**Merrimack College**

74th Commencement | Class of 2024

The School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Thursday, May 16, 2024

# ACADEMIC PROCESSION

**MACE BEARER**

Lenna Bharath, PhD, Assistant Professor, Nutrition and Public Health

**CROSS BEARER**

Rebecca Jimenez, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

**THE GRADUATES**

Led by Father Raymond Dlugos, OSA, PhD; Vice President for Mission and Ministry

**GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

**THE FACULTY**

**THE DISTINGUISHED ASSEMBLY**

Academic Deans

Distinguished Speaker

Honorary Degree Recipient

Board of Trustees

Executive Vice President

Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost

President

The audience is requested to stand if they are able during the Academic Procession, Invocation and National Anthem, and to remain in place until the Academic Procession leaves at the end of the exercises.

# PROGRAM

**PRESIDING**

Christopher E. Hopey, PhD, President

**PROCESSIONAL**

The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

**INVOCATION**

Kevin J. Lucey ’89, Chair, Merrimack College Board of Trustees

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Audrey McGill ’25 Accompanied by The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

**WELCOME**

Christopher E. Hopey, PhD, President

**A MESSAGE FROM MERRIMACK STUDENT LEADERS**

Maxwell Beland ’24

Lara Guvelioglu MA ’22, MPA ’24

**DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER**Francis Kenneally, President & CEO, Merrimack Valley YMCA

**HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT**John Petillo, President, Sacred Heart University

**RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES AND PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS**

Christopher E. Hopey, PhD, President

**AWARDS**

* Edward G. Roddy, Jr. Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award

Presented by John “Sean” Condon, PhD, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost

* 2024 Merrimack Medal

Presented by Rebecca Jimenez, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Christopher E. Hopey, PhD, President

**MERRIMACK ANTHEM**

Audrey McGill ’25 Accompanied by The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

**BENEDICTION**

Father Raymond Dlugos, OSA, PhD, Vice President for Mission and Ministry

**CLOSING OF THE EXERCISES**

Christopher E. Hopey, PhD, President

**RECESSIONAL**

The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

# MASTER’S DEGREES IN COURSE

Valentina Accardo

Joshua Addo

Victoria Ambrose

Chloe Atteridge

Jenna Bednarz

Ben Berube

Amanda Blume

Erika Bodnar

Kathleen Borgasano

Laurel Breen

Avery Brillo

Tyler Broadfield

Natalie Calkins

Brooke Caplinger

Nathaniel Caron

Kevin Carroll

Nicole Cofer

Kayla Collins

Alexa Connell

Megan Connelly

Alyssa Costantino

Ashley Craig

Eric Custadio

Vincent De la Cruz

Sophia DeMarco

Kara Devereaux

Alexandria DiPerri

Xavier Dones

John Dooley

Caitlin Downing

Vannak Duong

Julie Edson

Mackinzie Edwards

Michael Eglintine

Camryn Fedeli

Taylor Flannery

Madison Fornwalt

Benjamin Fowler

Erica Frazier

Meredith Fullford

Mark Gallant

Kyra Galonek

Nicole Galvin

Donte Garcia

Molly Goulart

Sophia Griffin

Dylon Grzenda

Emily Hanna

Elizabeth Hoffman

Alexis Hutchins

Patricia Inirio

Olivia Juneau

Karissa Kakleas

Stephanie Kenney

Muhammed Kesmez

Shannon Labuza

Zoe Lachut

Sarah Lama

Alejandro Landron

Danielle Lazzaro

Emma Letarte

Samantha LiPetri

William Litchfield

Dominic Lopez

Siobhian Lowman

Owen MacWilliams

Elise Makowski

Jose Martinez

Lauren McKenney

Maggie McKeon

Kaitlyn McNiff

Madison Merritt

Rasmus Metsola

Cassandra Miller

Syerah Mulhern-Allred

Lincoln Ninneh

Hannah O’Brien

Jacob O’Connell

Isabella Ozga

Hanjun Park

Anna Perrotti

Julia Petta

Jane Pfeufer

Dominic Pisello

Jorge Pizarro Colon

Jessica Poirier

Jacob Potthoff

Alex Pratcher

Michelle Ramirez

Jordan Restivo

Sidney Restivo

Arielle Robles

Benjamin Sacramone

Crystal Sanderson

Laura Saunders

Sophie Scearbo

Gianna Sciarappa

Zachary Seaman

Kaitlyn Seeley

Nicholas Seeto

Danielle Sheehan

Abby Sleeper

Jason Smith

Sabrina Smith

Schuyler Snay

Molly Stockfisch

Mike Sukaloski

Joshua Survis

Dianna Sutera

John Sweeney

Hubert Temple

Jarrett Valdez

Caitlin Victor

Ashley Wargo

Anna Weinbeck

Cameron Wheelock

Kati Whitcomb

Casie White

Sarah Withers

Alyssa Worthington

Wildon Wright

# UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES IN COURSE

# Logan Akau

# Sarah Allen

# Nevaeh Al-Sarabi

# Emily Angelari

# Joshua Angermeier

# Hannah Austin

# Cassidy Avenick

# Victoria Balke

# Kylie Batista

# Riley Becker

# Bree Bergeron

# Jillian Besser

# Brooke Bolduc

# Kelsey Bonheur

# April Boulos

# Gianna Bourassa

# Olivia Bourque

# Alexis Braga

# Hannah Brennan

# Evelyn Brown

# Keara Bruno

# Emma Brushingham

# Michele Buccieri

# Taylor Budgell

# Ava Caliri

# Hailey Cameron

# Anna Carey

# Jackie Case

# Anna Cashin

# Timothy Cashman

# Abigail Center

# Madison Center

# Leah Centrella

# Olivia Chambers

# Makayla Champagne

# Ella Charpentier

# Ben Chase

# Olivia Ciafardoni

# Caroline Clark

# Kelsey Clark

# Sydney Colbert

# Riyaun Coleman

# Sara Comisky

# Jillian Corridori

# Ryan Cossette

# Madison Cote

# Alec Cruz

# Devyn Daigle

# Giana D’Alleva

# Jessica Deschenes

# Leo Desrochers

# Mai Detzel

# Braydon Dolbashian

# Mackenzie Dorr

# Ashley Doyle

# Shannon Driscoll

# Marissa Duffy

# Guliana Dupler

# Jenna Durgin

# Rebekah Edwards

# Lauren El Hed

# John Elie

# Ashlee Ernst

# Christian Felton

# Jamie Fernandez

# Ariana Firicano

# Olivia Fitzpatrick

# Michael Fonte

# Anthony Fortuna

# Elizabeth Francioso

# Ashley Gajdzik

# Melanie Garcia

# Anna Gardner

# Carter Gauthier

# Brynn Geraghty

# Alyssa Gerard

# Rebecca Gersbeck

# Kaleigh Gibney

# Teagan Gobiel

# Caroline Gorman

# Madison Grace

# Emily Grady

# Lydia Grant

# Abigail Greeley

# Amanda Hamilton

# Connor Haverty

# Caroline Heffernan

# Wil Hingston

# Anne-Sophie Hogenboom

# Sarah Holstein

# Mia Houle

# Calvin Huynh

# Jacob Hyjek

# Jessica Jasie

# Alana Johnson

# Kristine Kakridas

# Grace Karunakar

# Caroline Kelleher

# Mia Kelley

# Ashley Kelly

# Taylor Khoury

# Kara Kilroy

# Catherine Kubit

# Abigail Laine

# Olivia Lampkin

# Kaleigh Lane

# Mia Lane

# Alexis Lanning

# Nathan Leclaire

# Amanda Leinas

# Merissa Letizio

# Meredith Lewis

# John Leyva

# Mckenzie Lloyd

# Kyla Lopez

# Rhianna Lyman

# Ashley Macek

# Ava Mahoney

Sophia Mansella  
Veronica Maria-Severino

# Mary Maroney

# Cody Matachun

# Ava Matarazzo

# John McBain

# Mallory McCarthy

# Andrew McDonald

# Julia McGinn

Danielle McKerracher

Abigail McLeavy

Kailey Melito-Santos

Catia Melo

Madison Metcalf

Leonardo Mirabal

Lillian Morgan

Lauren Mullally

Kelley Munger

Kaitlyn Murphy

Shane Murphy

Caroline Naylor

Tyler Nichols

Evelyn Ocegueda

Dylan O’Connell

Nathan Palanica

Georga Paquette

Parker Paradice

Elle Parsons

Macy Patten

Emmy Paulino

Olivia Peluso

Tatiana Pena

Yarielis Perez Castillo

Ella Peris

Adam Pinto

Savannah Poirier

Kristina Poulakis

IerNeshamah Quarles

Abigail Querzoli

Alyssa Quirk

Marissa Randlett

Caitlyn Raymond

Sara Reder

Morgan Reid

Lydia Reynolds

Taylor Richards

Genesis Rodriguez

Loraine Rodriguez

Ella Ruby

Iris Russell

Taegan Salera

Kara Salvi

Madison Sanborn

Madigan Saunders

Veronica Shaw

Lily Sieben

Julianna Smith

Michaela Smith

Michelle Sohegian

Kiana Stevens

Paige Stiller

Kayla Stone

Kyla Sturm

Yvonne Tan

Haleigh Teixeira

William Thomson

Kayli Tobin

Taylor Tocci

Nikala Tuffanelli

Katherine Tully

Abigail Tyldesley

Elise Vare

Brooke Waitt

Jessica Wardle

Ryan Waring

Julia Webb

Nicole Weir

Paige Willis

Chloe Windle

John Wizboski

Stephen Woods

Emily Yath

June Zhang

# DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

**Francis Kenneally**

Francis “Frank” Kenneally III is president and CEO of the Merrimack Valley YMCA, one of the region’s leading nonprofits serving more than 40,000 individuals annually through programs and services that promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA operates facilities in Andover, North Andover, Lawrence and Methuen, Massachusetts, a day camp in Salem, New Hampshire, and two overnight camps on Bear Island Lake Winnipesaukee in Meredith, New Hampshire.

As a lifelong resident of the Merrimack Valley, Mr. Kenneally brings a unique perspective and understanding of the communities the Y serves. This understanding has led to several creative and innovative approaches by the Y to address community needs around early education and care for young children, food insecurity, safety around water, educational inequalities and bridging communities.

Mr. Kenneally is a leader in promoting collaboration among state and local governments, educational institutions, healthcare providers and other nonprofits to address issues that impact youth and families in Northeast Massachusetts. He started his career in camping and aquatics and has held several program and executive positions leading up to being named president and CEO in July 2019.

Under his leadership, the Y has focused on reimagining programs and services to create an impact that is guided by the needs and aspirations of the community. He has also increased philanthropy to the Y which has been leveraged for facility improvements, infrastructure upgrades and to provide greater access and assistance to residents of the Merrimack Valley seeking to improve their health and wellness.

In 2017, Mr. Kenneally was presented with the Kiwanis Club of Greater Lawrence Humanitarian Award. Additionally, he has received Y-USA’s Emerging Leaders Resource Network Legacy Award for 2020 and the Rotary Club of Andover Citizens Who Care Award in 2023. Mr. Kenneally has a certificate in non-profit business leadership from Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame and completed a LEADS Fellowship in partnership with Harvard Business School in 2021.

He is deeply engaged in the Merrimack Valley community serving on the boards of the Lawrence Partnership, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, Andover Service Club, North Andover Scholarship Foundation and Merrimack College School of Nursing and Health Sciences Board of Advisors. He also volunteers on the boards of the Epilepsy Foundation of New England and the Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs chairing the Public Policy Committee.

Mr. Kenneally is a graduate of Salem State University, earning a bachelor’s degree in sport, fitness and leisure studies. He also earned a master’s degree from Springfield College in human services organizational leadership. He lives in North Andover, Massachusetts with his wife Amy. They have three adult sons.

# HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

**John Petillo | Honorary Doctorate of Public Health**

Dr. Petillo was named president of Sacred Heart University (SHU) in March 2011. Before that, he served as interim president beginning in October 2010 and dean of the University’s Jack Welch College of Business & Technology since March 2009. Under his leadership, Sacred Heart has experienced unprecedented growth both academically and physically.

During his tenure, the university has added or begun construction on approximately 10 new buildings, not including extensive renovations at the West Campus site. In addition, the university has added the Colleges of Education & Human Development and Nursing and the School of Computer Science & Engineering as well as many new programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The university has also greatly expanded international educational opportunities for students under Dr. Petillo.

Before coming to SHU, Dr. Petillo was president of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, where he oversaw a series of reforms relating to transparency and accountability, including the adoption of Sarbanes-Oxley protocols for the university.

His other professional experience includes serving as president and chief executive officer of the Newark Alliance, a private-public partnership dedicated to enhancing Newark’s quality of life; regional president of First Union Insurance Services; chief executive officer of The Tribus Companies; chairman, president and chief executive officer of CareAdvantage, Inc.; and president and chief executive officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. He was also chancellor and chief executive officer of Seton Hall University and Immaculate Conception Seminary; chancellor for administration for the Archdiocese of Newark; and deputy director of Catholic Community Services.

He holds a doctorate in counseling and personnel services from Fordham University, master’s degrees from the Darlington School of Theology and Rutgers University, and a bachelor’s from Seton Hall University.

# DIPLOMA TRANSLATION

**The translation of the Merrimack College diploma from Latin to English is as follows:**

Merrimack College

To all reading this document

Greetings in the Lord

The President, Faculty and Trustees of Merrimack College

by virtue of properly completing required studies on the recommendation of the faculty

and by the authority vested in us

by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts confer on

name of student

the degree of

name of degree

and grant freely all rights, privileges and honors pertaining to that degree.

In witness thereof we place the seal of the College.

Given in North Andover in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

date of degree

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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# ABOUT MERRIMACK COLLEGE

One of only two Catholic Augustinian colleges in the United States, Merrimack College is a rising institution with a decade-long trajectory of growth and innovation. Merrimack is a selective, research-oriented, master’s comprehensive institution with approximately 5,700 undergraduate and graduate students from 34 states and 36 countries, comprising schools of arts and sciences, engineering and computational sciences, nursing and health sciences, education and social policy, and business. The College’s 220-acre campus is just north of Boston in North Andover, Mass.

# MISSION AND VISION

**Our mission is to enlighten minds, engage hearts, and empower lives.**

Inspired by the Catholic faith and the Augustinian tradition of seeking truth through inquiry and dialogue, our vision is to:

* Prepare students to adapt creatively to tomorrow’s realities through excellence in the liberal arts, sciences, and the professions;
* Build a community of scholars welcoming and respecting a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, beliefs, and perspectives;
* Cultivate the intellectual, moral, spiritual, physical, and personal awareness needed to make wise choices for life, career, and service;
* Encourage and support scholarly work that contributes to the wisdom on which society bases its decisions;
* Engage other educational institutions, industry, and agencies of social change in collaborative efforts fostering a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

# THE SEAL OF MERRIMACK COLLEGE

Drawing on our rich history, the modern shield of Merrimack College reinterprets elements from the original 1947 College seal.

The shield includes four quadrants:

* The book with the words “Tolle Lege” (“take up and read”), the famous words connected with the conversion of Saint Augustine to Catholicism, proclaiming the College’s founding by the Order of Saint Augustine.
* Wavy pallets, to represent the “swift water” of the Merrimack Valley’s original Native Americans.
* The cross fleurette, from the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Boston, in which Merrimack College is located. The cross fleurette refers to the French ancestry of Bishop Cheverus, the first Bishop of Boston (1810–1823).
* The symbolism of our colors: blue for loyalty (and the cold, rippling waters of the Merrimack River) and gold for wisdom (also the color of the papacy).



# THE CEREMONIAL MACE

The mace carried in academic processions derives from medieval times in England when an official was taking office. At that time, the mace was a formidable weapon and was held ready by the mace bearer to protect the dignitary. From the sixteenth century in England and since colonial days in the United States, the mace has become a symbol of academic office and is carried by a distinguished member of the faculty.

The Merrimack College mace has a young history. It was fashioned for the 1986 Commencement by Cistercian Monks of the Holy Rood Guild at Saint Joseph’s Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. The monks are renowned craftsmen and designers of ecclesiastical vesture.

The Merrimack College mace is thirty-six inches long and is made of black walnut. The front of the mace carries the College’s hand-painted, gold-leafed seal. From the intricate coat of arms of the Order of Saint Augustine, the back of the mace is hand carved with an open book symbolizing the conversion of Augustine. On the left hand side of the book is a tongue of flame above a heart pierced with “the burning love of God.” An elegantly simple cross adorns the top of the mace.

# THE CEREMONIAL CROSS

The processional cross is expressive of the Augustinian longing for unity of our minds and hearts in God. It was designed by the Augustinian Contemplative Nuns at the Monastery of Our Holy Savior in Leccetto, Tuscany, Italy. Small replicas of this cross are given to Merrimack students engaged in service to others through Service Learning and the SEND Programs as well as to those who participate in MORE, the Pellegrinaggio en Italia, and other programs that foster self-awareness and spiritual growth.

# REGALIA

The origins of academic dress lie in fourteenth century England. The buildings frequented by medieval scholars were often cold and damp; long gowns (particularly with hoods to protect tonsured heads) may have been worn more for warmth than fashion.

The distinctive gown set the student apart from their fellow citizens. As late as the Civil War, students at American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. Whatever the origin, academic regalia grew in diversity and splendor, with scholars displaying distinctive costume for different occasions and achievements. The result was a bewildering variety of designs.

An intercollegiate commission met at Columbia University in 1894 to establish a standard academic costume code, and over the years it has been revised by an official committee of the American Council on Education. The committee’s prescriptions, while regulating, still allow for great pageantry at formal academic events.

From the cap, gown, and hood, it is possible to distinguish the institution from which the wearer was graduated, the field of learning in which the degree was earned, and the level of the degree— bachelor, master, or doctoral.

The distinguishing feature of the black mortarboard cap, standard at most colleges and universities in the United States, is the color of the tassel—black for the holder of a bachelor’s or master’s degree, gold for a doctor’s degree or the governing officers of educational institutions.

The gown is normally black, and the gown’s cut and trim indicate the level of the degree held. The bachelor’s has long, pointed sleeves, while the master’s has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, with the front part cut in an arc. The doctor’s sleeves are bell-shaped, with three bars of velvet, and the gown is trimmed with velvet down the front as well. The hood tells the most about its wearer. The length of the hood and width of the binding vary according to degree. The hood is lined with the official colors of the college. The color of the hood’s binding indicates the area of study in which the degree was granted. Students also wear other regalia, including cords signifying academic honors and stoles representing countries they studied in during their academic career.

At formal academic occasions, the President of Merrimack College also wears the Presidential Medal which incorporates the College seal.

# MERRIMACK COLLEGE ANTHEM

O Merrimack, how shall we honor you?

With mind and heart awakened to the truth. We shall build God’s city in ourselves

and in our world, reaching out in service, our hearts a-fire with love.

The restless quest for wisdom in the company of friends,

call us ever onward ‘til in God our hearts find rest. Our guides are faith and

reason on a path that yet unfolds, and come we will to wisdom through

knowledge formed in love. O Merrimack, how shall we honor you?  
With mind and heart awakened to the truth. We shall build God’s city in ourselves

and in our world, reaching out in service, our hearts a-fire with love.