Summer 2003

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since Merrimack’s beginning, many have worked tirelessly to provide an outstanding education for every student who joins the Merrimack community. Today, as a result of years of hard work and planning, we have reached a new pinnacle as more and more come to appreciate the academic reputation and quality of the student life experience that Merrimack offers.

For the first time in its history, Merrimack College had to deny access to more than 40% of those who applied this year. It is a historical milestone for Merrimack that speaks to the increasing quality of our applicant pool every year. Approximately 600 students will join us on campus as freshmen in the fall. A total of 21 valedictorians applied for admission to Merrimack this year, yet another indication of our growing academic reputation.

The progress we have made is substantiated by a number of external accrediting agencies that are providing positive feedback about Merrimack College, what we are doing and where we are going. In addition to earning a Business accreditation last year from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), our engineering programs earned accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), our master’s degree program in education earned NEASC accreditation, and the Girard School of Business and International Commerce is currently in self-study for AASCB accreditation, a prestigious recognition of quality for business schools.

We have transformed while remaining true to our mission, focused on the goals of our strategic plan, and committed to educating our students in the Augustinian tradition. It has been the tremendous support and commitment from trustees, faculty, alumni, friends, and others that has made such progress possible.

As we focus on the future of Merrimack College, we must continue to invest time, planning and financial resources to continue to offer new academic programs, attract the best faculty and staff, and to enroll a diverse and academically talented student population. It is committed to educating our students in the Augustinian tradition. It has been the tremendous support and commitment from trustees, faculty, alumni, friends, and others that has made such progress possible.

As we look to the future, Merrimack College will continue to invest time, planning and financial resources to continue to offer new academic programs, attract the best faculty and staff, and to enroll a diverse and academically talented student population. It is committed to educating our students in the Augustinian tradition. It has been the tremendous support and commitment from trustees, faculty, alumni, friends, and others that has made such progress possible.

Are we satisfied? Of course not. Do we have more work to do? Absolutely. We have said that we want to achieve preeminence and we will not waiver from that.

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Lorary degrees were conferred, including one to Rabbi Robert Goldstein of Temple Emanuel in Andover, studies Padraic O'Hare professor among Jews, students, the Rabbi’s faculty, chance, even a second chance. (See Christians, and excerpts from Rabbi and friends. Rabbi Goldstein’s speech the leading religious recognized as one of Directors of Merrimack’s Center for Study of Jewish-Christian Relations. Two years ago he initiated a Muslim/Jewish dialogue which has become a model for other communities. In June 2001 Merrimack College presented him with the Tikkun Olam award in honor of Sakowicz, a long-time supporter and benefactor of the college, and Rev. William A. McGuire, O.S.A. Mrs. Sakowicz has served on Merrimack’s Board of Trustees for the past ten years. The support of Mrs. Sakowicz and her husband, Anthony, was instrumental in the construction and major renovation of the Gladys Sakowicz Campus Center, which was opened in 2001. She maintains her interest in Merrimack College and its students as a Trustee Emeritus on the Board of Trustees Student Life Committee.

Rev. William McGuire, O.S.A. served on the Merrimack College Board of Trustees from 1993 to 2001 and was recently reappointed. Fr. McGuire has a long career in higher education. He currently serves as senior vice president for administration at Villanova University, a position he has held since 1998. Previously, he was dean of enrollment management from 1990 to 1998. He was also assistant athletic director (87-89), assistant dean of liberal arts (81-87), and assistant dean of admissions (79-81).

At Merrimack College’s 53rd Commencement on May 18, 555 students graduated and three honorary degrees were conferred, including one to Rabbi Robert Goldstein of Temple Emanuel in Andover, who delivered this year’s Commencement address.

In his introduction of Rabbi Goldstein, Religious Studies Professor Padraic O’Hare commended the Rabbi’s efforts to promote tolerance among Jews, Christians, and Muslims. In his address to nearly 5,300 students, faculty, trustees, family, and friends, Rabbi Goldstein reminded people to give faith a chance, even a second chance. (See excerpts from Rabbi Goldstein’s speech on page 30. Rabbi Goldstein is recognized as one of the leading religious leaders in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts. He is the chairman of the Board of Directors of Merrimack’s Center for Jewish-Christian Relations. Two years ago he initiated a Muslim/Jewish dialogue which has become a model for other communities. In June 2001 Merrimack College presented him with the Tikvah Olan award in honor of his many interfaith efforts. Honorary degrees were also conferred on Gladys Sakowicz, a long-time supporter and benefactor of the college, and Rev. William A. McGuire, O.S.A.

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My message to you this afternoon is a simple one. Even with all the evil, abuse and injustice some suggest is done in the name of religion, maybe even because of it, don’t give up on religion, don’t lose your faith, whatever that faith may be.

I say this because I believe a lot of good has been done in the name of religion, quietly, day in and day out.

Think of the music, the art, and the architecture inspired by religion. How ennobling, uplifting and exalting are these expressions of faith. And then there are the rites and rituals of faith. We are all born; many of us marry, one day each of us will die. These life cycle events, these passages are so much richer and more meaningful when observed in a community with a shared vision and a common destiny.

Perhaps even more importantly are the many righteous acts and heroic deeds carried out in the name of religion. Throughout history, good people whose unassuming faith forbids indifference in the face of suffering have performed brave acts and some mundane but no less heroic deeds without fanfare or fuss.

I think of the many students on this very campus who each spring opt for a week not in Cancun or Florida, but away from your faith. But don’t! When you make choices for yourself and perhaps, someday for your children, give faith a chance, even a second chance.

Because religion is a human language - after all, it is our earthly, often imperfect response to God’s demands of us - we are bound to make mistakes. Sometimes we may misinterpret or misrepresent God’s will, but it is only the cynics and the doubters who would have us believe religion is irrelevant, faith meaningless.

It does not matter what road to salvation you choose, or in what language you hear God’s voice. Whether you cover your head or leave it bare, whether your Sabbath is Saturday or Sunday, whether you pray standing or sitting, or on your knees, just let the color and the passion, the majesty of religion, and in simple pure teachings of goodness and love enter your hearts.

A good religion, and most are, reminds us that the entire universe does not revolve around us. When we are apt to become self-indulgent, a good religion reminds us: help the poor. When we are looking inward, becoming too parochial, a good religion teaches: every one of God’s creations embodies the divine spark.

This is a commencement address, so I am supposed to give you some advice. I know that some of us called to teach and preach have given you reason to walk away from your faith. Don’t! When you make choices for yourself and perhaps, someday for your children, give faith a chance, even a second chance.

You can argue about your faith, question it, struggle with it-just never ignore it or abandon it. I am certain that the rituals and the rites, the moral teachings and the eternal truths of whatever faith you choose will help to make your lives fuller, your relationships deeper, your joys heightened and whatever loss and despair you may encounter, that much easier to bear.”

Photos by David Spald

Graduate Ly Nguyen (center with cap) was surrounded by her family and friends, some of whom traveled from Hanoi, Vietnam to congratulate her.

Celebrating a momentous day in their lives, Bill and Maura Burke congratulate their daughter Caitlin liberal arts (81-87), assistant athletic director (87-89), assistant dean of liberal arts (81-87), and assistant dean of admissions (79-81).

Laurie Marshall of West Boylston, Commencement.

Honorary degree recipients were all smiles on the day of Commencement. Picture are (left to right): President Richard J. Savinangis with Rabbi Robert Goldstein, Gladys Sakowicz and Rev. William McGuire, O.S.A.

It was also a big day, and some might say a miraculous one, for Joe Exter and his family. Exter, who was severely injured less than three months prior during a hockey game, received a standing ovation as President Santagati presented his diploma.

The President congratulated the Class of 2003 saying, “We have given you the finest educational experience, and in return you will live life creatively, live life serving humanity, live life fully and in the words of French novelist, Emile Zola, live life out loud.”

“We are bound to make mistakes. Sometimes we may misinterpret or misrepresent God’s will, but it is only the
Linda Foote, Ph.D.'78, associate professor of biology and allied health, was presented with the Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher Award at the college’s 53rd Commencement. Nominated for the award by students as well as faculty, Foote is a standout recognized for her dedication to teaching excellence, care and concern for her students and a deep appreciation for learning. Her expertise in cell biology, immunology, and autoimmune disease has earned her respect in her field.

Dr. Foote is known for dedication to students and to their research. A member of the Merrimack faculty since 1997, she holds a Ph.D. in microbiology from Harvard University School of Medicine, a master of arts from Boston College, and a bachelor of science in medical technology from Merrimack College. A winner of many prestigious awards for her research and teaching, Dr. Foote is known for dedication to students and to her research. She is the author of numerous scientific articles in the field of immunology.

CONTINUING EDUCATION DIVISION ALUMNI REUNITED

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Continuing Education Division Alumni Reunited

By Julie Jackson Flynn

Laura Collins was congratulated by Fr. Gary McCloskey, O.S.A., provost and dean of the college, on receiving the James F. St. Germain award. She graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts in communication studies. The award is presented to the first-ranked student annually to the first-ranking student who is presented with the CEDAR reception in May included, (from left) Laurie Libby, Frank Pumphrey, Laura Collins, Gary Mulcahy, Barbara Wilkinson, Samantha Hegarty, Ann Byrne, Sheila Clark, Carreyn Frennet and Elaine Foul.

Merrimack’s Associate Professor and Chair of the Education Department Claire Thornton, C.S.C. has also taught and presented recent papers on the subject of death and grieving children, as well as on other topics related to education. She has been a professor at Merrimack since 1996, having previously taught at Notre Dame College, Boston College and Providence College. Professor Thornton has a doctorate in philosophy from Boston College and a master’s degree in education from Lesley College. Dr. Thornton has been in the field of education for 35 years.

Grief: Helping Children Heal

For eight-year-old Olivia’s grandmother died, Olivia kept saying for months that she wanted Nana back. With each special event or change in season, she felt anew the pain of missing her grandmother. Understanding death and its ramifications was difficult for Olivia, as it is for so many children who experience such a loss in their lives. Children are totally confused by the lack of closure. Understanding death is completely confusing for children to understand, especially when it is the loss of someone close,” wrote Claire M. Thornton, CSC, associate professor and chair of the Education Department at Merrimack College, in her paper, “Using Children’s Literature to Help the Grieving Child,” delivered on April 10, 2003 at the CEC National Convention in Seattle, Washington.

Thornton began her research and interest in helping children cope with death as a teacher 30 years ago when a student in her third grade class lost a father to cancer. Since that time she has realized that teachers can help grieving children heal by listening to their feelings as well as memories of significant moments, and supporting healthy ways to handle their emotions.

“It is important to realize that children understand death according to their cognitive development and that grief can have a wide array of reactions,” notes Thornton. “Because it is usually a mirror of the feelings. If you can ask the child how he or she is feeling, then you’ll gain insight on the behavior.”

In her paper, Thornton refers to Piaget’s Theory of Cognitive Development that explores children’s thinking. A young child (ages four to six) does not have a developed sense of time. He or she cannot perceive death as forever, irreversible, and a universal part of life. For a child at this age, it is important to use nature (butterflies, frogs, leaves) as a model of the life cycle to explain that death is a universal aspect of life.

Children from six to 12 years of age tend to personify and idealize the deceased, drawing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, sculpturing, clay modeling, painting, etc. are all possible means of releasing the emotional energy.

It is also helpful to remember the deceased in a meaningful way. This could be planting a garden, starting a scholarship fund, donating to a favorite charity.

If parents and teachers desire to have the children of tomorrow become the emotionally healthy, holistic adults of tomorrow, then every aspect of life must be considered as a “teachable moment”; even the most difficult one, death. The loss of someone close is painful. The feelings of grief are profound. Grief is a process. There is no time limit.

“Utilizing children’s literature as a medium to discuss death can assist significant adults in preparing children to become healthy adults of tomorrow,” notes Thornton in her paper.

Note: A list of recommended children’s literature, as well as Professor Thornton’s entire paper, “Using Children’s Literature to Help the Grieving Child,” is available at http://kahbeen.merrimack.edu/thornton/publications.htm

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The Big and Small Questions of Medical Ethics

By David Rattigan

The concepts of modern medical ethics have been developing since the 1970s and have strengthened in recent years as a result of the Patients Rights movement and landmark legal decisions championing the rights of individuals. Today, medical ethics encompasses issues from embryonic research to physical-assisted suicide to distribution of scarce medical resources.

In medical ethics, there are big questions and there are smaller questions,” says Associate Professor of Philosophy Gerald Matross. “The big questions are about justice and our right to health care, about cloning and genetic engineering. These are big philosophical and moral questions. Then, there are also smaller kinds of questions which are more personal,” he says. “These affect many people every day, mostly surrounding the issue of individual rights, informed consent, and the doctor-patient relationship.”

In landmark legal cases such as that of Paul Brophy, the badly injured Massachusetts firefighter who won the right to end his life despite the wishes of his family, the law and the medical ethics encompassed issues from embryonic research to patient’s rights. The law which has evolved is not always the result of legislation passed by legislators, but rather the result of court decisions,” says Matross. “Most of the some of the most famous court decisions (regarding medical ethics) come from Massachusetts courts. These decisions have had an influence on other courts throughout the country, in part because these courts have made their decisions on persuasive philosophical arguments and related legal precedents.”

Matross has been interested in medical ethics since he began teaching at Merrimack College in the early 1970s when the concepts of modern medical ethics were just emerging. Since then, Matross has helped to establish and serve on various clinical ethics committees at area hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities. They are interdisciplinary ethics committees that usually include medical professionals, administrators, social workers, a ethicist, a clergy person, and a lawyer. An ethics committee should be a supportive forum that helps decision-makers think through the ethical issue at hand. They also educate health care providers to recognize and deal with ethical issues as they arise. This experience working in the academic and clinical areas of medical ethics. He is a member and consultant to various committees in a variety of hospitals and health care facilities, including Lawrence General Hospital (Lawrence, Mass.); Saints Memorial Medical Center (Lowell, Mass.); Mass. Department of Public Health’s New England School of Public Health (Boston, Mass.); the Jewish Rehabilitation Center (Lowell, Mass.); Mass. Department of Mental Health (Worcester, Mass.); and the Jewish Rehabilitation Center (Lowell, Mass.). He has been a professor of Philosophy at Merrimack College for 35 years.

Matross says, “It is essential that we continue to care about this idea of looking at these ethical issues, that we continue to care about these ethical issues, that we continue to care about these ethical issues, that we continue to care about these ethical issues.”

According to Matross, treatment decisions involve many different perspectives – the scientific and medical perspective, the sociological and cultural perspective, the ethical, the legal.” “All these things mesh together,” he notes. Medical decisions always involve a ‘value’ component. Treatment decisions are not made simply by the physician considering the medical facts of the case. The importance of a patient’s right to be involved in the decision making process is now recognized as an important component of treatment decisions by both American law and the ethical codes of most professional health care providers. They recognize that treatment decisions must involve the wishes, values, beliefs and concerns of the patient. These situations can be very weighty and complicated, shaped by many variables, including the patient’s ethnicities and culture.

For example, while the United States heavily values the rights of the individual, some Hispanic cultures provide greater rights to the patients’ families. Consider the case of an elderly Russian woman, dying of cancer in a Massachusetts nursing home.

In the United States, it is now generally accepted that patients have the right to be informed if they have cancer or a terminal illness. Western culture, with its emphasis on the individual’s self-determination, operates on the assumption that patients should know if they are terminal, so they can prepare for death. In the dying woman’s ethnic background, however, it is believed that if a patient knows that she has cancer, they will die the patient would lose her spirit to live. “The nursing staff was very concerned that she did not know, and that she would die in the.death, Matross says. The Russian medical ethics committee then gathered, along with the family and medical staff, to discuss the situation. Suggestions were made, including one that the patient be asked whether she would like to know her medical condition. That, however, was rejected out of hand.

As Matross puts it, “Research and clinical experience shows that if you ask Russian patients whether they want to be informed, they’ll say ‘yes’, but they only want to hear good news. After a lengthy discussion is present, her daughter decided to inform her mother. The day after she was told, the woman died.

“As this case illustrates, these kinds of cases are very complicated,” says Matross.

Merrimack Professor Awarded Fulbright Scholarship

By Julie Jackson Flynn

Dr. He Li, associate professor of political science at Merrimack College, has been selected to receive a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in Taiwan during the summer of 2004. The Fulbright Award will assist Dr. Li in his research on Chinese relations with Latin America and its implication on Taiwan and the United States.

He joins several of his Merrimack colleagues who have also been awarded the Fulbright Scholarship. Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary potential in their fields.

Dr. Li’s research project will analyze China’s growing influence in Latin America and the Caribbean in its implications for the United States. Based on field research in Taiwan, Dr. Li will examine goals, strategies, and prospects of Beijing’s quest in the region.

A political science professor for the past nine years at Merrimack College, Dr. Li has followed China’s relationship with Latin America for many years. His book, Sino-Latin American Economic Relations (Prager 1991), was an interdisciplinary study of Chinese relations with Latin America from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Latin America is of vital importance to Taiwan. The countries with formal diplomatic ties to Taiwan dwindled to 27 as of today, and 11 of these 27 states are in Central America and the Caribbean. Taipei and Beijing are now wagging a desperate and costly competition in that region. Latin America contains products for the Taiwanese consumers and markets for Taiwanese producers,” said Dr. Li.

His research on Chinese foreign policy has been ongoing since 1999. His articles have been published in the journal Problems of Post-Communism, and one of his book chapters on "China and Latin America in a Changing World" appeared in Interpreting U.S.-China Taiwan Relations: China in the Post-Cold War Era by Lanham, M.D., edited by In Xiaoling Li, Xiaobo Hu, and Yang Zhong.

The Fulbright Program, America’s flagship international educational exchange activity, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Dr. Li is one of approximately 900 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad to some 140 countries for the 2003-2004 academic year through the Fulbright Scholar Program.

Swallow Steps Down as Dean

By Julie Jackson Flynn

After serving for the past six years as dean of law, science and engineering, Dr. Kathleen C. Swallow stepped down and is embarking on an adventure that will take her to Eastern Europe during her sabbatical next year. She will return to teach at Merrimack fall 2004.

During her sabbatical, Swallow, an environmental chemist, plans to become involved in a long-term professional collaboration in Eastern Europe. "The Communist system during the Cold War was hard on the infrastructure of the Eastern European countries. There were tremendous environmental problems there," said Swallow.

Swallow, who has traveled to the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Romania, became interested in Eastern Europe at the time of the fall of the Iron Curtain. "I never expected to see the Iron Curtain fall because it was so much a part of my childhood experience. I was in the generation with the Cold War and the Iron Curtain. We used to have to hide under our desk and put our hands over our heads for nuclear bomb drills. Nobody knew anything about what was going on with the Iron Curtain," she said.

As an environmental chemist, Swallow has worked on many environmental problems in America. For 14 years she says she has been intrigued with the idea of doing some environmental work in Eastern Europe, and it seems next year will be the year.

A search is underway for a new dean of faculty of Science and Engineering.
Merrimack’s Loan Default Rate Significantly Lower Than National Average

With the average indebtedness of a graduating college senior around the $20,000 mark, not including graduate or medical school, credit card or car loans, the default rate on student loans has the potential to be high. At Merrimack, however, the default rate is significantly lower than the national average and has been for more than 50 years.

According to Christine Mordach, director of financial aid, Merrimack has one of the lowest default rates in the country for student loan borrowing. Merrimack’s rate of 2.9% is considerably lower than the national 5.9% default rate. It is part of a concerted effort on the part of Merrimack’s financial aid team to outline for students the importance and ramifications of maintaining good credit.

The majority of our students borrow money from a variety of student loan programs to finance their education,” explains Mordach. “When a student completes his or her degree or withdraws from the college, the loan enters repayment. The money that is repaid goes back into the loan fund so it can be lent to current students.

The Financial Aid team continues to work with students even after they graduate to assist them and work out a payment plan. We try to identify those individuals who seem to be having difficulty repaying their loans,” says Mordach. “We work with them rather than send their account directly to a collection agency. We want our students to have a strong credit history if possible so that their future ability to obtain financing from a lender for a car or mortgage won’t be jeopardized.”

Because Merrimack’s default rate is so low, the college continues to receive a high rating from the federal government which helps Merrimack receive additional funds from the Department of Education.

Merrimack Offers New Financial Aid Programs

For many senior high school students deciding where to attend college, financial aid is a critical component of their decision. In recognition of the financial constraints that many students and families face, Merrimack has implemented several new financial assistance programs. For the first time this year, Merrimack made a pledge to accepted students who enroll to increase their yearly scholarship award by the same percentage increase in tuition each year. For example, if Merrimack’s tuition increases five percent each year, then those scholarships will also increase by five percent.

Also for the first time this year, Merrimack offered merit programs to recognize academic achievement of applicants. Incoming freshman students who meet specific requirements may be automatically awarded one of these new merit-based scholarships.

• Golden Scholarships receive scholarships of $12,000 and must maintain the required cumulative grade point average of 3.0.

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• The Virginia G. O’Neil Leadership Scholarships are available to students who have distinguished achievements in an extracurricular field such as student government, arts, music, school newspaper, yearbook or volunteerism. Awards range from $2,000 to $15,000. Recipients must maintain the required 2.9 cumulative grade point average. These are also guaranteed for four years.

• The Saint Geneshis Theater Scholarship is for entering students who have demonstrated ability in the performing arts/drama/theater. Recipients must maintain involvement in the Merrimack College On-Stagers theater organization in order for the scholarship to be renewed. They are guaranteed for four years provided the recipient maintains the required cumulative grade point average of 3.2.

• McQuade Scholars receive scholarships of $15,000 and are chosen from incoming applicants on the basis of academic excellence, personal accomplishments and future potential.

Financial Aid

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Merrimack’s Loan Default Rate Significantly Lower Than National Average

With the average indebtedness of a graduating college senior around the $20,000 mark, not including graduate or medical school, credit card or car loans, the default rate on student loans has the potential to be high. At Merrimack, however, the default rate is significantly lower than the national average and has been for more than 50 years.

According to Christine Mordach, director of financial aid, Merrimack has one of the lowest default rates in the country for student loan borrowing. Merrimack’s rate of 2.9% is considerably lower than the national 5.9% default rate. It is part of a concerted effort on the part of Merrimack’s financial aid team to outline for students the importance and ramifications of maintaining good credit.

The majority of our students borrow money from a variety of student loan programs to finance their education,” explains Mordach. “When a student completes his or her degree or withdraws from the college, the loan enters repayment. The money that is repaid goes back into the loan fund so it can be lent to current students.

The Financial Aid team continues to work with students even after they graduate to assist them and work out a payment plan. We try to identify those individuals who seem to be having difficulty repaying their loans,” says Mordach. “We work with them rather than send their account directly to a collection agency. We want our students to have a strong credit history if possible so that their future ability to obtain financing from a lender for a car or mortgage won’t be jeopardized.”

Because Merrimack’s default rate is so low, the college continues to receive a high rating from the federal government which helps Merrimack receive additional funds from the Department of Education.
writings on “memory,” where she recognized herself. The trip made her feel connected, supported. It was a gift.

“We formed a new community within the community,” said Timothy Carey ’96, who sought spiritual renewal from the trip: “As much traveling as we did, our minds have done more. I understand more about Augustine and what makes Merrimack so special.”

Before the trip, most of us thought that we more or less understood Augustinian community, but now really get it. As Patrick Dr. Dana Rowland’s husband, put it, “We know Augustinians better now because of the trip. They keep you company; they crystallize more than Augustine’s writings what Merrimack is all about.”

That hospital included the hospitable friars at San Gimignano, the lively yet tranquil Augustinian community, but now we learned more from the friars at San Gimignano, the lively and tranquil Augustinian community, but now we learned more about Augustine’s flame alive in what is believed to be the ancient church, where Augustinian’s bones lie. The Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy extends an invitation to Merrimack alumni for its two outstanding members with the “Friends of Merrimack College” award. Nancy Norbedo and Carol Poor shared the award in recognition of their long-term commitment and support of the college. The award is given annually to the person(s) who best exemplifies the group’s mission, social, cultural, and fundraising activities.

New officers of the Board of the Friends were also inducted at the annual dinner. New Board officers are Co-Presidents Joyce Daher-Belko and Bill Buck; Co-Vice Presidents Frank Ferrara and Diane Coletta; and Co-Recording Secretaries Mary D’Emmanuele and Paul McDonald. Carol Poor is the vice president of Flagship Press Inc. in North Andover. She is President of the Rose Cup, Inc., a charitable foundation formed to raise funds for underprivileged and abused women. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Merrimack College and a past president of both the Ladies of Merrimack and the Friends of Merrimack College. 

Additionally, Poor is a member of both the Holy Family Hospital and Lawrence General Hospital Authorities. She is a lifetime member of both the Friends of Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women’s Hospital. An avid golfer, she is active in many golf associations.

Nancy Norbedo is a realtor and managing member of Burke Real Estate in North Andover and a member of the Northeast Association of Realtors (NEAR). She has served on the Board of Directors of the Ladies of Merrimack and the Friends of Merrimack for 25 years. Norbedo has served on the Board of Directors, membership, speaker committees, and as a golf tournament volunteer for the Friends of Merrimack. As a member of the Ladies of Merrimack, she chaired or co-chaired numerous fundraising events for Merrimack. Additionally, she serves on the Board of Directors of the Greater Essex Community College and the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club. She is a trustee at the Holy Family Hospital Foundation and a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Michael’s Church. She has been recognized for her service awards for 2001 and 2002. She has also served as member of the Board of Directors for the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence...
continued from page 11

“Philanthropy at Merrimack”

Tickets for the lecture only are $30 and are available by calling the Rogers Center box office at 978-857-5555 or online at www.merrimack.edu/rogers.

Bequests to Merrimack Support the College’s Mission

Merrimack College has been the fortunate recipient of some very special gifts this past year in the form of bequests. Bequests are charitable gifts that are made through a written and executed will that enable donors to create a legacy or honor a loved one while reducing their estate taxes.

This year, the estate of Margaret Keohane made a partial distribution of $200,000 for the college’s general use. The estate of Edith Bain Walsh made a gift of $25,000 to establish a Friends of Merrimack College endowed scholarship fund. The estate of Catherine Murphy, former English professor at Merrimack, made a gift to benefit the English department.

Bequests are the most easily understood form of deferred giving, and many donors find bequests suit their philanthropic intentions best. No matter what the size of the gift, bequests show faith in the future of Merrimack College, and they provide support for our important mission.

As you can see, these bequests reflect the personal values of the donors, while supporting Merrimack College’s mission. And, it is as simple as adding the following paragraph to your will:

“I give and bequeath to the Trustees of Merrimack College of North Andover, Massachusetts, the sum of $ (or, its equivalent value) (or, % of my residuary estate), and I request that said funds be invested and the income therefrom to be used for the award of scholarships. This scholarship shall be known as the ___________ Scholarship Fund.”

If you would like more information, please contact Elizabeth Magliozzi (978) 857-5136 or to: Elizabeth.magliozzi@merrimack.edu

“This is not meant to be legal advice. Always consult your attorney regarding your specific situation.

President’s Cup Raises Funds for Scholarships

The 22nd annual President’s Cup Golf Tournament held in June raised more than $45,000 to support the scholarship fund. Two hundred thirty players enjoyed the sunny day of golf and friendship. The Cup winners were the foursome of Bill Sullivan, Brian Thompson, John Turonis and Paul Smith. Bob McGee had the straightest drive.

Thanks to all those Merrimack friends who make the President’s Cup a success every year!

Laugh with Loretta LaRoche

Laugh until you drop with Loretta LaRoche on Sunday, November 9, 2003 at the Rogers Center for the Arts. She will have you laughing with her irreverent and unconventional humor as she brings her one woman show to Merrimack College to help raise funds for student scholarships.

LaRoche is a stress management consultant, best-selling author and star of several critically acclaimed PBS specials. She is founder and president of The Humor Potential, Inc., a company that offers lectures and products to enhance the human potential through wisdom, wit and humor. She also works with the faculty of the Mind/Body Medical Institute, an affiliate of CareGroup and Harvard Medical School. She is the author of several books, including “Relax, You May Only Have a Few Minutes Left,” and articles published in USA Today, The Boston Globe and The Atlantic Monthly.

The event is sponsored by the Rogers Family Foundation and the Friends of Merrimack College. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. For those who would like to meet Loretta LaRoche, a special reception will be held at 6 p.m. for individuals who purchase a $100 ticket. Call the Friends of Merrimack College at 978-857-521.

Tikkun Olam Award Presented to Steve Grossman

The Seventh Tikkun Olam Award was presented to Massachusetts resident Steve Grossman by Merrimack College’s Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations at a reception held in April at the Boston Park Plaza. The Tikkun Olam Award recognizes outstanding contributions in the realms of politics, religion, economics, culture and philanthropy. The term Tikkun Olam means “To Heal the World” in Hebrew.

Mr. Grossman is the President of MassEnvelopePlus, the first company in Massachusetts to provide employer-assisted housing through interest-free, forgivable loans.

“Steve Grossman’s commitment to advance economic and social justice through public policy has led to broad political engagement,” said Padraic O’Hare, director for the Center for Study of Jewish-Christian Relations.

Grossman has served as chairman of both the Massachusetts Democratic Party from 1991-1992 and the Democratic National Committee from 1997-1999. His work, promoting Jewish communal life, as well inter religious relations, has been honored by organizations such as Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Anti-Defamation League, and the National Conference for Community and Justice (formally the National Conference of Christians and Jews).

With his wife, Barbara, chair of the Department of Drama and Dance at Tufts University, Grossman has made significant and lasting contributions to the cultural life of the greater Boston community and beyond, believing that art, drama, music, and dance have the capacity to enrich, enlarge, and edify the community, particularly when artistic experiences are made available across ethnic, racial, cultural and socio-economic lines.

A cum laude graduate of Princeton University, Grossman earned an M.B.A. with distinction from Harvard Business School. He and his wife are affiliated with Temple Emanuel of Newton, Mass.

“In Steve Grossman, the college honors someone who brings the highest passion, the deepest commitment to justice, in politics, and at the work site, and to equality of opportunity and rich cultural life,” said O’Hare.

Presenting the award to Grossman was Merrimack College President Richard J. Santagati and Chairman of the Board of the Center Rabbi Robert Goldstein. Remarks were made by Dr. Leonard Fein. Chairpersons and masters of the ceremony were Alan Solomon and Susan Lewis Solomon.

The Center for Study of Jewish-Christian Relations at Merrimack strives to teach the history of Jewish-Christian relations, to engage in study and conversation about the religious, ethical, and cultural richness of Judaism and Christianity; and to engage in study and conversation about common features of the moral inheritance of Jews and Christians.

SNAPSHOT OF MERRIMACK’S CLASS OF 2007

Once again, students who applied to Merrimack this year are increasingly talented and representative of 35 countries around the world. Reflective of Merrimack’s growing academic reputation, 21302 students applied for admission this year. More than forty percent of those who applied were denied admission.

- Approximately 3,400 applied with an acceptance rate of 59%.
- Approximately 99% will live on campus.
- The female to male ratio of students is approximately 57% to 43%.
- Approximately 48% will enter working a liberal arts major, 31% will seek a science and engineering major, and 31% will enter the Girard School of Business.
- Students come from 22 states and six countries, with enrollment doubling in Connecticut and New Hampshire.
The new student residence soon to open at Merrimack College will be named Santagati Hall after current president, Richard J. Santagati.

The announcement comes following the Board’s approval at its recent meeting. President Santagati’s name was put forward to the Merrimack Board of Trustees by a committee comprised of students and members of the Student Life and Resident Life departments. A Merrimack alumnus, Santagati was elected the fifth president of Merrimack College in June 1995, becoming the college’s first lay president. He had served as interim president of the college since March of 1994, chairman of its board of trustees since 1991, and board member since 1988.

“The contributions that President Santagati has made during his nearly ten years of service have literally transformed Merrimack College,” noted Chairman of the Board of Trustees Francis Marchilena. “Santagati has been the college’s most effective fundraiser, bringing in Merrimack’s first seven figure gifts and leading a capital campaign that raised $42 million dollars, the largest ever raised in Merrimack’s 55-year history. He has led the college during a remarkable building era — adding a 600-seat center for performing arts, a 150,000-square-foot campus center, and two new residential buildings. Also under Santagati’s leadership, Merrimack College has transformed from a commuter school to primarily residential, and will reach 80% residency when Santagati Hall opens in August. Applications for admission have doubled during his presidency and the acceptance rate has decreased by more than 30%. The college recently received a 10-year accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and has been consistently named a top tier regional school in U.S. News & World Report.

The 210-bed Santagati Hall is the second residence to be built at Merrimack College in five years, reflecting the increasing demand from students to live on campus. Since 1996, residency requests have increased nearly 85%; in 2003, 90% of incoming freshman requested housing. Just a decade ago, only 40% of Merrimack’s students resided on campus.

The new 57,000-square-foot building is three stories featuring suite-style units that accommodate groups of four, six and eight students. All rooms are wired for the Internet and have phone and cable television hook-ups. The building includes seminar rooms, a small multi-purpose room, vending, laundry and more.

Prior to his appointment as president of Merrimack College, Santagati was chairman of the board, president, and chief executive officer of Aerial Communications Corporation. He was a partner at Lighthouse Capital Management, Inc., and chief executive officer at Gaston & Snow. Santagati has also held the positions of president and chairman of NYNEX Business Information Systems and vice president of marketing at NYNEX Corporation.

Active in his local community, President Santagati serves on the board of the Lawrence Andover Regional Health System, the parent board of Lawrence General Hospital. He is also director on the corporate board of CTC Group, Inc. He is a director and member of the Executive Committee of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Executive Committee of the New England Colleges Foundation, and a court-appointed special advocate, representing the legal interests of children. Santagati was elected Chairman of the Board of Bellesini Academy in 2002, a private Catholic school for underserved at-risk boys. He was appointed to the Blue Ribbon Chelsea Oversight Panel in 1989, serving as a representative of the State Board of Education and the governor of Massachusetts. In June 1999, he was appointed as director of the Massachusetts Education Finance Authority by Governor A. Paul Celucci.

A dedication ceremony to mark the opening of Santagati Hall will be held on Friday, September 26, 2003.
EXTER MAKES SAVE OF HIS LIFE

By Tom O’Brien
Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Information

Joe Exter keeps the net during a 2003 season game.

The Merrimack community is so strong and the way they pulled together with support and prayer was amazing. Knowing that everyone was pulling for me made me want to get back to campus and definitely helped me to do so.

Over the weeks to come, Joe returned to the Merrimack campus. He began working out again in the hopes of some day returning to the game of hockey. "It was fun returning to campus. I felt it is where I should be and where I wanted to be, as a part of the Merrimack family," he said.

The media and public attention has been relentless since the accident. Joe’s story has appeared in several national publications as well as on numerous television stations. He threw out the first pitch for the Lowell Spinners, a farm team for the Boston Red Sox. He has handled this attention without hesitation and with the grace and dignity of a seasoned veteran.

“I do not hesitate to do interviews because I know it could help others going through a similar situation,” said Exter. "I have been put in this position for a reason. If patients and families of those in similar situations see that I made it through this, they may start to believe that with faith and support, it can be done."

“One thing I learned from this is this when you are someone else suffering, you should not feel uncomfortable reaching out to help in any way you possibly can. Having been through all this, graduation day was a moment in life I certainly appreciated more,” said Exter.

And as Joe began his walk across the stage in the Volpe Center in his cap and gown and with a grin from ear to ear, a proverbial “great save, Joey!” rang through the arena.

“Great save, Joey!”

Author’s note: Working in college athletics, I have the privilege of interacting with hundreds of college student-athletes every year. Joe Exter is the type of person you are lucky to come across just once in a lifetime. His passion for his family, his faith, his sport, his teammates, and his coaches is remarkable.

“One thing I learned from this is that when we someone else suffering, you should not feel uncomfortable reaching out to help in any way possible,” added Exter. “I know there were hundreds, maybe even thousands of people I did not know praying and pulling for me. Every one of those prayers helped.”

Joe Exter, family and friends were all smiles on Commencement day. (Left to right) Monique, and family of Joe Exter.
Alumni Council Continues to Grow
By David Rattigan

It's not a major building project, but changes in another campus institution will reshape life on the Merrimack campus.

With new leadership, the Alumni Council is taking on more members and a broader range of responsibilities. The council has grown to 115 members, with the goal of increasing to 200. "We'd like two members from every class," says Liz Magliozzi, director of alumni relations. "We always appreciate input, and that would give us a good balance from all age groups."

The goal is to get more involvement from the council, which for more than 40 years has provided the college with support, advice and leadership from an alumni perspective.

Specifically, subcommittees will focus on topics including career networking, promoting the Augustinian mission of the college, revamping the Alumni Ambassador Program, diversity, and events and policies on campus. The cumulative result will be to keep alumni involved with the Merrimack community in a meaningful way.

"Overall, we're giving them more opportunities to reconnect with the life of the campus, which may mean working directly with Campus Ministry or working directly with professors and/or administration," Magliozzi says. "If alumni become more connected with our students and professors, it will create a greater sense of ownership and pride in the college. This is essential as the college continues to move forward. We'll be there to support the subcommittees every way we can."

Another charge for the council, with new president Diane Applegate '91, is to reach out to young alumni, and recruit more new graduates to alumni activities.

"Ideally, we'd like representation across the board, from every class year," Applegate says. Most people lose touch with their class just after graduation, when they're focused on their professional careers and their young families. "Ten years somehow seems to be the point where people start thinking about their alma mater again. Our goal is to keep them engaged right after graduation," she says.

Part of recruiting young alums will be to make them aware of the benefits of staying connected, whether it be networking opportunities or the building of friendships. Equally important, from Magliozzi's point of view, will be to develop better, more compelling programs and events.

Alumni are welcome to join the Alumni Council. For more information, call the Alumni Office at 978-835-5000, ext. 4511.

Donovan Named Alumnus-of-the-Year

The first Alumnus-of-the-Year award was presented at this year's Reunion to John Donovan '78. Nominated by alumni and staff, Donovan was praised for his extraordinary devotion to Merrimack and its future.

"Over the last year and a half, John Donovan spent countless hours reaching out to over 450 hockey alumni. He has traveled extensively on behalf of the school to meet with fellow alumni to educate and promote our hockey program and - in particular - our new hockey facility," noted Richard J. Santagati, president. "Due to his positive and unselfish example, he has successfully lead our campaign to name the new facility, the J. Thom Lawler Arena, at Merrimack College, with over $1.2 million generated. Perhaps most importantly, our recipient has played a central role in our efforts to reestablish a winning tradition based on family, trust and team spirit."

John Donovan is vice president of operations at AmeriFee Corporation.

The Class of 1953 presented the college with a contribution of $52,000 in honor of their 50th year reunion. Presenting the check to President Richard J. Santagati (left) were (left to right) Emilie Collopy, Jane Teichert and Larry Marocco.

The Class of 1978 - celebrating their 25th reunion - had the highest attendance at this year's reunion. See any familiar faces? Returning alumni enjoyed a trolley ride through the campus during this year's Reunion.

Brenda '82 and Bob Modrak '81 (far right) enjoyed Reunion week end with their children (left to right) triplets age six, Anthony, Stephanie and Brittany, and Chris, 11. Balloon artist Ted Neufeld (center back) entertained the children with balloon figures.
Meet the New Alumni Council President
By David Rattigan

Dear Alumni,

I am delighted to be writing to you as your new Alumni Council president. Before taking on this role, I served on the Alumni Council Executive Board for several years. My involvement with Merrimack has been one of my proudest achievements.

Applegate holds a marketing/public relations master's degree from Emerson College, and lives in Melrose, Mass. The Alumni Council has always been made up of a great group of people, who give their time, energy and talents to promote the college. "When I was at Merrimack, professors and other people on campus took a real interest in me," says Applegate. In return, she has given back to the college as a long-time member of the Alumni Council.

"The Alumni Council has always been made up of a great group of people, who give their time, energy and talents to promote the college," she says. "I feel pleased to be asked to be part of that, and a sense of responsibility." Applegate holds a marketing/public relations master's degree from Emerson College, and lives in Melrose, Mass. She's also learning to golf, with the goal to one day play in the President's Cup Golf Tournament.

As you may know, the Alumni Council assists the Alumni Relations Department in enhancing communications and programming for you. We want to re-acquaint you with the campus, continue to develop a more connected alumni network, and provide social and/or skill-building events that will be valuable and enjoyable for you. The magazine will provide information on events, but the monthly E-newsletter will be the main source of up-to-date information, along with individual mailings. So please read the Merrimack College information that is sent to your E-mail and regular mailboxes.

Meanwhile, I want you to feel free to contact me or the Alumni Relations Department any time. My E-mail address is dapplegate@yahoo.com and Alumni Relations is alumnirelations@merrimack.edu. Your comments/suggestions are essential as we move ahead with our programming.

I look forward to hearing from you. With your help, we can make a real difference for current and future Merrimack students, alumni and the entire Merrimack community.

Best wishes,

Diane Applegate '91
Alumni Council President

Merrimack Coach Reaches Milestone
by Marie DeMarco '92

Head Softball Coach Michele Myslinski reached her 400th career win in ten seasons at Merrimack College with a two game sweep over Southern Connecticut on April 29. Myslinski enjoys an impressive overall record of 401-109.

During her tenure at Merrimack, Myslinski has led the Warriors to seven NE-10 regular season championships in ten years and six Northeast Region Championships. Her teams made five trips to the NCAA Division II National Championships, taking the National title in 1994. She began the 2003 season ranked fifth among all active Division II coaches. Myslinski is a Merrimack College alumna who played four years as second baseman and pitcher for Merrimack and captained her team in both her junior and senior seasons. She has also been inducted into the Lynn Classical High School Hall of Fame.
M66
Robert Keating O'Neill, director of Boston College's John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections, has recently published his fourth book, "Irish Libraries: Archives, Museums and Genealogical Centers." The book is described as "a scholarly guide to resources that will help researchers and others know where to look for specific material."

M68
Kathy Brown Ramshaw retired from Convergys provides global outsourced employee and customer care services to a number of Fortune 500 companies. Her title is Senior Principle for Staffing & Recruitment. She has moved from New Jersey to Jacksonville, Florida.

Bill Howard, is president of the Beverly Co-operative Bank.

M71
Jim Goody, director of Career Services and Cooperative Education at Merrimack, has been quoted in several media, including Boston's WCVB-TV Star-Gazelle regarding the growing market for federal government jobs.

M73
Catherine (Maccaroni) Lally has been appointed as a tenured assistant professor at Brevard Community College in Cocoa, Florida. She is a member of the English Department.

M74
Stephen Garrity is a captain in the U.S. Coast Guard. He's commanding officer of the CG Marine Safety office in Morgan City, LA. His duties as Captain of the Port (COTP) Morgan City are overseeing safety and security of many of the very important energy assets in the Gulf of Mexico.

M75
Tom Spillane is president and CEO of Roy Spillane Associates, the largest electric contracting business on Cape Ann. He has moved his company to a new state-of-the-art facility in Blackburn Industrial Park, Gloucester, Mass.

M77
David Savastano was named the vice president of commercial lending at the Lowell (Mass.) based Enterprise Bank.

M78
Mary (McKhann) Faury received a master's degree in special education from Teachers College, Columbia University, N.Y. in October 2002. She is recently employed by the Churchill School and Center in New York.

M79
Sallieane Marie O'Donnell and her family have recently moved to the Berkshires. Her husband, Chris, directs corporate logistics for K.B. Toss, Inc., the largest toy retailer in the United States. Salt, Chris and Christopher reside in Lenox, Mass. with their two yellow labradors, Justin and Sixe.

M80
Richard Tovett was promoted to vice president of finance at Watertown Savings Bank.

M81
Thomas M. Powers joined the Godman Co., in Boston, Mass. He has over fifteen years of industrial and office brokerage experience.

M85
Mike Beaulieu was promoted to vice president, planning and analysis, at Private Healthcare Systems in Waldham, Mass.

M86
Bill Nash, vice president of operations for Access Cardiosystems (Concord, Mass.), ran a double Boston Marathon to raise funds for the Low Center, which is the third time he has run the Boston Marathon course twice in one day.

M89
Joseph Woodbury is the pastor of the Portland Street Baptist Church in Haverhill, Mass.

M91
James Kolosi is the director of client relations for Design Management in Nauck, Mass.

M93
Katrina Hastis Borges has joined Century 21 North Shore in Mass.

M66
Alumni in Action

COAST GUARD CAREER FOR GARRITY BEGINS WITH MERRIMACK ELECTIVE BIOLOGY COURSE

When disaster strikes on the high seas, Captain Steven Garrity '74 of the United States Coast Guard is there. Whether cleaning up oil spills or keeping waterways safe, Garrity's career has focused on marine safety and environmental protection.

A 25-year veteran of the Coast Guard, today Garrity serves as the Commanding Officer of CG Marine Safety Office in Morgan City, Louisiana, a post he's held since August 2001. Since that time, he has been involved in the Coach Guard homeland defense activities, responsible for an area that extends from southern Louisiana to Intracoastal City, including much of the Gulf of Mexico. He is the commanding officer of 120 and their role is to keep the maritime industry that services the Gulf of Mexico operating and safe. "Tankers, probobs, barges and other vessels carry products from hazardous chemicals to oil, gasoline and other petroleum products, as well as vessels carrying non-hazardous materials," he explains.

An English major at Merrimack, Garrity was introduced to his eventual career field through biology classes for liberal arts majors that focused on the high seas. Captain Steven Garrity '74

Captain Steven Garrity '74
Daw's Marketing Career Takes Her Around the World
by Kathleen Francesc '83

Ann (Giragosian) Daw '76 has always been enthusiastic about experiencing as much as she possibly can. Her years at Merrimack College were spent in the science club, the tutoring club, as president of the math club, and also helping to initiate women’s sports programs on campus.

Not surprising then that Ann Daw would continue to pursue unique experiences - many of them while living abroad. After Merrimack, Daw earned an M.B.A. in marketing from Boston University and went to work for General Foods as an assistant brand manager.

For the last 25 years, Daw has preserved and nurtured many well-known brands of General Foods (later to be merged and known as Kraft Foods) and Philip Morris, both part of Altria Corp.

As vice president for marketing for Philip Morris Asia LTD, Ann lived in Hong Kong from 1998-2001. According to Ann, there wasn’t “a country I didn’t see (in Asia).”

While visiting countries – Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, and Australia - to name a few, Ann says she came to realize that although people have various cultures and rituals that are very different from American culture, "underneath it all, people have the same values. They feel the same things. They care about the same things. I think there are more similarities than differences among people.”

According to Ann, there wasn’t “a country I didn’t see (in Asia).”

"I really believe that consumers buy brands and have an affinity and a relationship with a brand,” she says.

"As marketers, we have to continue to nurture this relationship because that is what builds trust. Preserving and nurturing a brand is extraordinarily critical because it becomes an enormous asset of the company from a value standpoint, including not only income, but also good will."

Today Ann manages six departments at the Kraft Food international headquarters in Rye Brook, New York: Marketing Services, Consumer Insights (also known as market research), Business Development of Growth Areas, Marketing Training, E-business, and Compliance. She works with such brands as Maxwell House coffee, Oreo, Crystal Light, Capri Sun, Philadelphia Cream Cheese, and many other brands that people in the U.S. would not necessarily be familiar with, such as Carte Noir coffee, Milka, Cote D’or and Freia chocolates, Trakinas cookies and Club Social crackers to name just a few.

"I thank Merrimack for the great foundation,” she says.
Marriages

MARK MICHAEL MARTIN ’74 and Donna Marie Flanders at Harris’ Pheasant Inn, Pelham, N.H., October 20, 2002.


MARY JANE (DORSEY) BOWLEY ’58, of founded and owned New England Precast Corp. in Ameshury, Mass., until his retirement in 1999. An avid fisherman and hunter, he recently traveled to the Everglades of Florida to hunt with his friends. He was a member of the Boston Flycasters, Ducks Unlimited, Martha’s Vineyard Rod and Gun Club, the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association and Haverhill Country Club.

ROBERT JAMES KELLY ’65, of West Newbury, Mass., died April 3, 2003. He founded and owned New England Precast Corp. in Amesbury, Mass., until his retirement in 1999. An avid fisherman and hunter, he recently traveled to the Everglades of Florida to hunt with his friends. He was a member of the Boston Flycasters, Ducks Unlimited, Martha’s Vineyard Rod and Gun Club, the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association and Haverhill Country Club.


JENNIFER EARR ’95 and Aaron Kuhn at St. John the Baptist Church, Peabody, Mass., August 24, 2002.

JOHN MATTHEW MASTRO ’95 and Joan Louise Norton at Saint Athanasius Church, Reading, Mass., October 5, 2002.

SALVATORE TAVERNESE ’96 and Karen Alukonis at Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, Merrimack College, November 3, 2001. Members of the wedding party included DANIEL DONOVAN ’97, MICHAEL JACOBS ’97, and TIMOTHY GARDNER ’96.

EDWARD COLEBART III ’98 and Christine Fare at St. John the Baptist Church, Peabody, Mass., August 24, 2002.


MICHAEL F. JUSZCZAK ’90 and Rhonda Preble, at the Granite Rose in Hampstead, N.H.

MICHAEL A. CONWAY ’90 and Meredith D. Casal, at Holy Rosary Church, Lawrence, Mass.

REBECCA LEE GORDON ’91 and Mark Peter Girouard at Saint Athanasius Church, Reading, Mass., October 5, 2002.


PABLO SOBRADO ’97 and wife Alejandra Sobrado, a daughter, Sopha A. Sobrado, April 20, 2002.

She joins sister Alexandra and brother Jimmy.


PABLO SOBRADO ’97 and wife Alejandra Sobrado, a daughter, Sopha A. Sobrado, April 20, 2002.

PHILIP SWINTAK ’90 and wife Brenda, a daughter, Emily, August 22, 2002. She joins sister Kiley.

MARGARET I (GRADE) DE SANTIS ’91 and husband Jim, a daughter, Kimberly, April 12, 2002. She joins sisters Alexandra and Jennifer.

NANCY (MURRAY) DESANTIS ’91 and husband John, a daughter, Eva, March 31, 2003. She joins her brother John.

We’d like to hear more about you!!

New Arrivals

PATRICIA (KLECKER) BURBANK ’86 and husband Brett, a son, Steven Lincoln, January 3, 2003.

JACQUELINE (BURKE) CURTIN ’88 and husband Robert, a daughter, Hannah, October 24, 2002. She joins sister Alexandra and brother Samuel.

SUSAN (BURNS) HOLLAND ’88 and husband Dennis, a son, Brendan Paul, April 6, 2003. He joins sisters Lauren and Olivia.

KAREN (SMITH) REBBLIN ’88 and husband Scott, a daughter, Sarah Anna, March 27, 2003. She joins brother Daniel and sister Abigail.

MICHAEL BARTLETT ’90 and wife Catharine, a daughter, Audrey Genaissance, September 30, 2002.

JAMES MCALEER ’90 and wife Stacy, a son, Justin James, April 4, 2003.

DONNA (LAZZARO) RUST ’90 and husband Scott, a son, John Anthony, May 28, 2002. He joins brother Noah.

PABLO SOBRADO ’97 and wife Alejandra Sobrado, a daughter, Sophia A. Sobrado, April 20, 2002.

She joins sister Kiley.

JEANNE (SARNO) MCANDREWS ’92 and husband Paul, a son, Brendan Paul, April 6, 2003. He joins sister Taylor and brother Thomas “Trippe” Abbott III.


WYNNE (LALBERTE) MINUTI ’95 and husband Sean, a son, Darren Joseph, September 20, 2002.


Jennifer (Rigas) ’96 and Michael Kane ’96, a son, Trent William, April 1, 2003.

Laurie (Trenholm) Parker ’91 and husband Paul, a daughter, Lauren Ashley, May 30, 2002. She joins brother Matthew.


Tammy (Macaulay) ’92 and ROBERT JONES ’93, a son, Coleman Robert, May 30, 2002.


Jody (Cart) Young ’92 and husband Mark, a daughter, Alexandra Noel, December 14, 2002. She joins brother Devon.


Lisa (Morey) Abbott ’94 and husband Thomas, a son, Justin Thomas, January 9, 2003. He joins sister Taylor and brother Thomas “Trippe” Abbott III.

Due to space limitations, however, we are unable to accept photos.

E-mail: alumni_relations@merimack.edu.

Mail: Merrimack Magazine, Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike Street, Box A-8, North Andover, MA 01845.

DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS, HOWEVER, WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT PHOTOS.
SUMMER 2003

COMING ATTRACTIONS – FALL 2003

Check out the entire campus happenings by visiting www.merrimack.edu.

AUGUST
30-31 New Student Orientation

SEPTEMBER
2 Classes Begin
17 Convocation 10 a.m.
18 Judy Collins in Concert, 7:30 p.m., Rogers Center
21 Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra Pops Concert, 2:30 p.m., Rogers Center

OCTOBER
1 Thagaste Symposium
2 Dalton’s “History of Music”, 3 p.m., Rogers Center
3 “Paddy on the Road: The Times and Life of Christy Moore,” 7:30 p.m., Rogers Center.
11, 12 Homecoming/Family Weekend
16-19 Alumni Trip, Quebec City, Canada. Call 978-837-5000, ext. 4511 for information.

NOVEMBER
1 Treble Chorus of New England Patron Salute, 7 p.m. For tickets, call 978-837-5462.
9 Loretta LaRoche, “Life is Short, Wear Your Party Pants” 7 p.m., Rogers Center. To benefit scholarships at Merrimack College. Sponsored by The Rogers Family Foundation along with the Friends of Merrimack College. See page 12 for details.
11-15 Merrimack College On-Stagers performance. Evening and matinee performances, Rogers Center
20-29 Pentucket Players performance of “Scrooge.” Evening and matinee performances, Rogers Center.
27-30 Thanksgiving recess.
30 New England Ringers, 2:30 p.m., Rogers Center

DECEMBER
4 Alumni Christmas Party, Bay Tower Room, Boston.
7 Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra, 2:30 p.m. Rogers Center.
11 Friends of Merrimack College Holiday Party, Cascia Hall, 6 p.m.
24 Jan 1 Christmas recess (college closed).

For ticket information on programs at the Rogers Center, please call the Rogers Center Box Office at 978-837-5335. We hope you can join us this season!

Tickets now available on-line at www.merrimack.edu/rogers.


Your alma mater needs you! We are seeking your input in the creation and development of Young Alumni programs geared toward your interests. You can be an important part of this process by:

Staying connected.
When you move or change jobs, we want to know. E-mail us at alumnirelations@merrimack.edu, call us at 978-837-5000 ext. 4511, or send your updated information to us c/o Alumni Relations - A8, Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845. Send us your E-mail so we can send you our monthly E-newsletter.

You’re invited to participate in alumni events. In the coming months, much is being planned. Check our website @merrimack.edu and click on to our Alumni and Friends page. Here you’ll find an extensive slate of events from Red Sox games to regional gatherings. Don’t miss your opportunity to be a part of this. Contact Kathy Marshall at kathleen.marshall@merrimack.edu for more information.

Volunteer opportunities abound ranging from membership on the Alumni Council to assisting with an alumni event. To learn more, contact Kathy Marshall via E-mail at kathleen.marshall@merrimack.edu.

Participate through an annual gift to the college. Your support increases the value of your degree and has an immediate impact on Merrimack. We value your participation at all levels.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!