

5-15-2017

# Merrimack College Record

Merrimack College

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## Recommended Citation

Merrimack College, "Merrimack College Record" (2017). *Merrimack College Record*. 13.  
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# Summer Projects Will Reshape Physical Campus

In 2011, with the inception of the Agenda for Distinction, Merrimack declared its commitment to providing a modern, residential campus experience for current and future students.

Since that time, the college has celebrated several residential-focused accomplishments, such as the opening of the Merrimack Athletics Complex, the South and North residences, and new academic spaces such as the Academic Innovation Center, current home to the institution's growing health sciences program.

As part of this ongoing effort, the college is making major investments in academic, athletic and dining spaces over the summer — Merrimack's most ambitious construction and renovation initiative in more than a decade.

"These projects represent the next phase in strengthening the student experience at Merrimack College," President Christopher Hopey said in an interview.

Hopey noted that when students return in the fall, several departments across campus will be relocated to new,



Architect's rendering of new 2,500-seat stadium and eight-lane track in the athletic district.

improved and, in some cases, expanded spaces. These include the Girard School of Business, to the new North Campus Academic Pavilion; the psychology

department, to the first floor of O'Reilly Hall; the health sciences department, to the third floor of O'Reilly; the visual and  
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# Air Force Vet, Fashion Designer to Deliver Graduation Addresses

Approximately 650 undergraduates and 275 graduate students will receive degrees during Merrimack's 67th commencement exercises the weekend of May 19-21.

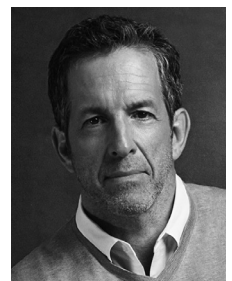
Mary Jennings Hegar, an author and retired military pilot who was decorated for action in Afghanistan, will deliver the keynote address at Friday's graduate ceremony, and fashion designer and social activist Kenneth Cole will speak at Sunday's undergraduate ceremony. Both speakers will be awarded honorary doctorates during ceremonies in the Merrimack Athletics Complex.

Four additional honorary degrees will be presented at the undergraduate ceremony. Recipients are:

- William Campbell, Ph.D., 2015 Nobel laureate in medicine.
- Michael Crowe '92, chairman of the Merrimack board of trustees, benefactor of the college, and founder and chief executive officer of Clearurance LLC.
- Marybeth McInnis, a longtime Merrimack trustee and benefactor of the college.
- Martin Meehan, president of the



Hegar



Cole

University of Massachusetts. Hegar, a former Air National Guard  
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## Susan Marine Wins Harvard Women's Leadership Award

Susan Marine, associate professor and program director of higher education graduate programs, was presented with a 2017 Women's Leadership Award by Harvard University for her work on behalf of sexual-assault prevention.



Susan Marine

The award, in its 20th year, promotes awareness of women's and gender issues, and each year recognizes a woman outside the college who has excelled in her professional field, and through her contributions has challenged, motivated and inspired others.

"I am delighted and honored to receive this award," Marine said. "My near-decade at Harvard laid the groundwork for my commitment to scholar-activism at Merrimack. Research and teaching about sexual violence prevention and advancing the status of people of minoritized genders is my driving mission."

Prior to joining Merrimack in 2011, Marine served as founding director of the Harvard College Women's Center and, before that, Harvard's Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response.

### There's One Main Condition for Tuition Remission

## FILL OUT THE FORM

The Office of Human Resources reminds participants in the college's tuition-remission program for employees and their dependents to complete a new enrollment form for each semester or term they are requesting the benefit. Forms should be completed at the time of course registration. They can be found on the "Human Resources" tab of the MyMack portal, under "Tuition." Benefits will not be applied to student accounts without first submitting the form to human resources.

Office of Human Resources | 978-837-5157

## Eight Faculty Receive Grants for Interdisciplinary Initiatives

Eight faculty members recently received grants from Merrimack's Interdisciplinary Institute to pursue innovative projects highlighting multiple disciplines.

Led by Monica Cowart, associate dean of the school of liberal arts, the institute embraces the potential for new knowledge, new ways of understanding and new insights on complex questions that can come from integrating the theoretical and methodological approaches of more than one field of study.

"By interacting with the institute, the goal is to have faculty and students become better problem solvers as our unique world is ever changing," Cowart said. "It will also enable them to work effectively and efficiently with others who have different views and ideas. Finally, students and faculty will be motivated to be better activists, learners, communicators and members of their communities."

The institute combines the research approaches, skills and perspectives of such fields as visual and performing arts, history, philosophy, psychology, sociology, economics, women's and gender studies, biology and many others. It also recognizes and embraces the importance of intersectionality — the way in which various political, social and cultural identities shape experience and knowledge — and social justice.

### 2016-2017 Interdisciplinary Institute Grant Recipients

#### Pedagogical Grants Involving Experiential Education

Lisa Fuller, Philosophy  
"Justice in Health and Healthcare"

Debra Michals, Women's and Gender Studies  
"Gender, Race and War"

Autumn Alcott Ridenour, Religious and Theological Studies  
"Role Immersion Games for Interdisciplinary Bioethics"

Melissa Zimdars, Communication and Media  
"Fake News, Mis/Disinformation and Perceptions of Bias"

#### Grants to Facilitate Interdisciplinary Student Research

Anne Flaherty, Political Science  
"Interdisciplinary Approaches to Presidential Rhetoric and Indian Self-Determination"

Allison Seitchik, Psychology  
"Implicit Bias and Jury Decision-Making"

#### Grants to Facilitate Interdisciplinary Team Teaching/Cohort Model

Bryan Bannon, Philosophy, and Christina Hardway, Psychology  
"Living a Meaningful Life: Identity, Purpose and Reflection"

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# TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

## Exploring the Benefits of Google Classroom

*Second in a series on how Merrimack College faculty are using technology both in and outside the classroom. In this installment, Associate Professor of Psychology Michael Stroud discusses the benefits of iPads and Google Classroom.*

Through the combination of both Apple iPads and Google Classroom, I have been able to connect the work completed



*Michael Stroud*

outside of class with in-class discussions and activities. Also, Google Classroom allows for a streamlined way of organizing assignments, while iPads permit students to access their work in class, dorm — anywhere.

In addition to this benefit, Google Classroom has an effective way of handling writing assignments. Instructors can

create the assignment in Classroom, which in turn automatically creates a document housed on the instructor's Google Drive. Students then write their papers and submit them directly through the document, a process that requires no printing, attachments, downloading or other ways to complicate the process.

After the instructor finishes grading the assignments, they “return” the assignments through Classroom for students to revise, if necessary. Also, if students have a keyboard or can type on a tablet comfortably, Classroom has a fully functional iPad app as well.

I will always contend that the most valuable aspect of writing is not only recognizing mistakes in your writing, but also being able to revise them. Writing assignments done through the Google Classroom method really allows for a focus on essentially collaborating with students on their work.

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# HUMAN RESOURCES

## Take Advantage of College's Fitness Benefit

Merrimack's medical insurance plans with Harvard Pilgrim include an annual fitness reimbursement benefit of \$150 per single, dual or family contract. To be eligible, subscribers must belong to a qualified health and fitness club for at least four months in a calendar year while also being a member of Harvard Pilgrim (coinciding months). In addition, subscribers must be currently enrolled in Harvard Pilgrim at the time of reimbursement.

Most health clubs and fitness facilities qualify. These include YMCAs, Jewish Community Centers and municipal fitness centers.

Examples of facilities that would not qualify for reimbursement under the benefit include instructional dance studios; country clubs; social clubs, such as ski,

riding or hiking clubs; spas; gymnastics facilities; and martial arts schools.

Qualifying facilities are subject to approval by Harvard Pilgrim.

Fitness reimbursement applies to monthly fees paid to a facility that provides cardiovascular and strength-training equipment for exercising and improving physical fitness. Qualifying members can request reimbursement by applying online through HPHConnect for Members, or by U.S. mail. Reimbursement can be requested beginning May 1 of the current calendar year and when members have met all criteria of the program.

For further information and to download the fitness reimbursement form, visit [harvardpilgrim.org/public/discounts-savings/fitness-reimbursement](http://harvardpilgrim.org/public/discounts-savings/fitness-reimbursement), or call member services at 888-333-4742.

## Confronting Hot-Button Issues in the Trump Era

Many teachers today have found it increasingly challenging to discuss hot-button issues and thorny subjects.

In response, Debra Michals, assistant professor and director of women's and gender studies, and Raechel Tiffe, visiting professor in communication arts and sciences, have instituted a “teaching circle” to advise faculty on current methods of communicating with diverse audiences regarding potentially volatile topics.

“As educators, we are confronted with the question of how to make our pedagogy anti-oppressive; that is, education that seeks to name, confront and challenge oppressive systems of power,” said Tiffe. “Specifically, how do we do that while holding place for conflicting opinions in relation to controversial issues like police violence, the Trump presidency, etc.”

The teaching circle gatherings also allow faculty to share teachable moments such as using a potentially negative or hurtful comment as a means of exploring how people think in different ways.

“We knew that we were not alone, that our colleagues were likely also facing similar issues about how to create open spaces for meaningful and intellectual differences of opinion in this difficult political climate,” said Michals. “That was the genesis for this teaching circle.”

As a result of the initiative, Michals has shifted to a “brave spaces” model in her classroom, asking students to be courageous enough to study and think about topics that may make them uncomfortable or challenge their assumptions and require them to think in new ways.

## Merrimack to Award Six Honorary Degrees

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helicopter pilot, served three tours in Afghanistan. For action in 2009 against the Taliban she was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor Device and the Purple Heart; she later joined a suit against U.S. policy barring women from combat, which was later repealed. She is the author of “Shoot Like a Girl: One Woman’s Dramatic Fight in Afghanistan and on the Home Front.”

Cole is an American designer and social activist who believes business and philanthropy are interdependent. His global company, Kenneth Cole Productions, creates modern, functional clothing, shoes and accessories for inspirational urban lifestyles.

More than 30 years ago, Cole leveraged his passion and unique brand platform to make a meaningful impact on people’s wardrobes, as well as communities in need. Today, the Kenneth Cole Foundation remains committed to supporting collective health, civil liberties and artistic activism.

## Summer Construction Projects to Transform Physical Campus

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performing arts department, to the Academic Innovation Center; and the Academic Success Center, to the third floor of McQuade Library.

Additionally, a newly constructed track and stadium will open in time for homecoming festivities in October, and exciting changes to food services across campus will be implemented as a result of student feedback and suggestions.

“Merrimack is an institution on the move,” Hopey said. “And while we’ve made great strides over the past eight years, we can’t afford to rest on our laurels. We must continue on our trajectory of providing the best possible educational experience for our students, and that starts with creating the spaces and facilities where they can grow and thrive intellectually, socially and spiritually.”

Hopey added that the college is working to minimize disruptions to those who will be most impacted by the construction and renovations. Some staff may be temporarily relocated for part of the summer.

Full summer project details are as follows:

- **Athletic District** — Construction began this month on a new 400-meter, eight-lane outdoor track with artificial turf, a new scoreboard and lighting and sound upgrades. Plans also call for installation of a 2,500-seat grandstand. Additionally, Martone-Mejail Field will be returfed and expanded to accommodate a practice field for the women’s softball team.
- **Psychology and Health Sciences Departments, O’Reilly Hall** — The first floor of O’Reilly Hall will be renovated to provide a new home for the psychology department. The space will house a new testing center with individual and group testing rooms, observation spaces and faculty offices. The upper floors, which will house the health sciences, will be reconfigured to accommodate two new anatomy labs, an exercise science and sports medicine lab, a 70-person classroom and faculty and administrative offices.
- **Academic Success Center, McQuade Library** — The third floor of McQuade will be renovated to include several new student study areas; the books currently occupying this space will be relocated to the basement, near the auditorium. The third floor will house a new and expanded Academic Success Center, space for the Promise and Compass programs, a new ADA accessibility office, expanded tutoring and math center space and academic enrichment.
- **Communication and Media Department, McQuade Library** — The media center will be relocated from the basement of the library to the second floor of Cushing Hall. Designs call for a new Mac lab, new photo studio and television studio, and faculty offices.
- **Visual and Performing Arts Department, Academic Innovation Center** — The Academic Innovation Center will become new space for the visual and performing arts department, featuring a new and expanded band room, art studio, digital design studio and faculty offices.
- **Sidewalk/Route 114 Project** — Phase 2 of the project will include construction of new sidewalks from the main campus entrance on Elm Street to the Rogers Center for the Arts, and from Berkley Street, in front of Royal Crest apartments, to 510 Turnpike St. During Phase I of this project, a crosswalk and connecting sidewalks were constructed from the college across Route 114 to Royal Crest, and new traffic lights were installed in the area.



### MERRIMACK COLLEGE RECORD

The Merrimack College Record is published biweekly during the academic year and monthly in June, July and August, by the Office of Communications.

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