

MERRIMACK

WINTER 2022

75

|| Honoring the past.
|| Looking toward the future.



MERRIMACK COLLEGE | 75 YEARS



MERRIMACK

A Magazine for Our Alumni, Parents and Friends

Winter 2022

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MERRIMACK COLLEGE



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Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,



In 1947, when the Archbishop of Boston invited the Order of St. Augustine to establish a college in the Merrimack Valley, it was to address the aspirations of American soldiers returning home from World War II. Seventy-five years later, still beholden to the Augustinian values of scholarship, social justice and service, Merrimack College continues to grow and evolve in order to meet the needs of

our students — who are preparing to pursue careers in fast-growing, in-demand areas, like business, nursing, criminal justice and data science.

We have much to be proud of. In the last decade alone, we have completed a record-breaking capital campaign, boosted our enrollment, grown our physical campus, expanded our course offerings, introduced graduate programs, thrived during an ongoing global pandemic and much more.

But the journey does not end here. Our strategic road map, the *Agenda for the Future*, includes an array of initiatives that will propel us toward our next milestones. In the coming years, we will expand further into graduate education and sponsored research, strengthening our reputation as an institution known for its innovation and academic excellence. Through it all, we pledge to remain faithful to our guiding mission of enlightening minds, engaging hearts and empowering lives.

In honor of our year-long *Because We Believe* 75th anniversary celebrations, this special Merrimack Magazine contains a number of articles that reflect on our rich history and look ahead to the promise of a bright future. You will hear from some of our longest-tenured faculty members, preview the revitalizing renovations of the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, learn how we are working with employers to reinvent education to meet the demands of the new economy and much more. These stories all underscore just how far we have come since our founding — all *because we believe*.

Thank you for celebrating with us, and thank you for being a member of our exceptional community. Here's to the next 75 years.

God Bless,

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President



**MERRIMACK
COLLEGE**

**75
YEARS**



75 YEARS

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE

Merrimack College today

Marking Merrimack College's 75th anniversary

Rising momentum. Phenomenal progress. Unprecedented accomplishments. Since Merrimack College was founded in 1947 by the Order of Saint Augustine, it has grown exponentially in size and prestige. To mark our 75th anniversary — and honor our incredible community of students, parents, alumni and friends — we will be celebrating throughout 2022.

Led by anniversary co-chairs, Fr. David Cregan, Jack Boyce '81 and Maryann Boyce '81, the yearlong celebration will recognize the many milestones Merrimack College has achieved over the past 75 years.

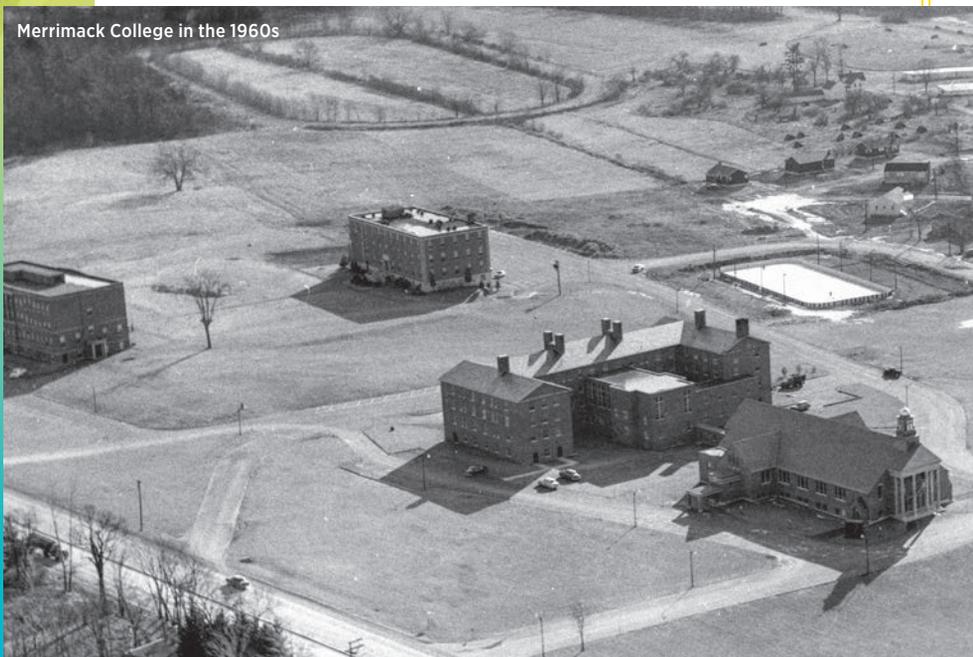
"Very few organizations reach a 75th anniversary, and the ones that do must adapt and continue to bring new ideas and vitality to what they're doing," said Jack. "The school is very different today than it was when we graduated."

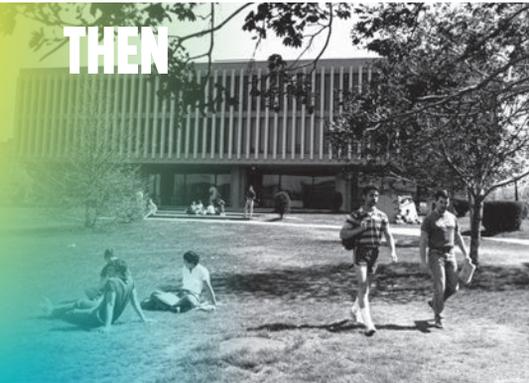
"It's a different place, but by the same token it's the same place," added Maryann. "Even though it's growing and evolving, it still has the same Merrimack heart that makes it such a special place."

"We've proved time and again that taking actions that are grounded in our beliefs can change our school, our community, and the world for the better."

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY,
PRESIDENT

Merrimack College in the 1960s





BELIEVING IN A BRIGHT FUTURE

At Merrimack, we have stayed true to our Augustinian traditions, which will be reaffirmed by a visit from the prior general this spring. Inspired by Saint Augustine’s words, “Faith is to believe what you do not yet see; the reward for this faith is to see what you believe,” the theme for the yearlong 75th anniversary celebration is *Because We Believe*.

“Saint Augustine gave us a lot of inspiration about who we are and what we are to become,” said Fr. Cregan, associate dean of Academic Affairs and Strategic Initiatives for the College of Professional Studies at Villanova University and vice chair of Merrimack’s Board of Trustees.

“At Merrimack, because of our beliefs, we are compelled to not only advance ourselves in the world, but also to seek out those on the edges, who need lifting up, and to include those who others would exclude,” explained Fr. Cregan. “‘Because we believe,’ we become something the world needs.”

The message also resonates strongly with the Boyces. “It’s a reflection of a faculty, staff and Board of Trustees, all working within an Augustinian set of values,” said Jack. “Those values of service and scholarship have been a central component as the College has moved ahead. ‘Because we believe’ ties the history and legacy of the school to the promise of a really bright future.”

BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Throughout the year, Merrimack will be celebrating our 75th anniversary with special events, on-campus installations, student activities, digital experiences and commemorative publications.

“If during the 75th anniversary year people have the opportunity to come and visit the campus again, to feel the energy and vibrancy of the place, to experience the growth that has been a real grace in terms of God’s blessing on the work of Merrimack, I think it will renew their enthusiasm for their own college experience and also give them an excited energy to help them be more involved in the future prosperity of Merrimack,” said Fr. Cregan.

“‘Because we believe’ ties the history and legacy of the school to the promise of a really bright future.”

JACK BOYCE '81

“Faith is to believe what you do not yet see; the reward for this faith is to see what you believe.” ST. AUGUSTINE

HONORING OUR ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD

No celebration would be complete without our alumni community. “The 75th anniversary is a perfect opportunity for alumni to reminisce about their time at Merrimack — the lifelong friends they made, the spouses they met, and the faculty who nurtured their intellectual and professional growth,” said President Christopher E. Hopey. “Our alumni should be proud of their alma mater and their role in helping Merrimack become what it is today.”

“I hope all Merrimack graduates will celebrate Merrimack in their own way,” said Leila C. Rice, vice president, Development and Alumni Relations. “Whether it’s sending an update to the

magazine, recommending a student for admission, attending a game, hiring a student or making a gift. Every act makes a difference.”

“We’ve proved time and again that taking actions that are grounded in our beliefs can change our school, our community, and the world for the better,” said President Hopey. “Because we believe, we’re prepared to make a positive impact well into the future.” ■

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Join the celebration by sharing your photos, memories and stories on social media, using the hashtag **#Merrimack75**.

Celebrate with us!

We are commemorating the College’s 75th anniversary with several special events and activities.

March 12

St. Patrick’s Day Parade - Naples, FL

March 15

Red Sox Game - Fort Myers, FL

March 17

75th Anniversary Reception with President Christopher E. Hopey - Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort, Naples, FL

March 27

Founder’s Day Celebration

March 28

Prior General Lecture and Receptions

Online

Videos, experiences and more at Merrimack.edu/75th-Anniversary

Students mark Merrimack’s 75th anniversary with new app

As their capstone project, a trio of Merrimack College computer science majors — Tyler Amyot, Ryan Farrell and Jonathan Vasallo — developed a 75th anniversary app to bring the Merrimack community together.

After signing in, users will view a campus map that highlights key locations, including the Moseley wrought iron arch bridge and the Sakowich Center, where they can find contemporary 360-degree images, historic photographs and trivia questions. Although the app is designed to complement an on-campus visit or serve as a virtual tour, the developers also hope to spur friendly trivia competitions among alumni.



Check Merrimack.edu/news to get the latest information about the Merrimack 75th Anniversary app!





After a nearly two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, Homecoming Weekend returned to Merrimack from Friday, Oct. 1, to Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021. The event brought campus to life with a record crowd of more than 12,000 students, alumni, family and friends participating in athletic and social events.

The weekend kicked off with Friday evening's Macktoberfest — Merrimack's play on Oktoberfest — complete with food trucks, fellowship and fireworks. On Saturday, a sea of attendees dressed in their Merrimack blue and gold gathered for tailgating, grilling and rekindling old friendships. Fans filled Duane Stadium to see the football team take on Duquesne and headed to Lawler Rink to watch the women's ice hockey team take on the No. 1 Wisconsin Badgers. The Merrimack College Marching Band debuted at Homecoming with their own version of "Sweet Caroline." Fans also enjoyed performances by the dance team and cheerleaders and attended a host of athletic events including field hockey, soccer and tennis.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Merrimack College has recently been honored with a number of awards, including impressive listings in the U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review and Chronicle of Higher Education, as well as recognition by Apple Inc. Collectively, these awards celebrate Merrimack’s continued achievement of educational excellence, steady growth and development of diverse, career-focused academic programs.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Merrimack College continued its steady climb in the U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges rankings this year, securing spots in three of the magazine’s prestigious categories. Overall, Merrimack has one of the fastest trajectories in these rankings, leaping to 34th from 45th place on the Regional Universities North 2022 list.

The magazine surveyed 1,466 colleges and universities and broke them into national and regional categories: national liberal arts colleges and regional colleges. From those surveyed, the magazine ranked more than 175 universities — including Merrimack College — in the North region.

The regional universities and colleges were then placed in geographic categories, according to the magazine’s protocols. Merrimack is listed as a regional college, which is an institution that offers a full range of undergraduate programs and master’s degrees, but seldom offers doctoral programs.

PRINCETON REVIEW

Merrimack has been listed as among the best colleges within the Northeast by the Princeton Review. According to the publication, this designates Merrimack as “academically outstanding” and “well worth consideration.” The Princeton Review does not rank, but rather lists the top colleges and universities in each region.

APPLE INC.

Since 2018, Merrimack College has been transforming the student experience through the integration of technology in its teaching, learning and campus design as an Apple® Distinguished School. This year, Merrimack’s Apple Distinguished status has been renewed through 2024, celebrating the College’s commitment to technological innovation.

CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Merrimack was recently named to the Chronicle of Higher Education’s list of Fastest-Growing Colleges for 2009–2019, landing at number 10 of 347 fastest-growing private nonprofit institutions in the “Master’s” category. Merrimack’s ascent in this ranking reflects the growth of both its undergraduate and graduate academic offerings and unprecedented enrollment numbers over the past decade.

34TH in Regional Universities North

3RD in Most Innovative Regional College

Ranked among the

TOP 75

Regional Universities for Best Undergraduate Engineering programs

LIST OF BEST COLLEGES:

Region by Region

APPLE DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

FASTEST-GROWING COLLEGES

2009–2019

A PLACE FOR ALL

The Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher is not just a building — it is a place of worship, where Merrimack students, parents, alumni and friends build community and create lasting memories. This year, exciting renovations will breathe new life into this beloved Merrimack landmark, preserving its character for years to come. “The Collegiate Church is a symbol of our campus,” said Fr. Ray Dlugos, vice president of Mission and Ministry. “It’s been sitting there calling us and now we are responding to that call.”

UPSTAIRS: A PLACE OF WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Originally built in 1954, the church has served the spiritual needs of generations of Warriors. The renovation aims to ensure it continues to do so by investing in much-needed updates, while honoring the space's rich history.

The most significant addition is the new entrance, which offers an elevator in a glass enclosure that will make the Church accessible to people of all abilities.

Updated heating and electrical systems will also help ensure the comfort of visitors during Mass and other events. Amid these improvements, the project will maintain the original character of the building by preserving and showcasing the oak beams, wooden ceiling and intricate stained glass windows from when it was first built.

While the church has long hosted the Mass of the Holy Spirit that kicks off the school year and the Baccalaureate Mass that unites students' families during graduation, the new space will additionally feature movable seating and walls that can accommodate both large-scale and intimate events. "The goal is to turn it into a real gathering space

for the campus community, as well as our neighbors," said Fr. Ray. "We can gather people for concerts, lectures, meetings and research symposiums as well as worship for Mass and Sacraments."

"We're always looking for ways to transform spaces for events on campus," added Allison Gill, vice president of Student Affairs and Dean of Students. "Students could open up that room if they want to have a semi-formal dance or a special sit-down dinner."

DOWNSTAIRS: A 21ST-CENTURY STUDENT CENTER

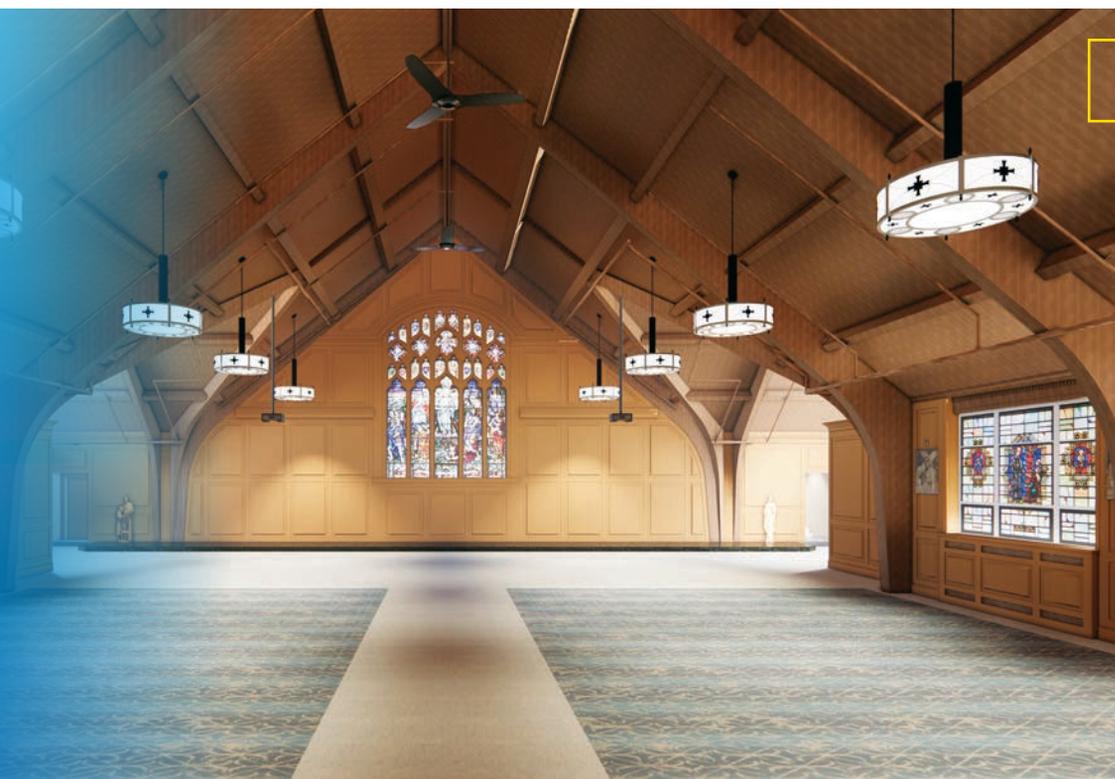
In addition to meeting spiritual needs, the renovated Collegiate Church will provide a safe, welcoming space for students to build community with their peers. Below the sanctuary, the renovation will transform the church's lower level into a warm, wood-paneled student center where students can play pool, foosball, table tennis or even test their swings on golf simulators. There will also be a six-lane bowling alley and a room dedicated to e-sports, both of which are slated to become Merrimack's newest competitive sports. A new food court with indoor and outdoor seating will expand and enhance campus dining options.

"That whole downstairs area is going to transform the campus experience, especially late-night for our under-21 student population," said Dean Gill. "It's going to provide a social space for students to meet and hang out on a Friday or Saturday night." The Student Center will be staffed by both Merrimack employees and students, providing more on-campus student jobs.

A HOME FOR REFLECTION AND CELEBRATION

Dean Gill has heard from recently engaged alumni who are eager for the church renovations to be complete. "A lot of students meet their significant others at Merrimack and want to get married on campus."

Future weddings in this space will feature an extraordinary backdrop. A stained glass window rescued from a decommissioned church that depicts the resurrection of Christ will adorn an interior wall, joining the original windows that represent the life of St. Augustine. A historic pipe organ sourced from Western Massachusetts will become the musical centerpiece of the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher.



CHURCH INTERIOR



The multimillion-dollar Student Center/Church Project features many significant and exceptional naming opportunities. If you would like to find out how you can support the project, please contact [Leila Rice](#), vice president for Development and Alumni Relations.

LOUNGE

“That area is going to transform the campus experience. ... It’s going to provide a social space for students to meet and hang out on a Friday or Saturday night.”

ALLISON GILL, Ed.D., vice president of Student Affairs and dean of students



The church’s lower level has its own legendary history, having been the site of early concerts by such classic rock mainstays as **Aerosmith**, **Bruce Springsteen** and the band **Boston**.

BOWLING ALLEY

RETURN TO GLORY

“This ‘renovation’ is really a restoration,” explained President Hopey. “We found some of the original plans for the church and while we’re modernizing the building systems, we’re remaining faithful to the original vision of the church architecture. Similarly, older alumni will remember the lower level being a student-focused performing arts center and we’re returning that space back to its student-centered mission.”

The finished project, slated to be completed by fall 2022, will serve as the proper gateway and community center of the College, where the Merrimack community can gather to nourish its soul — spiritually, intellectually, culturally, artistically and socially.

The Student Center/Church Project represents the Augustinian ideals of faith, scholarship and community. “As a Catholic college, one of the things we are supposed to be about is the development of fully human persons,” said Fr. Ray. “That should include a connection between the work of the mind, and the work of the body and the work of the spirit.”





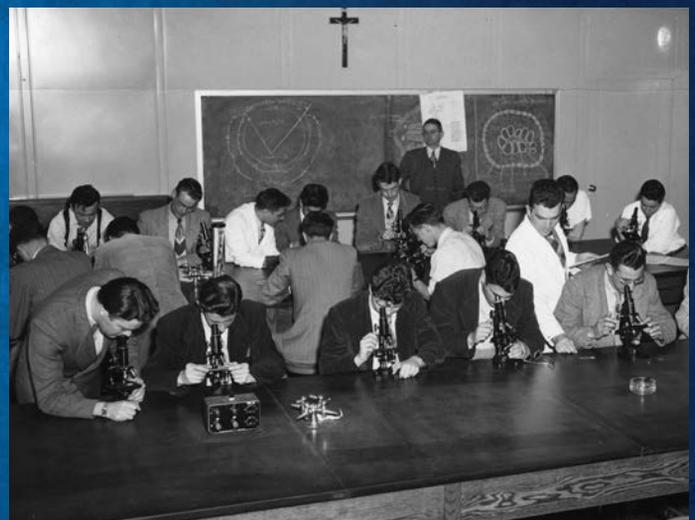
Creating Merrimack's Future

Merrimack remains true to our mission of **enlightening minds, engaging hearts and empowering lives**. As we celebrate our 75th anniversary in 2022, we are reminded of how much we have accomplished, and how much we will achieve **because we believe**.

The 1947 Society invites all members of the Merrimack community — alumni, parents, staff and friends — to consider how they can help build Merrimack's future. And leaving a lasting imprint on the College may be easier than you think. You can designate your support for any part of Merrimack today, and then fulfill that promise later through assets from your will, a trust, retirement, life insurance or other means. You can make this planned gift now without disrupting financial plans for your loved ones.

If Merrimack changed your life or the life of a family or community member important to you, then you can ensure that future students reap the same benefits. In doing so, you'll create a permanent personal legacy at the College.

TO LEARN MORE about The 1947 Society and ways to support Merrimack through a planned gift, please contact Leila Rice at (978) 837-5997, RICELC@MERRIMACK.EDU or visit MERRIMACKLEGACY.ORG.



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

At the end of the one-year program, students will have finished the state police training certification and earned a master's degree.

Training the Next Generation of **POLICE LEADERS**



Introducing the Merrimack College Police Academy



Amid a nationwide conversation on the role of policing in America, Merrimack is spearheading an innovative approach to officer education by combining a police academy training regimen with a master's degree in criminology and criminal justice — the first program of its kind in the Commonwealth.

The Merrimack College Police Academy, which launched in fall 2021, will serve as a case study to determine the impact of officers beginning their careers with a higher level of educational achievement.

“We are training the next generation of police leaders,” said Associate Professor Alicia Girgenti-Malone. “While they start out as patrol officers, by completing graduate-level coursework aimed at developing broader perspectives, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, we expect they will rise in the ranks.”

Girgenti-Malone oversees the Merrimack College Police Academy along with the academy's director, Merrimack alum and retired Sergeant Detective Raymond

Mooney. Girgenti-Malone also works with Assistant Professor Alyssa Yetter to assess the academy's educational and training approach.

A new kind of training

In Massachusetts, the minimum educational requirement prior to academy training is a high school diploma or GED. Bachelor's degrees are also common among police candidates. Local municipalities often hire candidates and then sponsor their training at a local police academy. At Merrimack, the academy operates differently, from application requirements to graduate degree completion.

“We're offering the academy to students who have already completed their bachelor's degree,” explained Girgenti-Malone, “and students will be concurrently enrolled in the Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice program.” At the end of the one-year program, students will have finished the state police training certification and earned a master's degree.





During the day, student officers have a rigorous schedule based on the state's police training curriculum, which is supplemented at Merrimack with implicit bias training and additional professional development workshops on officer health and wellness.

While all firearm training and the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) are done off campus, the student officers and their instructors use the College's classrooms and gym facilities. In the evenings, the student officers take their master's courses on topics such as criminological theory, justice administration and management, and criminal law and procedure.

Researching police training

The dual-enrollment model will be evaluated for efficacy and researched as a potential model for police reform.

"There's a history of research on the influence of different characteristics of police officers that has focused on

distinguishing between those with a high school diploma or GED and officers with some college or a bachelor's degree. These studies track a lot of different outcomes, such as their performance in their careers, their career trajectories, and their mental health and wellness during their careers," said Yetter.

Other scholars have determined that officers with a college degree are almost 40 percent less likely to use force, and that those with at least a two-year degree are less likely to lose their jobs because of charges of misconduct.

Girgenti-Malone's and Yetter's research centers on issues of evolving police training and education methodology.

"Our graduate program's learning outcomes and our faculty are very social justice oriented," said Girgenti-Malone.

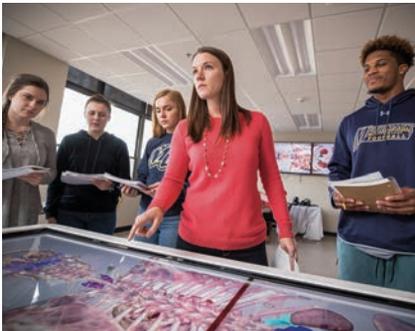
One of the stated learning outcomes, for example, asks that graduates demonstrate awareness of collaborative efforts among criminal justice, social service, public health and educational professionals in fostering

interdisciplinary strategies to tackle complex social issues. In subsequent years, the researchers plan to follow their graduates through a longitudinal study that compares outcomes with officers who pursue a more traditional path in their training.

"We are hoping to partner with the Municipal Police Training Committee, a state agency, to examine our candidates and approach versus the more traditional approach to police education in Massachusetts," said Yetter.

Creating a workforce for the **NEW ECONOMY**

There has never been a year quite like 2021. In the midst of economic and social upheaval, employers struggled to fill job openings as millions of Americans changed jobs or retired. To help meet this rising demand, Merrimack is building a pipeline of talent for a wide range of industries — from biotechnology, healthcare and finance to data science, information technology and education. Not only are Merrimack students well educated, they are also prepared with the critical-thinking and communication skills they need to thrive in the modern workplace.



TRAINING THE EMPLOYEES OF THE FUTURE

“There are those who talk about a well-rounded education and employee training as if they were mutually exclusive,” said President Christopher Hopey. “Truly, the best workers have the breadth of knowledge and imagination that contributes to great problem solving, as well as the depth in a given field required to make contributions in an increasingly specialized economy. Merrimack is positioned to address both of these needs.”

To that end, Merrimack is partnering with employers to help them:

- Fill high-demand positions through internships, co-ops and career events
- Develop custom programs that meet specific talent or skill needs
- Provide ongoing workforce education ranging from graduate programs to corporate non-credit training, to help upskill and reskill employees
- Advance research goals through innovative faculty collaborations

- Elevate their presence through unique on-campus sponsorships with Division I athletics teams or visual and performing arts programs
- Invest in next-generation innovation opportunities such as incubator and maker spaces, research labs and early college programs

By collaborating with Merrimack, employers can help attract and retain the best employees by investing in their education — and their future.

TRANSCENDING THE TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM MODEL

Building on the College’s reputation for supportive, high-quality instruction, Merrimack offers online courses and degree programs that help working professionals build their skills in specialized fields. Through a collaborative partnership with EdTech pioneer Meteor Learning, Merrimack has developed an online curriculum that meets the unique needs of corporations and individuals. From bachelor’s and master’s degree programs to specialized certification

training, the courses are designed to help participants refresh their skills and advance their careers.

For companies with specific needs, Merrimack even creates custom programs that equip participants with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the jobs that they want. (See FlexProfessionals sidebar.) “Many companies today are desperate to hire data scientists and data analysts, for example,” said Donna Ritchie, COO of Meteor. “Merrimack’s strengths in that field means they are delivering exactly the kind of workers that employers are eager to hire.”

EDUCATING TOMORROW’S TEACHERS

Online teacher training programs through Merrimack’s Winston School of Education and Social Policy have been very well received. “These are the same courses that are taught on campus,” explained Interim Dean Deborah Margolis. “The students in the online M.Ed. program come from a variety of backgrounds. Some are current teachers looking to add an additional area of expertise like special education, while others are career changers looking to enter the education field.”

The teacher training program is flexible, and participants can finish all the requirements for a master’s degree in as little as 12 months. Just like in-person students, online participants are matched with practicums and student teaching opportunities. The 400 learners enrolled in this program span the Commonwealth from the Berkshires to Cape Cod and the islands.

ANTICIPATING THE NEEDS OF THE MODERN WORKFORCE

Meteor CEO Bill Rieders credited the success of these programs to Merrimack College’s administration. “President Hopey anticipated both the need and methodology for these programs years ago. I am constantly impressed by his foresight, leadership and vision.”

Dean Margolis pointed out the practical advantages of online offerings. “Our online program didn’t miss a beat during the pandemic, and instructors in those courses were even able to share much of what they knew about online teaching with colleagues who had to pivot during the interrupted 2020 school year.”

By adapting to meet the demands of an ever-evolving, increasingly hybrid workforce, Merrimack is expanding its reach and making a measurable impact on the future of employees and employers alike.



FLEXPRO CASE STUDY

IMPROVING SKILLS — AND LIVES

Based in Boston and Washington, D.C., staffing agency FlexProfessionals specializes in connecting businesses with exceptional, part-time professionals. To expand their pool of highly qualified candidates, FlexProfessionals wanted to offer job-seekers the opportunity to update their accounting skills so they could take on roles with their clients. That is where Merrimack stepped in.

Merrimack collaborated with FlexProfessionals to develop a 15-week online Accounting for Small Business program that focused on four critical areas: financial accounting, Excel, QuickBooks, and managerial accounting and budgeting. With a 100 percent completion rate, the program was an unmitigated success for both FlexProfessionals and candidates looking to build their skills.

“Merrimack College listened carefully to what we were trying to accomplish and designed a curriculum that is accessible, works well for busy adult learners, and has top-notch instructors committed to their students’ success,” said FlexProfessionals co-founder Gwenn Rosener.



Julie G. and Rosalind M. recently completed the Small Business Accounting Certificate.



GRAPHIC DESIGN MAJORS CREATE BANNERS FOR AUSTIN HALL CHAPEL

Merrimack's Austin Hall Chapel recently underwent a series of renovations, including the replacement of its original stained glass windows with clear, energy efficient windows.

Seeking to bring some life and energy back into the sanctuary, Vice President of Mission and Ministry Fr. Ray Dlugos, O.S.A., commissioned Merrimack student-artists to create decorative banners depicting saints from the Augustinian tradition to hang in the space.

For this project, Fr. Ray collaborated with Associate Professor and Chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department Nancy Wynn to discuss how they could create banners showcasing six saints from current Merrimack student-artists.

"Our students, being a part of the Augustinian tradition here at Merrimack, had the unique ability and perspective we were looking for when considering artists," Fr. Ray said. "They were able to create artwork for the space that truly represents what might come out of the Merrimack experience."

During the fall 2020 semester, Wynn folded the project into her Graphic Design 2 syllabus, as system design is already included in the advanced-level course. Throughout the semester, the project provided an experiential learning opportunity for her students as they worked to design and produce each banner.

In addition to providing hands-on design experience for the students, Fr. Ray explains, "This was also an opportunity to introduce our saints to students in a way that would be much different than through homilies at Mass or in theology class. I wondered what our saints might look like to the eyes of people who had not grown up with them as I had, and what fresh insights might come from their perspective."

To begin the creative process, Wynn and Fr. Ray provided readings on the saints, and the students completed research on banner design, religious artwork and various artistic movements. Fr. Ray was considered "the client," and worked closely with the group to provide additional details about each saint, discuss readings and offer insights to the saints' lives and stories. This process enriched the students' understanding of their subjects — the saints — and the professional creative process of working with and for a real-world client.

By the end of the semester, Wynn presented eight sets of six banners to Fr. Ray and President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. The original intent was to produce one set for the Chapel, but after careful review of the work, President Hopey suggested multiple sets of the banners should be produced.

To make it a "real" freelance project for her students, Wynn went on to develop a professional strategy designed to push each student and their work through to completion. Four students ultimately decided to continue with the project throughout the spring 2021 semester: Fiona Casey '22, Felicia Fishel '21, Jubilee Newton '22 and Lauren Pardue '22.

These students agreed to take on additional critiques; meetings with vendors on materials, printing and costs; and a final oral presentation of their work to President Hopey.

"Listening to Fr. Ray, learning what the school wanted, researching each saint and understanding the meaning of the work allowed me to really understand this project from so many perspectives," Fishel said. "Doing this work with a professional mindset helped me see how we could use the techniques we had been learning in class in the real world."

Following the spring 2021 semester, the students completed the banners outside of class on their own, under the guidance of Wynn. In line with the professional development and experiential learning aspects of this project, the students set firm deadlines, were expected to produce professional work and were compensated upon completion of the banners.

"I think the biggest takeaway was getting to be a part of the entire process — doing the research, discussing with the client about the accuracies, making sure it was going in the right direction and then talking about the production and what would be done after the designs were completed," Newton said.

Now that the students have completed each step of the design process, all four sets of banners have been produced and will hang in the Chapel at various times throughout the year. When their banners are not on display in the Chapel, they will be displayed in the McCoy Gallery and in other campus spaces for all to see.

“The students worked very hard to get their designs to a professional level. Each set is different, and all of them are exceedingly beautiful,” Wynn said. “The designs are skillful, thoughtful and creative. They all tell the stories of the six saints, but each in a unique way. I am so proud of their follow-through on the project. They produced stunningly strong work that brings new energy to the Chapel.”

The banner project was collaborative and interdisciplinary, building bridges between design, art, religious and theological studies and the business of design. Students involved learned how to work with a client, how to interact with vendors and how to manage costs and stick to a budget.

“In a normal graphic design course we review everyone’s work as a class about twice, but the critiques were never this in-depth,” Casey said. “This project helped open my eyes to how helpful and important it is for designers to critique one another during the design process. Their eyes can pick up on things yours can’t. I’m being genuine when I say it was an honor to work on something with a team as passionate about design as I am.”

Over the course of several months, each set of banners will grace the newly renovated Chapel. Fishel’s banner designs were installed in late September 2021, followed by an installation of Pardue’s banner designs in mid-October. Casey’s designs will open the spring 2022 semester and Newton’s banner designs will round out the installation from March until the end of the academic year. This rotation is scheduled to be carried out annually.



AUGUSTINIAN UPDATE



The campaign to have **FATHER BILL ATKINSON, O.S.A.** canonized as a saint has recently made significant progress. On Tuesday, October 19, Fr. Bill’s closing ceremony for the cause of beatification and canonization took place at the Saint Thomas of Villanova Church. The event amassed an outpouring of support, with

more than 350 people attending in person and hundreds more tuning in virtually. Archbishop Nelson Perez presided over this ceremony and closed the diocesan phase, which is the first step in the canonization process.

Fr. Bill, who passed away in 2006, was the first quadriplegic ever ordained as a Catholic priest. Known for his benevolence, he used his experience as a paraplegic to minister to injured and disabled veterans and hospital patients. He possessed a wonderful sense of humor and was recognized as an excellent teacher, encouraging moderator and compassionate confessor. Fr. Bill was the recipient of many awards and acknowledgments, among them an honorary doctorate from Villanova University in 2000.

O.S.A. Augustinian Friars, friends and Fr. Bill’s family witnessed this historic occasion where all of the documentation gathered over the past six years has been sent to Rome for further examination as Fr. Bill moves one step closer to sainthood. This historic and momentous occasion was a celebration for the entire Augustinian community and for all who were personally impacted by his light and the inspirational example that this Servant of God set before us.



NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

The accomplishments and shared expertise of Merrimack’s exceptional faculty

DR. BRANDI BALDOCK and co-authors **DR. ANTHONY FERNANDEZ**, **DR. JIMMY FRANCO**, **DR. BRIAN PROVENCHER** and **DR. MARK MCCOY** from Merrimack’s department of chemistry and biochemistry recently published an article in the Journal of Chemical Education titled “Overcoming the Challenges of Remote Instruction: Using Mobile Technology to Promote Active Learning.”



Assistant Professor **LEENA BHARATH**, who teaches in the School of Health Sciences, has received \$434,000 in grant funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The awarded R15 grant will stretch over three years and is intended to support the training of undergraduate students.

ANNE F. BOXBERGER FLAHERTY, associate professor and department chair of political science, published “A New and Coherent Strategy? Presidential Attention and Rhetoric in the Era of Indian Self-Determination” in the Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics (JREP).

Assistant Professor **RICKEY CALDWELL** contributed to a recent Zippia panel, “Understand How the Pandemic Changed the Job Market.” Caldwell was among thousands of experts surveyed across many different fields, and his market insights were featured on the main page.



VPA Instructor **CRISTI CATT’S** music group, Telltale Crossing, has released its debut album, “Door Ajar,” on all major music streaming platforms.

Sociology professor **MICHAEL DECESARE** has published “Accrediting Commissions’ Standards on Faculty Governance” in the winter 2021 issue of Academe magazine.

Chief **MICHAEL DELGRECO** of the Merrimack College Police Department became a board member of the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC). MPAC offers accreditation to police agencies across the Commonwealth and is a prestigious benchmark of policing and law enforcement.



Assistant Professor of Creative Writing **EMMA DUFFY-COMPARONE’S** debut book “Love Like That” was named to Vogue magazine’s Best Books to Read in 2021 list. The book came out in March and includes nine short stories that all focus on women and relationships. Vanity Fair also included it on its Best Books to Buy for Valentine’s Day list in February.

Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice **NICOLE FRISCH-SCOTT** was the co-author of a recent study, “Time for a Change: Examining the Relationships Between Recidivism-Free Time, Recidivism Risk, and Risk Assessment”, published in Justice Quarterly. The study was featured in a press release from the Crime & Justice Research Alliance.

Professor **DAN HERDA** published a research paper titled “Experienced, Anticipated, and Vicarious Discrimination” in the journal Social Currents. Herda also published an article in The Dubois Review, titled “Racist Torture and the Code of Silence.”

Director of Campus Music Activities **HUGH HINTON** is the winner of the 2021 Choir Master Prize in choral conducting. This award is given each year to the person who earns the top score in the National Choir Master certification examination.

Associate Clinical Professor **BRIGID HOPKINS** was named a 2021 Board of Certification (BOC) Dan Libera Award Honoree. Hopkins has been a longtime leader and volunteer in the BOC community.



Associate Professor **SIRKWOO JIN** published research in the March 9, 2021 edition of Organization Science about the value of bringing emotions into the workplace. Jin was also a co-author of “The Creative and Cross-Functional Benefits of Wearing Hearts on Sleeves: Authentic Affect Climate, Information Elaboration, and Team Creativity,” recently published in Organization Science. The article is a part of a study on the benefits of employees showing their emotions at work.

Program Director and Chair of Higher Education **SUSAN B. MARINE** is featured in Yahoo News’ “10 Free Online Courses on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” for her course through the University of Pittsburgh, “Gender and Sexuality: Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace.”

Assistant Professor **AZAM NOORI'S** article “Silver Nanoparticles Toxicological Effects and Phytoremediation” was recently published in the Journal of Nanoparticle Research. The publication is the product of a collaborative work between scientists from eight different countries.

Associate Dean **RUSSELL OLWELL'S** letter to the editor was published in the Jan. 2, 2021 edition of the Eagle-Tribune. Olwell talked about Merrimack students’ community service during the COVID-19 pandemic. **OLWELL** was also interviewed by Zippia.com about what aspiring graduates can do to start off their careers in an uncertain economic climate. He offered tips on what skills young graduates need when they enter the workforce and how technology will impact the field of education over the next five years.

The new Merrimack College fight song, titled “Down in the Valley of Victory,” was written by alumna **PAIGE SORENSEN '19**, arranged by Director of Bands **PAUL GERESY** and recorded and mixed by Assistant Director of Bands **ANDREW COTE**. It was performed remotely by members of the Merrimack College Marching Band at an alumni event in November 2020.

JOSEPH R. STASIO, an associate professor in the Girard School of Business, was recently featured in WalletHub, lending expertise on the credit card market and how to compare credit cards before you commit. Stasio was also featured on WalletHub’s “Ask the Experts” section under the 2021 GEICO Car Insurance Review, lending expertise on marketing trends and the vitality of insurance reviews, and on MoneyGeek’s series, “Factors That Influence the Cost of Car Insurance,” “Steps to Find Cheap Auto Insurance,” “Expert Advice for First-Time or Newer Cash Back Cardholders” and “Expert Advice for Balance Transfer Cardholders.”

Assistant Professor **DAN VLAHOS**, a founding member of Design Museum Everywhere, has recently been selected to serve a three-year term on the Design Museum Council for the Design Museum Foundation.

Assistant Professor and Director of the K-12 Teacher Preparation Program **KATHRYN A. WELBY** was featured on WalletHub’s recent article examining states with the most and least equitable school districts. **WELBY** was also featured in Education Week’s “Inclusive Teachers Must Be ‘Asset-Based Believers.’”

Associate Professor of Health Sciences, **ZI YAN**, was interviewed by The Wall Street Journal supporting the benefits of outdoor group exercise in the winter during the pandemic. Yan, whose interdisciplinary research involves psychology, public health and exercise science, offered that exercise classes provide physical benefits and much-needed social support, especially during the winter months.

Assistant Professor of Communication and Media, **MELISSA “MISH” ZIMDARS**, was featured on Newsy television to discuss how more news sites are sharing partisan messages while “masquerading” as local news sites.



WARRIOR TOP 10

1



Warriors Descend on Campus for Homecoming Weekend 2021

Warrior pride filled campus as Merrimack hosted its largest crowd at Homecoming Weekend. Men's and women's soccer kicked off the weekend with a pair of

thrilling wins as the women earned a 2-1 double overtime win against rival Fairleigh Dickinson and the men earned a commanding 5-0 win against Howard. On Saturday, Oct. 2, fans filled Duane Stadium to see the football team take on Duquesne, setting a home attendance record of 12,147 spectators. In addition, women's hockey competed against the nation's No. 1 team and defending national champion, University of Wisconsin.

Cailin Currie Represented Merrimack in the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo

Merrimack College graduate student and women's swimmer Cailin Currie competed in the 400 meter freestyle at the summer's Paralympics in Tokyo, finishing sixth in her heat and ninth overall in the qualifiers. This is the second time that Currie competed in the Paralympics, having competed in the 400 meter freestyle and the 100 meter butterfly at the 2016 games in Rio.

2



3



Men's Basketball Rocks Lehigh in Inaugural Game at Lawler Arena

For the first time in school history, Lawler Arena was transformed from an ice rink into a basketball court on Friday, Nov. 19. The men's basketball team took down Lehigh University in its inaugural game played at Lawler Arena, 55-45. The women took to Lawler stage against Boston University on Dec. 9.

4



Warriors Return as Head Coaches

Merrimack College has named a pair of alumni, Brian Murphy '03 and Jen Fox Sargent '09, as head coaches of the baseball and women's lacrosse programs. Brian Murphy '03 returns

to Merrimack as the seventh head coach in baseball program history. Murphy previously coached at William & Mary, where he was the Colonial Athletic Association Coach of the Year, had four 30-win seasons and led the team to its first NCAA Tournament at-large bid. Fox Sargent '09 returns to North Andover to coach women's lacrosse, the program she was a two-time captain for. Sargent previously coached at Roger Williams University and was the Commonwealth Coast Conference Coach of the Year in 2021 after a 34-win season and a conference title.

5



Football Stuns #24 Holy Cross

In the biggest win in program history, the football team defeated No. 24 Holy Cross 35-21 at Holy Cross on Sept. 11. This victory was the first time Merrimack football earned a win against a ranked NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) opponent, scoring 28 unanswered points with three touchdowns in the second quarter.



6

Tony Martone Marks 40th Season Coaching Men's Soccer

Tony Martone, head men's soccer coach, is now one of four active men's soccer coaches in the NCAA to have been in their role for 40 or more years, becoming one of 19 coaches in NCAA history for men's soccer to reach a ruby anniversary. The men's soccer team ended the season on a four-game winning streak and an overall winning record over the first three years in the Northeast Conference (NEC). Coach Martone completed the season with an overall record of 412 career wins.

Fall Season Success for Men's and Women's Tennis

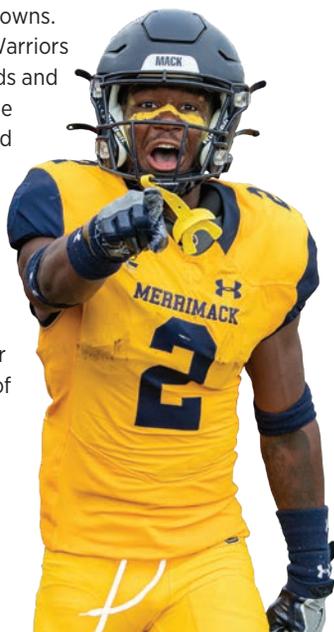
Jan Semerak '24 earned the men's tennis program's first-ever win at the ITA Regional Championships, earning a singles win in consecutive sets. In two home matches, Conrad Koch '22 and Henrik Lindeman '25 had an unbeaten home weekend before Aryaan Bhatia '24 and Andre Singer '22 combined for a doubles win and 4-0 in combined singles play in the Warrior Challenge. The women's tennis program went undefeated in its fall season, with a 6-3 win over Babson, a 7-2 win over Endicott and a 4-3 win at Bryant.



8

Jacari Carter Named to Jerry Rice Award Watchlist

Jacari Carter '25 was named a finalist for the Jerry Rice Award — he was one of 23 national FCS freshmen up for the award. Carter has been named a two-time NEC Special Teams Player of the Week and was named the FCS National Freshman of the Week after his game against Maine, where he had 18 receptions for 131 yards and two touchdowns. Carter led the Warriors in receiving yards and touchdowns. The Jerry Rice Award is bestowed upon the best freshman in FCS football each year, and the recipient is announced after the conclusion of the FCS regular season.



9

Cross Country All-Conference

Three cross country runners represented the Warriors with top finishes in the NEC Championship for All-Conference honors. Captain TJ Corliss '22 earned an 8th place finish in the race and Ryan Dyer '25 finished 14th. The men finished in third place overall. For the women, Samantha LiPetri '24 earned an All-Conference recognition for her 12th place finish, as the women finished sixth overall in the conference race.



10



7

Three Warriors Will Represent on the International Stage at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing

Three Warriors qualified for the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. Dominika Laskova '21, '22 and Kate Bukolska '20 earned the Czech women's national team qualification after their success in the Olympic Qualifying tournament in the Czech Republic in November. Bukolska, who now plays professionally in Sweden, was team captain of the Warriors and previously served as an assistant captain for the national team in the Under-18 World Championships. Laskova previously competed on the Olympic Qualifying squad in 2012-13. Dani Castino '23 will represent host nation China in the Olympics as well. Castino has spent the fall competing with KRS Vanke Rays with her national team teammates, competing in the Russian women's league in preparation for the Games.



Your support of **THE WARRIOR FUND** allows our nearly 700 student-athletes to compete against the best in the nation.

Visit **MERRIMACK.EDU/GIFT** to make a gift today!

Alumni Voices: Enlightened Minds

As part of our celebration of Merrimack College's 75th anniversary, we asked alumni — whose experiences span multiple decades — about how the College's mission to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives continues to resonate with them today.

1957



"I remember the Augustinian connections. There were more priests there at the time, and they stressed the importance of working in the community. I've worked in communities for all of my working days. I was a teacher in Lawrence, and I ran a juvenile defendant program for the town of Andover for 35 years, always involved in outreach in the community."

MARY WESSON '57 is a retired teacher and active community organizer through her New Horizons in Youth After-School Program and positions in local government.

"Merrimack taught me about thinking outside the box, to not be afraid to try something new or different, and to be a leader. The College gave me the confidence and courage to believe in myself, realizing that the only way you can truly fail in life is to not try at all...Merrimack made me feel good about myself, and that has been my mission in life since I left Merrimack: to make others feel good about themselves, because that is the very foundation by which we accomplish everything else in our lives."

DAVE MCGILLIVRAY '76 is the race director of the Boston Marathon and has organized more than a thousand endurance races through DMSE Sports.

1976



"My Merrimack professors taught us how to think independently, meet challenges head-on, adapt quickly and continue on. They're lessons that are still relevant today."

MIKE FRANCO '81 is a practicing attorney, licensed in four New England states. He met his wife on his first day of college.

1981



"Merrimack taught us to believe — in ourselves, in each other, in our goals, and in our obligation to help others."

MARY FRANCO '81 has spent her career in the nonprofit and corporate sectors, including serving as the executive director of the White Plains Hospital Foundation and President of the Norwalk Hospital Foundation. She met her husband on her first day of college.

1991



“During my time at Merrimack College, I learned a lot about science and engineering, enough to get me into medical school. I also learned a lot about values, especially the importance of volunteerism. I’ve carried these values with me for more than 30 years. On behalf of all the students who attended Merrimack, thank you for helping us achieve our wildest dreams. Go Warriors!”

ERIC DICKSON '91 is the president and CEO of UMass Memorial Health.

“One of the classes that really helped inform my worldview was a foreign policy class taught by Professor Emeritus Curtis Martin. He enabled me to see the world as an independent thinker by teaching me critical thinking. That skill, to form opinions based on facts rather than assumptions or prior beliefs, made me a good intelligence officer.”

JOSH CARROLL '05 is an attorney at Ropes & Gray and an Air Force reserve officer.

2005



2008



“When you’re young and you don’t know what you want to do, you think, ‘If I pigeonhole myself into this I can’t do that.’ I was an accounting major at Merrimack, and today I’m the director of benefits at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. My passion was definitely in numbers, but I enjoyed connecting and being with people, so I found a really great opportunity to use what I learned at Merrimack in my accounting degree to transition to something totally different.”

JESSICA LORD '08 is the director of benefits and well-being at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

2012



“I thought about Professor Mark Allman recently. He taught me to apply the texts we were reading — even ancient biblical texts — to contemporary issues. He made sure his students were engaged and actively involved in social justice issues in their communities.”

MARYROSE MAZZOLA '12 holds degrees in public policy and law, has worked on political campaigns in the Boston area, and is an adjunct lecturer at Merrimack.



Check out this video to hear more from these alumni.



The Connell Family and Merrimack: Tradition and Legacy



Nancy Connell, President Christopher E. Hopey and Rick Connell '84

Rita Connell, mother of ten, including Merrimack graduates William '80, Camille '81, Francis '82, Lise '83, Rick '84, Denise '85, Diana '86, Christine '86, James '91 and Paul '92 says, "All of our children attended Catholic grade and high schools because we wanted them to have moral guidance."

When it came time for each to choose a college, they chose Merrimack. As Mrs. Connell put it, "I couldn't keep track of them if they all went in different directions."

Peak Connell

So, for several years, the Connell kids commuted in an old station wagon to nearby Merrimack College. They left home early in the morning and returned in the evening after all had attended classes and labs, studied in the library, and worked part-time jobs or participated in extracurricular activities.

This rigorous daily schedule was not new to the Connell kids. Growing up, in addition to school, all held jobs — at the family gas station, on the family pig farm and at the local Market Basket grocery store. They would turn their earnings over to their mother, who served as chief financial officer for the family. Rick recalls how the family dining room table had stacks of college scholarship applications and student loan paperwork that his mother meticulously filled out by hand during the years of "peak Connell": when he and four siblings attended the school at the same time ('81-'85).

A dedication to education

In fall 2021, Rick and his wife, Nancy, returned to Merrimack and met with

President Hopey to celebrate the establishment of a scholarship for first-generation students that was named in honor of Rick's parents, the Rita G. and William D. Connell Endowed Scholarship. "The story of the Connell family — especially Mrs. Connell's dedication to ensure her children's education — is remarkable," stated President Hopey.

Rick was the fifth of 10 Connells. At Merrimack, he followed in the footsteps of his older brother Francis, a chemistry major. While waiting for Francis to finish labs in the afternoon, Rick encountered several chemistry faculty members who offered him cookies, provided advice and helped him understand his general chemistry homework. Dr. Steven Leone told Rick that it was a fatal sin to fall behind in organic chemistry, and Dr. Ron Pike, his chemistry adviser, advised him to go to graduate school and continue his education rather than take a job out of college.

Rick initially applied to graduate school at the Lowell and Amherst campuses of the University of Massachusetts. However, his father encouraged him to apply to Notre Dame. While he was accepted to all three programs, seeing his parents' tears of joy at the Notre Dame acceptance led him to South Bend. He met his future wife, Nancy, the first week they both arrived on campus.

In the course of a distinguished educational career, Rick was awarded a six-month fellowship to Stockholm, Sweden, and was named the 1988 Notre Dame Outstanding Graduate Student in the College of Science. After earning his doctorate from Notre Dame in 1989, Rick completed an 18-month, NIH post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University under Professor E.J. Corey, who was about to be named a Nobelist in Chemistry.

A distinguished career

Rick worked for Bayer in the United States and Germany, followed by almost two decades at Pfizer, with stints in Sandwich, England, and Shanghai, China. He is listed as an inventor on more than 40 patents and patent applications and has authored or co-authored more than 20 science publications.

Today, Rick is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as the U.S. chief operating officer of WuXi AppTec, a global contract research services company. He is responsible for overall leadership and operational performance throughout the United States, Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

In 2013, Notre Dame recognized Rick as the Graduate School's Distinguished Alumnus in recognition of his exemplary work in the pharmaceutical industry. The award read: "As his trajectories at two of the worldwide leaders in the pharmaceutical industries demonstrate, we honor Dr. Connell not only for his scientific achievements but for his impressive combination of scientific ability and business acumen."

Paying it forward

Reflecting with gratitude on his life so far, Rick noted that he and his family all graduated from Merrimack through the determination and sacrifices of his parents, but also because of the financial support provided by others. The named scholarship is intended to honor his parents and help those in financial need realize their dreams of a college education.

"We commend Dr. Rick Connell for an exemplary career as a research scientist and leader in the pharmaceutical industry whose work has positively impacted countless lives," said President Hopey. "And we thank him and his family for their generosity to the College. The Rita G. and William D. Connell Endowed Scholarship opens up a world of opportunities for generations of future Merrimack students."



Connell Family 2007

ALUMNI NEWS

1960s

▶ **JEANNE (DURKIN) GERBER '66** recently moved from Needham, Massachusetts, to the Sonoran Desert in Arizona, where her daughters and grandchildren live.

▶ **PAT (RODDY) THATCHER '66** participated in a record-breaking property sale in Casco, Maine, in November 2021. As the lead listing agent from Legacy Properties, Sotheby's International Realty in Portland, Maine, she negotiated the sale of the highest s/b sales price of a non-waterfront property in the history of Casco, Maine.

▶ **RICHARD JACKSON '69** was the winner of the Order of Freedom from the president of Slovenia for literary and humanitarian work in the Balkans, winner of Guggenheim, NEH, and NEA awards and author or editor of nearly 30 books. Richard's latest book of poems is "Where the Wind Comes From." [1]

1970s

▶ **TERRY MONAHAN '72** received four awards in 2021. Monahan received two San Diego Press Club writing awards and placed second and third for his stories focused on high school athletes who were successful despite their hardships.

1980s

▶ **JEFFREY KINGSLEY '82** was ordained to the permanent diaconate on June 22, 2002, in the Cathedral of St. Augustine, Bridgeport, Connecticut, by Bishop William E. Lori.

▶ **MARY TINEBRA '82** has been named Commercialization Officer at FertilityIQ.

▶ **BILL MCAVOY '83** was appointed by Governor Baker as the Executive Director of the Supplier Diversity Office of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Bill has previously served as Chief Legal Counsel and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Operational Services Division and Senior Counsel and Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General.

▶ **KURT DEMMER '88** is now General Manager for Merrimack Municipal Light Department.

▶ **LEGACY JOHN "JACK" QUINN III '88** was appointed to Vice President, Digital Experience Engineering Group at BNY Mellon Wealth Management in April 2020. [2]

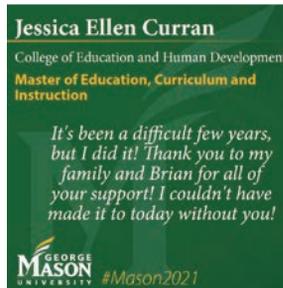
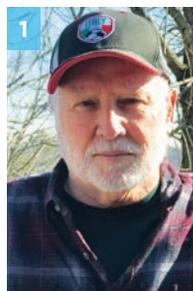
1990s

▶ **BRENDAN CRANNA '92** was promoted to VP Franchise Leadership for Coca-Cola North America. He and his wife Barbara (Kenny) Cranna will be relocating to Charlotte, North Carolina.

▶ **DAVID TOPHAM '92** was named Credit Deputy at NBT Bank on June 5, 2021. [3]

▶ **JUDY O'CONNELL '95** was elected as selectwoman in Wilmington, Massachusetts, by an outstanding majority vote. She was previously on the Board of Selectmen and other Wilmington committees, is a WHS alumni, a Merrimack College alumni and a two-time athlete.

▶ **CAROLYN (MICHAUD) BATTISTA '99** was promoted to the Senior Principal Financial Development Program (FDP) at Cigna in June 2021.



▶ **ADAM COLANTUONI '99** will join Salem Massachusetts Public Schools as its new Executive Director of Student Services and Family Supports on July 1. Colantuoni has been involved in school administration for the past 12 years.

▶ **HEATHER PRICE '99** was recently promoted to a Senior Provider Onboarding Specialist after only three years at Beth Israel Lahey Health.

2000s

▶ **THOMAS DILIGERO '01** was named a 2021 Broker of the Year Finalist. [4]

▶ **JESSICA (SHAWVER) CURRAN '03** graduated from George Mason University with a master of education in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in gifted child education in May 2021. Curran completed the program with a 4.0 overall GPA and is currently a third grade Advanced Academics teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia and was named Outstanding Teacher of the year for 2020-2021. [5]

▶ **ZACH BLASZAK '04** was appointed Central Catholic Athletic Director in June 2021.

▶ **DANIELLE CHABOT '05** was promoted to Director of Event Services with the Miami Heat in 2019 after spending 12.5 years with the team. Danielle spent six weeks in the NBA Bubble in Orlando assisting the NBA Venue Ops crew with the season restart in August and September 2020. In 2021, Danielle got engaged to Aaron Thompson of Tupelo, Mississippi. [6]

▶ **JASON DIMARZIO '05** and his wife, Dana, welcomed their son and future Warrior, Luca, to the family on August 15, 2021.

▶ **CHRISTIAN DUPERVIL '05** is Co-Founder of PREPPS, a new and robust platform that enables colleges and universities to search and connect with prospective students without spending thousands of dollars on advertising.

▶ **LAUREN HAJJAR '06** was named to the board of the Marginal Way Preservation Fund; she brings a background in real estate and events planning.



▶ **ADAM VAN BUREN '05** and **MEGHAN (FARRAR) VAN BUREN '06** announced the birth of their third child, Maxwell Farrar Van Buren, on April 5, 2021. He joins big sisters Natalie and Sloane. [7]

▶ **JENNA (PIERCE) WOOD '07** obtained the degree of master of science in pharmacology and toxicology with a concentration in toxicology from Michigan State University in May 2021.

▶ **PETER DOHERTY '10**, and **JESSICA (OSBORNE) DOHERTY '09** welcomed their first child, a daughter named Quinn Aine Doherty, on November 18, 2020. In addition, Jessica was also promoted in August 2021

to the role of Vice President, Human Resources for Global Functions at Gilbarco Veeder-Root, a leading global provider of fuel dispensers and convenience store technology. [8]

▶ **AMANDA GILMAN '09** left a career on Wall Street to start her own healthy snack company, AMG Snacks. In 2019, AMG snacks were sold in Whole Foods. [9]

▶ **JACEY VAUGHAN '09** and **CHRIS SNOW '09** welcomed a baby girl named Summer in June. The couple met in a women's studies class at Merrimack. [10]

2010s

▶ **NICOLAS CLINI '12** celebrated his marriage to Amy, surrounded by family and friends, including many Merrimack alumni. [11]

▶ **LAURA (CALLAN) POND '12** married Corey Pond in October 2021. [12]

▶ One of the most dominant scoring forces in Merrimack College men's lacrosse history, **COREY LUNNEY '13** has been announced as an inductee into the NE10 Hall of Fame in the Class of 2021. [13]

▶ **AARON STROTHERS '13** joined the Cape Verde Praia basketball league. [14]

▶ **ZAHIAH ALMOHSEN '14** got married in 2015 and now has three little boys. In 2016, she finished her master's degree in biology and was employed at MACHS in Saudi Arabia as a lecturer and head of the alumni unit. [15]

▶ **MEGAN (FOLINO) KIRKHAM '14** and **MATT KIRKHAM '13** welcomed their first child, Cameron Joseph Kirkham, born August 10, 2021, at Melrose Wakefield Hospital. [16]

▶ **MARISSA (DEPAOLO) MCDONOUGH '14** and **QUINN MCDONOUGH '14** married on September 26, 2021, accompanied by fellow alumni from both the Merrimack football and women's soccer teams. [17]

▶ **ALLISON (COTE) '15** and **LUKE BAKANOWSKY '15**, were married on July 10, 2021, in Stow, Massachusetts. Merrimack Football alumni and current Merrimack Football coaches were in attendance.

Pictured: Merrimack College Football coaches: Dan Curran, head coach; TJ Lisniewski, defensive line coach; Mike Gennetti, defensive coordinator; Aynsley Rosenbaum, wide receivers coach.

Merrimack alumni in attendance: **Steven Browne '15**, **Joe Clancy '14**, **Tara Stuhr '17**, **Madison Creighton '17**, **Juliette McCall '17**, **Corrinne Gosselin '15**, **Jen Cain '17**, **Stephanie Sheehan '15**, **Dana Tuccelli '15**, **Kayla Regan '17**, **Phil Regan '87**, **Robin Kennedy '15**, **Kyle Skey '17** and **Jeffrey Cote '25**. [18]

▶ **KRISTY FORREST '15, M'16** will complete and obtain her third degree from Merrimack College next spring while also having the opportunity to work full time in the ASC supporting other students in reaching their educational goals. Kristy will complete her second master's degree in clinical mental health alongside them. She is grateful to share in this experience with them and is in awe of all that they have accomplished.

▶ **MICHAELA PEASE M'16** and **DANIELLE '14, M'16** were married on June 26, 2021.

▶ **SHEALYN (ANTHONY) TOWLER '16** and **TIMOTHY TOWLER '17** were married in October 2021, accompanied by fellow Merrimack alumni from both the men's and women's lacrosse teams. [19]

▶ **CRISTOPHER LUIS ALGARRA DAZZO '17** was named the new Chair of Engineering at Middlesex Community College.

▶ **AMY (BYRNES) ESPINOLA '17** was married on September 12, 2021. Amy's ceremony was officiated by Fr. Ray Dlugos. [20]

▶ **TORI GIANNOTTI '17, M'18** joins Mercy High School in Middletown, Connecticut as Information Technology Assistant/Library and Grant Writer in the Advancement Office. Tori fondly remembers her years as a student at Mercy High School, class of 2013, where she met her best friend, appreciated her education and enjoyed the annual walk-a-thon and cake auction, among the activities that provided opportunities for everyone to show their spirit. Then, as now, the Branford native is grateful to be part of the Mercy family. As technology is an essential part of academics, she believes it is important to help students with their devices and troubleshoot common

problems so technology won't obstruct learning. Tori earned a bachelor of liberal arts and master of public affairs degree from Merrimack College. Prior to joining the Mercy staff, she was the Early Learning Coordinator and Science Educator at The South Florida Science Center, and last year became a Substitute English teacher and proctored some classes at Mercy.

▶ **CONNOR GRIFFIN '17** studied exercise science while attending Merrimack. He has recently opened a second gym in Lynnfield, Massachusetts. The gym, Heroes Fitness, offers personal training, group training, open gym and now physical therapy. [21]

▶ **ROBYN STANLEY '17** and **GAVIN KILLOUGH '17** were married on September 26, 2021, at Lake Winnepesaukee. [22]



17



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▶ **ALEX JULIANO '18** recently earned a master's degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech. Pictured with his brothers Justin and **Matthew '24** and parents **Michael '82** and **Lisa '83**. [23]

▶ **VANESSA ROLLE '18** is the creator and editor of The Treasury Times newsletter.

▶ **KAY RYDER '18** and **EVAN VADENAIS '16** met at Merrimack and hit it off, and now, six years later, they are married. Their wedding ceremony took place on June 26, 2021, with eight additional Merrimack College alumni standing up in the wedding and several more in attendance. [24]

In the photo: Bride: **Kathryn (Kay) Ryder '18**, founder of Club Softball; Groom: **Evan Vadenais '16**, captain of Men's Track and Cross Country; Bridesmaid: **Taylor Inman '18**; Bridesmaid: (left of bride) **Kylie Chartier '17**; Bridesmaid: (far right) **Hannah Tavares '18**; Groomsman: (far left) **Phillip**

Harris '17; Groomsman: (far right) **Timothy Keohane '17**; Groomsman: (middle of back row) **Mathew Galvao '17**; Groomsman: (first in back row on the right) **James Wegman '17**; Groomsman: **Andrew Lefavor '17**; Guests: **Daniel Brien '17**, **Connor Murphy '18**, **Richard Rowsell '17**.

▶ **ASHLEY HALL '19** was recently named director of the Merrimack Valley Area Health Education Center (AHEC) in Lawrence, Massachusetts. AHEC is a national network of community health centers aimed at increasing the health care workforce in underserved communities. [25]

▶ **JACOB HOWES '19** recently became National Marketing Manager of Golfzon America, the largest golf simulator company in the world. [26]

2020s

▶ The Peabody Companies promoted **TERESA ZINGALES '20** to Director of Portfolio Operations. [27]

IN MEMORY

- James F. Reynolds, Jr. '51
- Joseph B. Mason '52
- Robert D. Keohan '53
- Joan (Sullivan) McGaunn '54
- William J. Murphy '56
- Francis A. O'Connor '56
- Daniel Francis Martin, Sr. '57
- James J. McInnis '57
- Robert O'Brien '57
- Albert J. Buczko '58
- Mary (Donohue) Guay '58
- Charles B. Mitchell '58
- Lynda (DiTo) Palladino '58
- Arthur E. Ratte '58
- Paul D. Anderson '59
- Robert Gregory Lorenzo '62
- George J. Pappas '62
- Maurice A. Fournier '63
- Barbara (Lesiczka) Rollins '64
- Austin J. McGuigan, Esquire '65
- Armand DeLuca '66
- Nancy (Hall) Loughlin '66
- James E. Case III '68
- Barbara (Vernile) Primeau '68
- Kenneth J. McAvoy '69
- John J. McDuffie '69
- Peter A. Rampulla '69
- Robert J. Lyons '71
- Gary F. Satagaj '72
- Joseph R. Fucarile '73
- Mary L. Fleming '74
- Maureen A. Kennedy '74
- Maureen Catherine Kelley '75
- John T. Feury '77
- Richard J. Sherback '78
- Nancy D. Edwards '79
- William Richard Keller III '79
- Jeanne C. Brien '83
- James F. Pinho '83
- Dorothy Ann O'Leary '87
- Richard Lawrence Pomerleau '88
- Keith R. Taylor '92
- Elizabeth J. Hurley '96
- James Michael Zagorites '96
- Helen R. Haas '03
- Joanna B. Biederman '04
- Sean P. Wittbold '10
- Lindsey B. Goldstein '16
- Stephen M. Levesque '17
- Samuel A. Leopold '23



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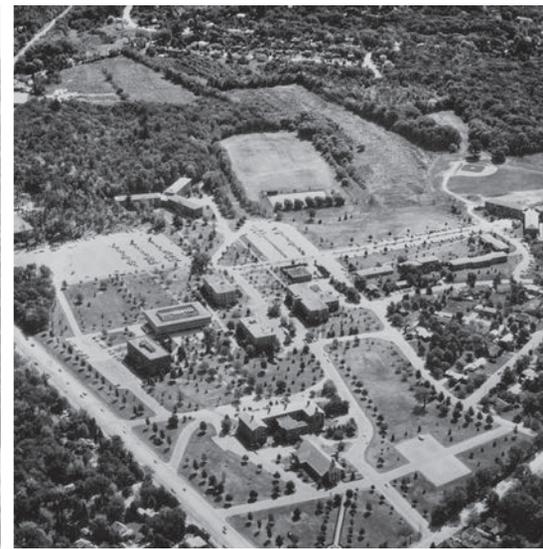


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