the next few years.

Smith, a medievalist by training—she holds a doctorate from the University of Toronto’s Centre for Medieval Studies—knows firsthand the benefits of interacting with other world cultures. She has taught in both China and Mongolia, can speak a bit of Italian and can read German and French.

“In order to be a wise and productive member of a world in which we cannot escape our interconnectedness, we need to know how to displace our own normalcy and engage people where they are at,” she said. “And I think that takes practice. I don’t think you can do that strictly at the academic level.”

### LIESL SMITH’S TOP 5 SURVIVAL TIPS FOR STUDYING ABROAD

#### **PREPARE.**

Read up on the history and learn a bit of the language of your host city and country.

#### **UNPLUG.**

Don’t let technology dictate how you engage. Look around you.

#### **SLOW DOWN.**

Reflect before you share. Don’t feel like everything needs to be instantly posted to social media.

#### **SIT WITH WHAT STRESSES YOU OUT.**

Puzzle out what lays at the root of those irritants and look critically at your own reactions.

#### **MAKE IT ALL ABOUT YOU—NOT!**

Engagement in a new place means engagement with real people, not consumption of their culture.

## NEWLY TENURED FACULTY

President Christopher E. Hopey has announced the awarding of tenure to five members of the faculty, representing all four of the college's schools. They are:

### BRITTNIE AIELLO, PH.D.

*Associate Professor of Criminology*

Brittanie Aiello's research focuses on the experiences of incarcerated mothers and their children. Her work examines the role motherhood plays in the punishment and control of incarcerated women. Additionally, Aiello has examined the ways in which children endure emotional and physical discipline when they visit their mothers in jail. Her teaching interests include race, class and gender inequality in the criminal justice system. She is a graduate of Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, and holds master's and doctoral degrees in sociology from the University of Massachusetts.

### JIMMY FRANCO, PH.D.

*Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry*

Jimmy Franco is a graduate of Beloit College and holds a doctorate in chemistry from the University of California, Davis. His research is focused primarily on finding therapeutic drugs for neglected diseases such as tuberculosis and histoplasmosis, and in developing engaging teaching methods in chemistry and biochemistry. Franco teaches biochemistry, organic chemistry, chemistry for the health professionals and the honors senior capstone workshop.

### SIRKWOO JIN, PH.D.

*Associate Professor of Management*

Sirkwoo Jin's research interests include leadership; work-related emotions and emotional intelligence; and creativity in the workplace. He has published in refereed journals and conference proceedings and presented his work at numerous national academic meetings. One of his publications has been featured in the LSE Business Review in the United Kingdom and Maeil Business Newspaper in Korea, in 2016. Jin holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in psychology from Seoul National University in Korea and a doctoral degree in business and management from the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business.

### SUSAN MARINE, PH.D.

*Associate Professor of Education*

Susan Marine teaches courses in higher-education history, theory and practice, and her research interests include feminist praxis in higher education, trans-student inclusion and agency, and ending campus sexual violence. She is the author of "Stonewall's Legacy: Bisexual,

Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Students in Higher Education" (Jossey-Bass, 2011). A graduate of Transylvania University, Marine holds a master's degree in college student personnel from Bowling Green State University and a doctorate in higher education from Boston College.

### SALLY SHOCKRO, PH.D.

*Associate Professor of History*

Sally Shockro's research examines early medieval European intellectual culture, with a focus on the writings of Bede. Her recent work analyzes the ways in which saints' lives were adapted and rewritten in the early Middle Ages. Shockro holds bachelor's degrees in history and classical archaeology and ancient history from Brandeis University, where she also completed the medieval studies program, and a doctorate in history, with a specialization in European Middle Ages, from Boston College.



President Christopher Hopey, third from right, poses with newly tenured faculty, from left, Jimmy Franco, Brittanie Aiello, Sally Shockro, Susan Marine and Sirkwoo Jin.

## BOWLED OVER



In fall 1969, four of Merrimack's brightest bulbs electrified campus with their appearance on the penultimate season of NBC's "**GENERAL ELECTRIC COLLEGE BOWL.**" Under the charge of English Professor Catherine A. Murphy, the team of David DeFillippo, Gerald Murphy, Joan Warchol and Michael Rossi lit up the scoreboard en route to four consecutive victories, over Pacific Lutheran, Cal State Fullerton, St. Mary of the Woods and Saint Lawrence University, before losing their fifth and final match, to the University of Arkansas. But all was not lost. The electric connection among teammates endured beyond the show when Rossi popped the question to Warchol. She apparently gave the right answer, and the couple have been on the marriage circuit ever since.

## PRESS AHEAD



Three prominent journalists have been named winners of Merrimack's coveted **GOLDZIHHER PRIZE** for their coverage of the lives and struggles of American Muslims.

Filmmaker Joshua Seftel and print journalists Samuel Freedman and Robin Wright will share the \$25,000 prize, given by Merrimack's Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations in collaboration with the William and Mary Greve Foundation. The three were scheduled to be honored at an awards ceremony May 3 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Seftel, an award-winning filmmaker and director, was being honored for "The Secret Lives of American Muslims," a multiplatform series of short nonfiction films.

Freedman, a professor of journalism at Columbia University, was cited for a selection of columns that ran in The New York Times between 2010 and 2016.

And Wright, a print journalist and joint fellow at the United States Institute of Peace and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, won for "Muslim Heroes, Writers, Artists and an Athlete in America," a series of five articles in The New Yorker magazine.

## REMEMBERING Robert F. Edmunds Jr.

Robert "Bob" Edmunds Jr. '66, a devoted Merrimack alumnus, trustee and benefactor, died April 26 following a long illness. He was 72.

Mr. Edmunds graduated with honors from Merrimack before earning a Master of Business Administration from the University of Hartford. He met Mary Louise (Donahue) '66 in college, and they married a year after graduating.

Mr. Edmunds went on to a successful career in the business his father established, Edmunds Gages, designing and building custom measuring equipment.

He was a passionate supporter of Merrimack's engineering students and often offered internships at his Farmington, Connecticut-based company. He was a member of the board of trustees and former member of the president's advisory board; a recipient of the St. Augustine Award; and a regular attendee of alumni events in Naples, Florida.

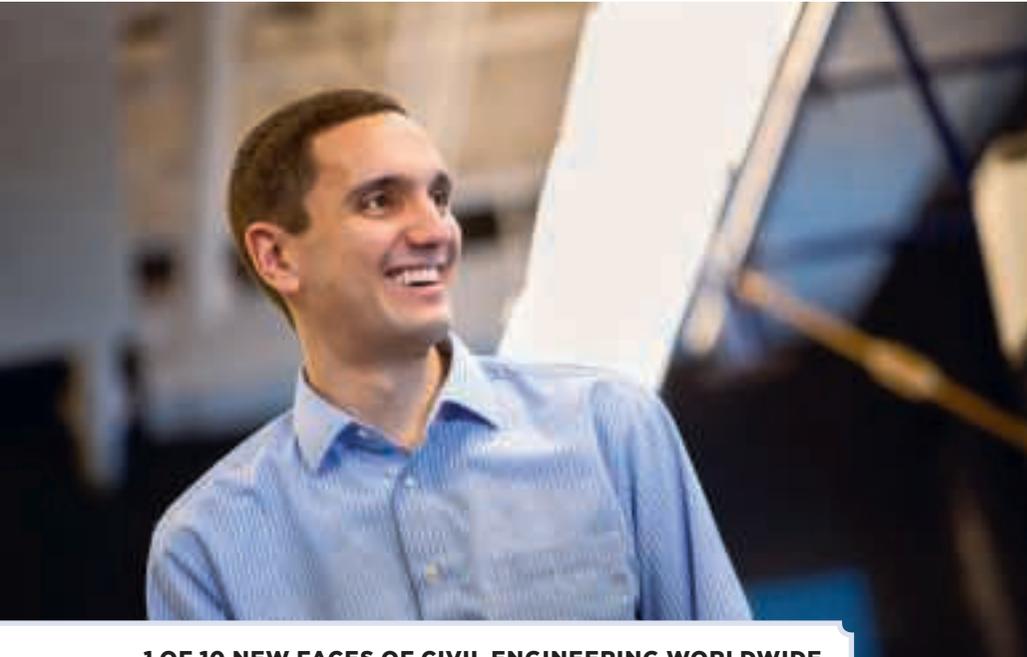
Proud of his 37 consecutive years of supporting Merrimack, Mr. Edmunds generously supported the Edward J. Donahue Scholarship, the Rev. George Morgan Scholarship, the Warrior Fund and the St. Germain Award, which was named for his uncle, the late history and political science professor James J. St. Germain.

He was a member of Merrimack's varsity golf team and later in life was president of the Farmington (Connecticut) Golf Club as well as a board member of Farmington Bank.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Edmunds is survived by two daughters, a son, three sisters and five grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to FAVARH, 225 Commerce Drive, Canton, CT 06019-2478. Online expressions of sympathy can be posted at [molloyfuneralhome.com](http://molloyfuneralhome.com).

## FACE OF SUCCESS



1 OF 10 NEW FACES OF CIVIL ENGINEERING WORLDWIDE

**James Kaklamanos** has arrived.

The assistant professor of civil engineering was recently honored by the American Society of Civil Engineers as one of this year's 10 New Faces of Civil Engineering worldwide.

The award recognizes the next generation of civil engineering professionals, 30 and younger, who have demonstrated the potential to lead the field to new heights. Ten honorees are chosen in each of two divisions, professional and collegiate; Kaklamanos was honored in the latter category.

"Merrimack has given me the chance to flourish as a teacher-scholar, and I am truly humbled to receive this honor," Kaklamanos said. "It's a privilege to represent Merrimack, the ASCE and the engineering profession."

In making the award, the society cited Kaklamanos' exemplary work with students. He serves as faculty adviser to

Merrimack's ASCE student chapter and has been active in the ASCE Geo-Institute, the Seismological Society of America and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute.

"Students enjoy learning when they truly care about a subject, and my teaching style is designed to foster student learning and the development of an underlying appreciation of the material."

Kaklamanos' research focuses on improving models for predicting earthquake-induced ground motions, which will help engineers to design better earthquake-resistant structures.

"I strive for students to apply the principles of engineering to real-world problems in an interdisciplinary context, and to realize the importance of engineering in our everyday lives and the broad societal issues that engineers are tasked with solving," he said.



## SCHOLARLY PURSUITS

**Bryan Bannon**, associate professor of philosophy and director of the environmental studies program, delivers a talk at Merrimack's 14th annual Tolle Lege reception for published authors in McQuade Library in February. Bannon edited "Nature and Experience: Phenomenology and the Environment" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), a collection of essays assessing the contributions that phenomenology—the philosophical study of the structures of experience and consciousness—has made to environmental studies.

In addition to Bannon, faculty members delivering remarks during the event were Sarah Benes, senior director and lecturer for graduate health sciences; Sirkwoo Jin, assistant professor of international business and management; James Kaklamanos, assistant professor of civil engineering; Zoe Sherman, assistant professor of economics; and Elaine Ward, assistant professor of education.

In all, 80 faculty, staff and students were recognized this year for their academic scholarship published during the 2016 calendar year.

## NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

▶ **DAVID BAILOT '17**, an athletic training major from Adams, Massachusetts, delivered the college's eighth annual First Lecture Feb. 28 in the Rogers Center for the Arts. The topic of his speech focused on different lessons that Bailot learned over the course of his time at Merrimack. The First Lecture is modeled on the Last Lecture, a popular event on college campuses in which professors speak as if it were the last lecture they would ever give.

▶ **JULIANA COHEN**, assistant professor of health sciences, was named a fellow at the Obesity Society, the leading scientific organization dedicated to the study of obesity. The appointment, which recognizes exemplary contributions to the field of obesity research, treatment and prevention, is one of the highest honors awarded by the society.

▶ **MICHAEL DECESARE**, professor and chair of sociology, delivered keynote addresses at two professional conferences in April in his capacity as chair of the American Association of University Professors' Committee on College and University Governance. On April 8, DeCesare delivered a talk, "Threats to Traditional Academic Governance," at the Kentucky AAUP Conference in Louisville. On April 27, he delivered an address on challenges facing governance leaders at the SUNY Voices Conference on Shared Governance, in Suffern, New York.

▶ **ERIN HAMLEN**, head coach of the women's ice hockey team, was named to the Adirondack (New York) Hockey Hall of Fame—the first female to receive that honor. A native of Glens Falls, New York, Hamlen played for the U.S. Women's National Hockey Team for seven seasons, where she won IIHF World Women's Championship Silver Medals in 1992, 1994, 1997 and 1999.

▶ **DAN SAROFIAN-BUTIN**, professor and founding dean of Merrimack's School of Education and Social Policy, was named to the American Enterprise Institute's Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings for the fifth consecutive year. The list comprises 200 university scholars who make significant contributions to national debates on public education. Sarofian-Butin was listed at No. 119.

### DISCOVER YOUR OPTIONS



BEQUESTS



RETIREMENT PLANS  
AND LIFE INSURANCE



REAL ESTATE



CHARITABLE TRUSTS

# 1947 SOCIETY

The 1947 Society, honoring Merrimack's founding year, was established to recognize Merrimack College alumni, parents and friends who demonstrate their generosity and commitment to the College through a planned gift. Including Merrimack College in your estate plan is a simple, yet powerful, way to invest in the future of the College.

For more information, please visit [merrimack.edu/plannedgiving](http://merrimack.edu/plannedgiving)

# TOGETHER FOR +GOOD+

The Campaign for Merrimack College



## REENGAGING FOR GOOD

ROBERT "BOB" '71 AND KATHY ZATTA

What does it take to reignite an interest in your alma mater? For Robert "Bob" Zatta '71, it took a hockey game. "About three years ago, Merrimack played in a hockey tournament at the Prudential Center in Newark, which is not far from our main home in Princeton, New Jersey," he explained. "Kathy and I were invited to the game by Sara Jane Brazda, senior vice president for development and alumni relations. Based on what I heard from Sara, it was clear that something new and very exciting was going on at Merrimack.

"Sara and President Hopey later invited Kathy and me to have dinner with them in Princeton. After listening to President Hopey talk about his vision for the College and all that was taking place on campus, my renewed interest in Merrimack started to grow, and I was ready for the next step. We soon traveled to campus for a visit. Once I got to campus, it was a whole different world from what I remembered. The energy, the excitement, the momentum—it was totally infectious. I couldn't help but want to be part of it."

Kathy agreed, "The change from when Bob went there was just tremendous."

Bob explains how he lost touch with Merrimack: "Back in 1971, Merrimack was a very young institution and didn't have a lot in terms of alumni activities. After graduation, I moved back to North Jersey. I lost touch with my classmates and the College. To be honest, for decades I had virtually no contact with the school or my former classmates."

### Renewing their Merrimack connection

After their initial trip to Merrimack, the Zattas were inspired to return. "I ended up in a classroom with some business students, which I thoroughly enjoyed," said Bob. "And from there, I became a member of the College's Leadership Council, and eventually joined the Board of Trustees."

In January 2015, Bob, who was acting CEO at the time, and his colleagues sold their company, Rockwood Holdings, Inc. Since then, he has kept busy, serving on the boards of two public companies and as a trustee for Merrimack College. Bob and Kathy primarily reside at their homes in Princeton and Bay Head, New Jersey, and frequently travel to their residence in Los Angeles. Family is a focal point of Bob and Kathy's life, and time is frequently spent with their three children and two grandchildren.

### Making a powerful investment

Giving back to Merrimack has become a big part of Bob's postcorporate life. From attending his 45th reunion to giving the keynote address at the College's Professional Development Retreat, Bob has lent his expertise in many ways. Bob and Kathy are also supporting the *Together for Good* Campaign by making a financial gift to help build one of two large-tiered classrooms in the new academic pavilion. "As a business person, I think about the return on investment," he explained. Noting that the classrooms will provide a modern environment for presentations, case discussions, and corporate visits, he said, "It's clear that this building is needed to support Merrimack's growth, and to provide students with the latest

approaches and technology."

The Zattas also find that the pace of change at Merrimack is gratifying. "Every penny that's contributed is important, and here, you can see the direct result of your gift," said Kathy. "It's very gratifying to see the end result and to know that your donation is being well utilized and appreciated."

And why should others consider reconnecting with Merrimack? Bob says to his fellow classmates, "Anyone who has not been engaged with the College in the last five or 10 years—or even longer—should come to campus and see for themselves how the College has advanced. Take advantage of the time on campus to see a hockey game, attend an event, or just walk around and see the students. Their energy, excitement, and sense of purpose is all it will take to want to reconnect. It's a winning environment, and Kathy and I are proud to be part of a winning team."

## A POWERFUL FORCE FOR GOOD

MIKE AND MARY FRANCO '81 P'12

Drawn to Merrimack College by its Catholic underpinnings, Mike '81 and Mary Gorham Franco '81 forged lifelong friendships and cultivated a passion for service. But that was not the biggest benefit. "I think the greatest thing that ever happened to us is that we met each other at Merrimack," said Mary, who married Mike in 1983.

After graduating from Merrimack, Mike became an attorney and Mary pursued a career in hospital administration and fundraising. They have both been active on numerous nonprofit boards and at Merrimack College. In this capacity, Mary serves on the Board of Trustees, chairing its Advancement Committee, and Mike serves as chairman of leadership giving on the College Leadership Council. As two of



Merrimack College's biggest champions, they are also advocates for the *Together for Good* Campaign, serving as vice chairs on the committee.

"We want people to understand that Merrimack has great momentum, and that it can continue to grow," said Mike. "By getting involved financially or personally, community members and alumni can have a great impact on the school and on the students who go there."

"The Campaign has helped dramatically improve the campus," explained Mary. "The buildings and facilities meet the needs of today's students. The College is far beyond what it was when we were there, but it still has that same sense of community and connection to the world."

#### An investment in the future

To support the *Together for Good* Campaign, Mike and Mary chose to direct their financial gift in a meaningful way—by naming the central meeting room in the Sakowich Campus Center. Not only is the Sakowich Center located at the center of campus life, it holds special meaning for the Francos.

"It's the building where we first met, and it was the focal point of our lives," explained Mike. "While the room that we're naming is in the Sakowich Center, our gift will be used where Merrimack needs it the most."

The Francos are also dedicated to helping future generations of students attend Merrimack College. Both Mike and Mary received scholarships and financial aid at Merrimack, so when Mary's college roommate, Lisa "Lulu" Luring, died of cancer, they and their circle of friends were inspired to create a Merrimack scholarship in her name. "We also made provisions in our will to make sure that we are still able to support Merrimack once we are gone," said Mary.

#### An enduring community

Mike and Mary have been together for more than 40 years, married for 34, and have two children—Mick, a 2012 Merrimack graduate, and Henry. Two of Mike's 11 siblings also attended Merrimack, and Mary's cousin is a fellow Warrior. "It's just one of those things about Merrimack—entire families or sections of families go there. It's a very familial place. I think that's what we loved about it when our son, Mick, decided to attend," said Mike.

In college, Mary experienced a series of personal tragedies including the loss of her mother and father. In her time of need, she was able to turn to the Merrimack community for support. "The Merrimack community wrapped around me like a warm blanket and just lifted me up and kept me going. I have such profound love for the place—for my husband, for my friends—and 'sisters,' and for the faculty and administrators who stepped in," explained Mary. "That's why Merrimack will always be so important to me."

It is also what has inspired the couple to give back. "The friendships we made at Merrimack—and the incredible experiences we had there—have been with us for the last 40 years," reflected Mike. "When I think about *Together for Good*, I think about how we get together with our friends, but also how we get together to do good."

## Research Grants

+ To **JULIANA COHEN**, assistant professor of health sciences, a five-year, \$635,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to support faculty and graduate-student research and career development in service of gaining important insights into the prevention of childhood obesity.

+ To **SISTER JEANNE GRIBAUO**, professor of practice in religious and theological studies, from the Council of Independent Colleges/Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education, a two-year, \$47,290 grant to support City of God, a new initiative designed to intentionally include the critical questions of vocational discernment as an essential hallmark of students' education.

+ To **KYLE McINNIS**, associate dean and professor of health sciences, a two-year, \$1 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to address the problem of childhood obesity, especially among youth from low-income families. The grant supports McInnis' Active Science, a nationally recognized program in which children wear activity devices to monitor their own exercise data while engaging in fun games and activities.

+ To **MERRIMACK COLLEGE**, a \$10,000 grant from the Davis Educational Foundation to support an assessment of Merrimack's improved academic course schedule. The Davis Educational Foundation was established by Stanton and Elizabeth Davis after Mr. Davis' retirement as chairman of Shaw's Supermarkets Inc.

+ To **PROVOST ALLAN WEATHERWAX**, a one-year, \$100,000 grant from the George I. Alden Trust for capital equipment to be used in faculty-student research. This grant provides support for a mass spectrometer and a DNA sequencer, which will directly benefit 200 to 300 students per year in chemistry, biochemistry, biology, health science and environmental studies. The mass spectrometer is one of the most commonly used instruments in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. The DNA sequencer is the most widely adopted next-generation sequencing technology worldwide, and will be used by Merrimack students in courses including genetics, immunology and cell biology.

# TOGETHER FOR +GOOD+

The Campaign for Merrimack College

## PROGRESS TOWARD CAMPAIGN INITIATIVES

**\$38M**

REACHED



76%

**\$50M**

CAMPAIGN GOAL

**BUILDING FOR GOOD**  
GOAL \$10M

**\$6.5M**

REACHED

**COMPETING FOR GOOD**  
GOAL \$6M

**\$1.2M**

REACHED

**INNOVATING FOR GOOD**  
GOAL \$2M

**\$1.1M**

REACHED

**STANDING UP FOR GOOD**  
GOAL \$21M

**\$21.2M**

REACHED

**SPONSORED RESEARCH/OTHER**  
GOAL \$4M

**\$4M**

REACHED

**THE MERRIMACK FUND**  
GOAL \$7M

**\$4.2M**

REACHED

TOTAL NUMBER OF **INDIVIDUAL DONORS** TO CAMPAIGN **9,803**

NUMBER OF **NEW DONORS** TO CAMPAIGN IN 2017 FISCAL YEAR **726**

### FACULTY/STAFF GIFTS

**164**

RECEIVED



54%

**300**

GOAL

### "GOOD TO GREAT" SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE

(new endowed/current use scholarships)

**\$2.1M**

REACHED



70%

**\$3M**

GOAL

Campaign time period includes fiscal years 2013–2017 (YTD). The Campaign was publicly launched in October 2016 and anticipated to conclude in 2019.

## A CONVERSATION WITH **ALLIE PUKALA '06**, ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

### **How did your experience as an undergraduate student at Merrimack College influence your decision to return here to work in student affairs?**

During my time as a student at Merrimack, I jumped in and took advantage of many of the offerings on campus. It was through these experiences that my leadership style began to emerge and, though I didn't know it at the time, I was shaping my future in student affairs and preparing to give back to the institution that allowed me the opportunity to find and define who I was and who I would some day become. Learning in the classroom with dedicated faculty and developing outside of the classroom with dedicated administrators in my student leader roles allowed for the connection between textbooks and daily living to emerge. By the time I graduated, I knew I wanted to give back to Merrimack for all it had given me—only I was not sure in what capacity I would give back until a few years later.

### **Did that experience also influence your decision to support the school philanthropically? How?**

My experience as a student did lead me to give back to Merrimack in small ways. I wanted to remain a part of the institution and I knew that giving back was important, but I was doing it to do it and not because I truly believed it was making a difference or a part of something greater. Now, as an employee of the College and seeing the leaps and bounds the institution has grown and how supported our students are, I see daily the impact we have on our campus as alumni.

The physical campus has grown tremendously and offers the students so much in terms of academic and social spaces to utilize on a daily basis. Many of

our sports teams are leading the pack in their division or even in the country. The faculty are dedicated, supportive and cutting edge allowing for our students to leave with advanced knowledge in varying fields. Our commitment to service and to our roots as an Augustinian college sets us apart from the rest.

I tell all of the alumni I come across to come to campus for Homecoming, Mack Gives Back Day, Reunion, or on a random Tuesday and see how incredible our alma mater truly is. These are exciting times for Merrimack College and everyone should want to be a part of this!

### **Why do you feel it is important as a faculty/ staff member to support Merrimack College?**

As faculty and staff of Merrimack College, we see first-hand the growth and development of our students and our campus. We have the knowledge on how giving back is shaping this institution on a daily basis. Our support shows our commitment, excitement for and faith in our institution.

### **What does *Together for Good*, the name of Merrimack's Campaign, mean to you?**

*Together for Good* means to me that: Merrimack College is not only a community that once you are a part of it you want to remain a part of it, but it is also a community that once you are a part of it you will always be a part of it.

Allie Pukala '06 is a member of the Wenzel Society, the College's most loyal donors, and a supporter of the *Together for Good* Campaign.



A Family Legacy: Allie Pukala '06 is pictured with her father, Richard Stinson '83, and her husband, Mike Pukala '06, at a Legacy Family event in January 2017.

## ALUMNI NEWS

» **BARRY SULLIVAN '81**, CPA, recently joined HDT Global, headquartered in Solon, OH, as its Chief Financial Officer. HDT Global is widely recognized for its industry-leading production of state-of-the-art, fully integrated deployable solutions, including shelters, generators, heaters, air filtration devices, robotics and other engineered technologies, currently used by U.S. and allied military units worldwide, as well as civilian government and commercial customers. Barry continues to reside in Phoenix, Ariz., with his wife, Toshiko, and visits Boston frequently to see his three daughters, four grandchildren and other family and friends.

» A group of alumni from the Class of 1990 gathered at Maggiano's Restaurant in Boston for their annual Men of Merrimack Christmas Dinner. In attendance were: **Jay Ferraro, Paul DiMartino, Bill McDonald, Paul Lahiff, Richard Hart, Dave Dantona, Paul Burns, Rich Davis, Mike Moriarty, Tim Sirard, Mike Dube, Roger Alcott, Mike O'Connor, Paul Connolly, Dave Collari, John Parziale, Kevin Smith and Keith Mahoney.** [6]

» **MARY BETH AUTIO BLANCHARD '91** is working with Pfizer as Talent Acquisition Lead for Worldwide Research and Development and Medical hiring, based in Cambridge, Mass., Mary Beth also completed the Southernmost Half Marathon in Key West, Fla.

» **CHARLES MORAN '91** was named Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Communications for TransCanada Corporation (NYSE: TRP)—leading the company's corporate communications; federal, state



and local government relations; project outreach/community affairs and charitable giving efforts across North America. TransCanada is a leader in the responsible development and reliable operation of North American energy infrastructure including natural gas and liquids pipelines, power generation and gas storage facilities.

» **DOMINIQUE SAVINELLI '93** was named partner at Husch Blackwell, in their Chicago office. Dominique holds an M.S. in analytical chemistry from Tufts University and a J.D. from Boston University.

» Congratulations to **MATT BUGBEE '97** for being named Coach of the Year in the City of Gaithersburg, MD.

» **ANNALISA SAIA ROTTNER '02** and her husband, Robert, announced the birth of their son, Adrian Nicholas-Gregory, born on November 29, 2016. Adrian joins his big sister Vivian Estelle (2 years and 7 months).

» **ELISA BABEL '05** celebrated her 10-year work anniversary with the Washington, D.C. Public Library system for her work as an adult librarian. [3]

» **KASSANDRA PAPPAS FASANO '07** married Ralph Angelo Fasano, Jr., on Sunday, May 29, 2016. The ceremony was held at Sacred Heart Church in Weymouth with a reception following at Pembroke Country Club. Other Merrimack alumni in attendance included bridesmaid **Mary Karasczkiewicz Camuso**, and guests **Meghan Burke Mongeau, Lauren Sykes, and Ashley Baraby.** [1]

» **SCOTT MANHEIMER '08** and **AMY PELLETIER MANHEIMER '08** welcomed a baby boy, Owen Scott Manheimer, on November 18, 2016.

» **CHRISTOPHER ROUND '12** married Maggie Bonadies on November 19. Christopher completed a dual master's program in environmental science and public affairs at Indiana University. [2]



» **MARGARET JACQUES '13** and **MICHAEL LARACY '13** were married on August 27, 2016, in Cohasset, Mass. Both are graduates of the Civil Engineering program. [5]

» **ALISON LEONARD MEHRMAN '14** graduated with a master of science in public relations from Boston University College of Communication in January 2016. She married LTJG Tyler Mehrman, U.S. Naval Aviator, on August 12, 2016, at Aldrich Mansion in Warwick, RI. The Mehrmans are currently stationed in San Diego, Calif. [4]

» **ONORINA MALONE '14** was voted Clerk of the Year by her peers. She is Town Clerk for the town of Chelmsford.

» **BRIANA REID '15** is working at Cervizzi & Associates alongside four other Merrimack alumni, including the owner of the firm. Briana has been accepted to the Clinical Psychology Psy.D. program at William James College in Newton, Mass.

**SHARE YOUR NEWS!** Tell us what you've been up to and we'll share your news here! Email your news and photos to [alumnirelations@merrimack.edu](mailto:alumnirelations@merrimack.edu)



SAVE THE DATE | 08.14.2017  
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For more information, please visit [merrimack.edu/PCGT](http://merrimack.edu/PCGT)

# SAVE THE DATE

## JUNE

**14 Graduate Info Sessions**

6 p.m. • Murray Lounge

**15 Summer Sips: Sips in Back Bay**

6-8 p.m. • Liquid Art House, Boston, Massachusetts

## JULY

**07 Merrimack Spirit Day**

**13 Summer Sips: Sips in Seaport**

6-8 p.m. • Committee, Boston, Massachusetts

## AUGUST

**10 Summer Sips: Sips in Assembly Row**

6-8 p.m. • River Bar, Somerville, Massachusetts

**14 President's Cup Golf Tournament**

Vesper Country Club, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts

## SEPTEMBER

**01 New Student Move-In Day**

**05 Fall Classes Begin, Opening of the Academic Year, Mass of the Holy Spirit**

**28-29 Aquila Theatre Company's Production of "Hamlet"**

7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center for the Arts



## OCTOBER

**05 Classical Piano Duets**

7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center for the Arts

**12, 13 and 14 "She Kills Monsters" Presented by the Dept. of Visual and Performing Arts**

7:30 p.m., 2 p.m. Matinee on 10/14  
Rogers Center for the Arts

**13-15 Homecoming Weekend**

**26 Lecture by Fr. Robert Hagan, Associate Athletic Director, Villanova University**

**28 Female A Cappella Ensemble from Zimbabwe, Nobunto**

7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center for the Arts

**29 New England Brass Band Veteran's Celebration**

2 p.m. • Rogers Center for the Arts

## NOVEMBER

**04 Mack Gives Back Day**

**16-18 "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" Presented by the OnStagers Dramatic's Society**

2 p.m. • Rogers Center for the Arts

## DECEMBER

**03 A Merrimack College Christmas - Performances by the jazz ensemble, concert choir and concert band**

7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center for the Arts

**04 "Lessons and Carols: The Story of the Birth of Christ in Scripture, Story and Song"**

7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center for the Arts

**05 Celebration of Light and Hope**

5:15 p.m. • Rogers Center for the Arts



**ALUMNI EVENTS** [merrimack.edu/alumnievents](http://merrimack.edu/alumnievents) 978-837-5440

**ATHLETICS** [merrimackathletics.com](http://merrimackathletics.com)

**ROGERS CENTER** [merrimack.edu/rogers](http://merrimack.edu/rogers) 978-837-5355

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 13-15

# HOMECOMING 2017

WELCOMING ALUMNI, PARENTS & FAMILIES

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