Community Service: Indispensable to the Merrimack Experience

Merrimack College
Community Service
Indispensable to the Merrimack Experience
As recognized during our recent visit with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), Merrimack College has experienced remarkable growth and transformation over the last several years. This transformation has been a part of our strategic vision and plan, producing many benefits for our students and alumni. The NEASC team noted that the last decade has seen a transition from a college in challenging circumstances to a flourishing institution... Merrimack has repositioned itself... as a residential college that embraces the liberal arts and professions, and it has matured as a Catholic Augustinian institution.

Merrimack is a strong institution, academically, spiritually, and economically, and it is gratifying to be recognized as such. The NEASC visit was also one of insight and has helped us to focus on areas where we can continually improve.

Again this year, nearly 3,200 students sought admission to Merrimack College, of which approximately 60% were accepted. A near doubling of applicants for early admission is yet another indicator of the high interest that so many have in Merrimack as the college becomes increasingly competitive each year. We continue to attract a high caliber of students who are academically talented and we look forward to welcoming many of them to Merrimack in the fall.

As so many before them, their Merrimack experience will be one that reaches far beyond the grade point average (gpa). The value of a Merrimack education, as it has always been, is steeped in the fact that academics go hand-in-hand with the student life experience – and that includes community service. This issue of Merrimack highlights some of the many community service programs and initiatives that Merrimack students, faculty and alumni embrace. These worthwhile programs assist so many in need in the communities that surround our campus while benefiting our students immensely. Our students serve as role models for many youngsters and in return, they reap personal satisfaction, broaden their horizons and enhance their education.

It is this spirit of volunteerism that continues to thrive at Merrimack and makes our mission come alive year after year.

Sincerely

Richard J. Sustaghi
President, Merrimack College

COMMUNITY SERVICE DEFINES THE MERRIMACK EXPERIENCE
Merrimack continues to enhance initiatives that strengthen the college's commitment to community service.

ACADEMIC ADVISORS PROVIDE INVALUABLE CONNECTIONS
Transformation of Merrimack Sets Stage for Academic Renewal

PHILANTHROPY AT MERRIMACK COLLEGE
In Memory of Father Thomas Casey, Dedication of Grace J. Palmisano Center for Campus Ministry, Understanding bequests

MERRIMACK NEWS
Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher renovations. New organ donated to church, Two named to Board of Trustees, Merrimack President honored, Augustinian dedication

SPORTS ROUND-UP

CLASS NOTES
Samway '66 Checks Olympic Security, Success as Defined by Potoff '75

On the Cover:
Students on Alternative Spring Break 2002 build a prayer house in Cuba, New Mexico. Photo by Mark Ouellette '00.

MERRIMACK IS PRINTED FOR THE ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF MERRIMACK COLLEGE.

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MERRIMACK COLLEGE TO BE FIRST COLLEGE IN COUNTRY TO SPONSOR NATIVITY MODEL SCHOOL

Imagine a school small enough for four-to-one student to teacher ratio, tuition-free with teachers who do not get paid, where parental involvement is mandatory and with a typical school day lasting until 9 p.m.

That is the model of the new Blessed Stephen Bellesini, O.S.A. Academy sponsored by Merrimack College, the first college in the country to sponsor a Nativity model school.

Upon its opening in Lawrence, the Bellesini Academy and its 60 students, boys in the fifth and sixth grades, will join the ranks of only 35 Nativity model schools that have opened across the country in the last 20 years, including five in Massachusetts.

Nativity model schools are private, Catholic, independent middle schools that seek to provide a quality education integrated with moral and spiritual development for struggling but promising students of low-income urban families.

The first Nativity school opened in 1971 in lower Manhattan. As the sponsoring agent, Merrimack will provide services and support for students, faculty and administration, including space for programs, teacher training, volunteers, and consulting advice and expertise. The Bellesini Academy is funded, as are all Nativity schools, by private foundations, corporations and individual donors, but is expected to become financially independent in five years.

The Bellesini Academy is named in honor of the 19th century Augustinian friar who dedicated many years to the education of young boys from disadvantaged families in Italy.

A more in-depth look at the Bellesini Academy will be included in future issues of the Merrimack Magazine.

HENNIGAN CENTER DEDICATED

The building that many alumni know as the Urban Resource Institute in Lawrence, Mass. has recently received a face lift - and a new name. In tribute to the life and works of Father Thomas Hennigan, O.S.A., the building at 55 East Haverhill Street in Lawrence was renamed the Hennigan Center.

The Hennigan Center continues to house the Institute and the office of MerrimAction.

The building recently underwent extensive renovation thanks to a generous grant from the Highland Street Connection. The kitchen has been completely modernized, the floors were refinished, and new wiring, lighting and sprinkler systems were installed, among other updates.

Last fall, the building was re-dedicated and blessed by the Very Rev. John E. Deegan, O.S.A., former president of Merrimack and a close friend of Father Hennigan.

Father Hennigan served as the liaison for intercultural and international students at Merrimack College from 1984 until his death on March 11, 1991.

Community Service has long been an indispensable part of a Merrimack education and today, more than 50 years after the college’s founding, it still defines the Merrimack experience.

The growth of students not only intellectually, but also spiritually and morally, is a testament to the belief that, “higher learning develops the potential for each student to succeed in college, academically, socially, and personally.”

The commitment to community service that owes its roots to the Merrimack experience has long been embraced by the student body and continues to be embraced by students, alumni, and friends.

The Bellesini Academy is off to a great start and the Hennigan Center is back in business.

COMMUNITY SERVICE DEFINES THE MERRIMACK EXPERIENCE

• Approximately 250 students and faculty members integrate volunteer opportunities with various courses in all divisions of the college each semester.

Students take an active role in learning and benefit from valuable connections of these experiences to their academic learning. Service learning brings students into the life and needs of the communities that surround the campus and also brings those community needs into the life of the college curriculum.

• Many alumni and others will remember fondly their involvement with MerrimAction, a student organization that encourages students to embrace a life-long commitment to social justice principals and engagement.

More than 150 Merrimack students volunteer their time in rewarding volunteer outreach experience that responds to the needs of the Greater Lawrence community.

• Merrimack’s Urban Resource Institute continues to provide students with a myriad of opportunities with various courses in all divisions of the college each semester.

The college continues its commitment to the Accept-the-Challenge program for low-income, academically promising high school students, and has begun a Middle School Challenge. Faculty and students contribute their time and expertise to the RAISE science program, Breadloaf summer writing program, and a host of other initiatives.

• The college continues its commitment to the Accept-the-Challenge program for low-income, academically promising high school students, and has begun a Middle School Challenge. Faculty and students contribute their time and expertise to the RAISE science program, Breadloaf summer writing program, and a host of other initiatives.
HELPING OTHERS ON A GLOBAL LEVEL
by Marie DeMarco

Working at a soup kitchen. Volunteering at an Augustinian orphanage. Repairing a ranch fallen into disrepair. These are but a few of the volunteer activities that more than 70 Merrimack students and their 14 advisors performed during this year’s Alternative Spring Break in March.

A tradition on the Merrimack campus for 45 years, these students gave up their relaxation on the beach to help others by serving meals, tutoring children, and working with the poor and elderly.

The community involvement and exposure to different cultures encourage a lifetime of civic involvement, and often for the first time, students see the struggles that others must endure. Students raised their own funds to cover expenses of transportation and meals.

ALUMNI VOLUNTEER SPIRIT ALIVE AND WELL
By Jocelyne Fauerbach

The rich tradition of volunteerism at Merrimack College now extends its reach even further. Thanks to the generous spirit of some Alumni Council members, a new outlet is now available to accommodate alumni who wish to give of their time and resources.

The new volunteer committee, an extension of the already prolific MerrimAction, led by Sister Elaine Polcari, SSND, is called Community Connection. It was an idea conceived by Alumni Council members Linda DeCicco ’86 and Sheryl York ’86 who now serve as co-chairs of this new group. “We were at an Alumni Council meeting and saw a presentation given by students on the volunteer work they were doing through MerrimAction. We were both so impressed and inspired by what these students gave of themselves that we knew we wanted to get involved in some way,” says Linda and Sheryl.

The group quickly sprang into action establishing contacts at local Merrimack Valley non-profit organizations like Bread and Education center to offer a broad range of opportunities for residents of Lawrence. The center will be located adjacent to Merrimack’s Herrigan Center at 55 East Haverhill Street, revitalizing the St. Laurence O’Toole elementary school that has stood abandoned since its closing in the late 1970s.

The Our House/Nuestra Casa Learning Center will serve the heavily Latino neighborhoods of Lawrence, offering services and programs that will help expand economic and educational horizons.

The center will be located adjacent to Merrimack’s Herrigan Center at 55 East Haverhill Street, revitalizing the St. Laurence O’Toole elementary school that has stood abandoned since its closing in the late 1970s.

Services to be provided at Our House/Nuestra Casa will include adult education, enrichment and exchange, including English as a Second Language programs and computer classes; after-school programs for youth focusing on tutoring and homework help, arts and sports; and career and college exploration programs for teens, with special emphasis on science and technology.

Although the alumni volunteer group is still in its infancy, Linda and Sheryl both have high hopes for its success. “Our goal is to create organized volunteer opportunities for alumni because we’ve found in talking to fellow grads that giving back to our communities was the one piece of the puzzle that was missing for many of us,” says York. “What we didn’t expect was the extremely positive feedback from current students, many of whom will soon graduate. They’re thrilled to know that they can continue to live out the spirit of volunteerism that they’ve cultivated while on campus. It’s a great way for them to remain in close touch with the Merrimack community all while serving their local communities.”

They encourage alumni everywhere to find a way to contribute time and service in their own communities as a way to feel connected to this group.

Merrimack alumni who are interested in getting involved with Community Connection should email mconnection@merimack.edu. Immediate needs include basic administrative support, a digital camera to record achievements of MerrimAction volunteers, and handymen/women to help at the Herrigan Center in Lawrence.

MERRIMACK HELPS TO LAUNCH OUR HOUSE/NUESTRA CASA IN LAWRENCE

Merrimack’s commitment to the North Common neighborhood of Lawrence, Mass. continues with a new partnership that will bring the Our House/Nuestra Casa Learning Center to the neighborhood. Together with the not-for-profit Lawrence Community Works and the City of Lawrence, Merrimack will be instrumental in providing an innovative resource that will combine the best of a community center and education center to offer a broad range of opportunities for residents of Lawrence.

The Our House/Nuestra Casa Family Learning Center will serve the heavily Latino neighborhoods of Lawrence, offering services and programs that will help expand economic and educational horizons.

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“I am especially proud that Merrimack College can contribute to the Lawrence community in such a way, and proud that we remain true to our Augustinian heritage and mission to serve as an educational resource beyond our campus, fostering community values and ideals,” said Richard J. Santagati, president.

Among the many contributions that Merrimack College will make to the center will be two full annual scholarships to qualified students who participate in Our House/Nuestra Casa; a 50 percent scholarship for two Lawrence teachers who are working to obtain their master’s degrees; loans to Merrimack faculty and staff who buy homes in designated areas of Lawrence; access to many programs such as Resources to Accelerate Integrated Science Education (RAISE) and Accept-the-Challenge, and more.

The timeline of the project is contingent upon fundraising which is underway for the $6.1 million project that will ultimately build a three-story building adjacent to the abandoned school. Once ground is broken, some time in 2005, it is expected that construction will take about a year and a half.

Cuba, New Mexico
Merrimack students visited Cuba, New Mexico as part of Alternative Spring Break this year and helped to build a home for the community.

A ceremony was held on the boarded St. Laurence O’Toole school building during the celebration event announcing the creation of Our House/Nuestra Casa.

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Cuba, New Mexico
Merrimack students visited Cuba, New Mexico as part of Alternative Spring Break this year and helped to build a home for the community.
A few people in a student’s career are as important as an academic advisor. From the first days of orientation to the days leading up to graduation, an advisor helps shape and direct a student’s academic career and often becomes an important mentor. Some, like Mark Sirarusa ’00, have kept in touch with their advisors and mentors long after they’ve graduated.

For students, academic advising is extremely meaningful to the whole Merrimack experience, and it is a responsibility that the Merrimack faculty takes very seriously. Very often, advising is what each student makes of it, but it is almost always more than just scheduling courses. “Academic advising is a very important and personally engaging process. The faculty is committed to helping students figure out where they want to go and how Merrimack can help them reach their career goals,” says Associate Professor of Psychology Gina Vega. “I always encourage students to pursue and study what interests them; that you’ve sent off into the world, and it is a testament to the invaluable connections made by so many at Merrimack College.”

Many colleges and universities, including Merrimack College, include in their mission the obligation to prepare students for citizenship and service. “I remember talking with several students from our community service experiences and seeing them grow with pride that mission come alive,” says Father McCloskey. “When students returning from mentoring inner city children or from alternative spring break feel that they they felt that they got something valuable out of it; that it is an extremely valuable and critical aspect of education.”

For Sirarusa, a biochemistry major living in Boston and working at her two former students (Una Monteforte ’99 and Mark Sirarusa ’00), the appreciation of mentorship among student learning experiences is enormous. “I always recall the feeling of satisfaction that you felt like they’re your kids and that you’ve sent off into the world, and you feel an enormous sense of pride.”

For Sirarusa, a biochemistry major living in Boston and working in the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, academic advising has been important to her career. During his years at Merrimack he worked closely with Dr. Foose. “She would frequently come back for advice if they want it,” says Linda Foose, assistant professor of biology. “We have students who are pursuing professional careers and are in medical school or dental school and sometimes it takes more than four years in an undergraduate institution to prepare them for that. Often there is time that passes after graduation before they need to ask for letters of recommendation.”

Although a tall order, these goals have been embraced wholeheartedly by the faculty of Merrimack College who have held several meetings in the past year to discuss pedagogy (the theory and science of teaching). The transformation of Merrimack to a predominantly residential college results in changing needs of our students, something that the faculty is exploring and addressing. The faculty is also exploring the development of a teaching/learning center for faculty members. For example, some faculty members wish to learn how to better incorporate technology into their curriculum, “Technology one as part of a course curriculum can be a valuable way to expand the classroom,” notes Father McCloskey. “Some of our faculty are currently utilizing technology and we hope to expand that initiative.”

The faculty is also exploring ways to enhance and build connections in curriculum among courses in a major, between the major and general education requirements, and even among the general education requirements. “Traditionally the hallmark of Merrimack College, these connections enable students to look at things from a variety of perspectives and to understand things in a larger context,” notes Father McCloskey.

It is this understanding that will carry students well into the future, and that keeps the value of a liberal arts education very much at the forefront.
What is a Bequest?

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. Bequests often reflect the personal values of donors, such as many of the bequests made to Merrimack College over the last year.

For example, the Estate of Edward Shannon '50 created an endowed library fund which will acquire media and materials related to social acceptance. The Estate of Theodora Zubrinski '63 created an endowed scholarship in the name of her parents. The Estate of Maurice Reason (Friend) created a fully endowed scholarship fund that will benefit Lawrence High School students who wish to study at Merrimack College.

Such gifts show faith in the future of Merrimack College and help to support the college's mission. Making a bequest is as easy as adding the following paragraph to one's 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.”

For additional information on making a bequest, contact Elizabeth Maglio, director of gift and estate planning, at 978-837-5126 or elizabeth.maglio@merrimack.edu.

Lectureship to Honor Thomas Casey, O.S.A.

An appeal to raise $50,000 will permanently endow a "Thomas Casey, O.S.A. Passion for Justice Lecture" as an annual event at Merrimack College. To date, two pledges of $5,000 each have been made by Merrimack College President Richard J. Santagati and Rev. John Deegati, O.S.A., prior provincial of the Augustinian Friars of Saint Thomas of Villanova Province.

Father Casey, served at Merrimack College for 28 years as both vice president of academic affairs and longtime chairman of the college’s faculty of religious studies. Professed an Augustinian in 1961, he was ordained a priest in 1965 and held a doctorate in Religion and Psychology from the University of Ottawa.

During his tenure at Merrimack, Father Casey introduced African American Studies to the college. While he led the Department of Religious Studies, the faculty’s contribution to the burgeoning Women’s Studies Program grew. He was an early, crucial, and whole-hearted supporter of the college’s establishment of the Center for Study of Jewish-Christian Relations in 1995 and served as a member of its board of directors until his death. His 1989 study “Meaning in Myth” contains an especially appreciative examination of Islam which Father Casey urged the center to engage in its program and which policy has continued.

Father Casey influenced a generation of students and faculty colleagues to rage like the prophets at racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and the devastating effects of depriving people of economic justice. He also championed interreligious reverence,” said Patric O’Hare, professor of religious studies. “When fully endowed, the annual ‘Thomas Casey, O.S.A. Passion for Justice Lecture’ will deal with these topics.”

Hit the Links for Scholarships

Monday, June 3 marks the date of the President’s Cup Golf Tournament to benefit Merrimack’s scholarship program. Every year, more than 250 players hit the links at Indian Ridge Country Club in Andover to support the college and its students. Since the tournament’s inception in 1982, the scholarship fund has flourished and today its market value stands at $1,741,563. The commitment and dedication of many to this event has enabled nearly 180 Merrimack students to receive scholarships and pursue their education.

For information about registering a foursome or being a sponsor, please contact Richard Reming, executive director of the Merrimack and community relations, at richard.reming@merrimack.edu.

Two Susans in Office of Institutional Advancement

The Office of Institutional Advancement is pleased to welcome two Susans — one new to the college and one not-so-new. Susan Ferris is the new Executive Director for Constituent Relations, overseeing annual giving, and community and alumni relations. She comes to Merrimack from Haverford College and Friends Select School, Philadelphia. Many are happy to see that Susan Wojtas ’79, the former director of Alumni Relations and managing editor of the Merrimack magazine, has returned in a new role - Director of Major Gifts - following the unexpected death of her mother last November. You can reach them at susan.ferris@merrimack.edu or susan.wojtas@merrimack.edu.

Student Telemarketing Program Resumes

With phone in hand, many current Merrimack students are putting their enthusiasm about their experiences at the college to work. Some of our best students staff the Merrimack Fund telemarketing program, a vital part of the college’s fundraising efforts. If one gives you a call on a Sunday, Monday or Wednesday, we hope you’ll let him or her fill you in on what’s new on campus and that you’ll consider making a generous pledge. You can reach the Director of Annual Giving Tricia Lenz ’95 at tricia.lenz@merrimack.edu with any questions.

Volpe Challenge Nears Its Goal

More than $775,000 of a $1 million challenge has been raised to date to name the college’s hockey arena in the S. Peter Volpe Sports Complex in honor of former hockey coach Thom Lawler. The challenge was issued last year by three Merrimack alumni who will match dollar-for-dollar all donations received until June 30, 2002, up to $500,000. According to Joseph Carrier, vice president for institutional advancement, the response and support has been tremendous, especially from former hockey players, and is a fitting tribute to Thom Lawler and to all he gave to Merrimack. The contributions will help to support phase three of the renovation project of the Volpe Complex. For more information, call Joe Carrier at 978-837-5126.

Transitioning Through a Computer Conversion

To bring more efficient service to our students, alumni, parents, and friends, Merrimack College is conducting a computer conversion. During this transition period, we apologize if you receive any communication from us containing incorrect or incomplete information. If this should occur, please let us know by calling 978-837-5102.

Contribution dedicates the Grace J. Palmisano Center for Campus Ministry

The former J. Palmisano Center for Campus Ministry was dedicated in November 2001 thanks to a generous gift from Larry, ’77, and Bobby Palmisano and their children Kathryn ’92, Lauren, ’85, Robert, ’87, Lori Ann, ’87 and Jimmy. The naming gift sombers Larry’s wife Grace. Larry and Robbie (left) are pictured here with their growing family.
Merrimack College President Richard J. Santagati, on behalf of the college’s Board of Trustees, recently announced the election of two individuals to the board—Clifford E. Elias of North Andover and Daniel J. Shine, Jr. ’65 of Andover.

Elias is a professor of law at Suffolk University Law School, Boston, and teaches in the fields of evidence and health care law. He has served in various capacities at the law school, including as associate dean. He graduated from Phillips Academy, Andover; Yale University; and Boston University School of Law. Elias received honorary degrees from Merrimack in 2000 and from Suffolk in 1999. He has been affiliated with many charitable organizations in the greater Lawrence area.

Daniel J. Shine, Jr. ’65 is Global Director of Aerospace and Defense Industry Consulting for AT Kearney, the management consulting arm of EDS. He has 35 years of experience and professional life mirrors the mission of Merrimack College since 1995.

Merrimack College President Honored for Devotion to Catholic Education

Merrimack College President Richard J. Santagati was recently presented with the 2001 Cardinal Cushing Society Award by Rev. Monsignor Paul V. Garrity, on behalf of St. Mary’s Junior-Senior High School in Lynn, Mass. The award, established in 1996, is awarded annually to champions of Catholic education whose personal and professional life mirrors the mission of St. Mary’s.

Merrimack Trustee Edward Collins, both a 1952 graduate of St. Mary’s Boys’ High School and a 1956 graduate of Merrimack College, made the presentation to President Santagati in recognition of his efforts to underscore the significance of Catholic education today.

Under President Santagati’s leadership, Merrimack College has instituted two important centers at the college to further religious education and understanding.

The Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy at the college enriches Merrimack’s academic community and advances the continuing relevance of Augustinian thought. He also supported and encouraged the creation of the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations which fosters interfaith dialogue and promotes an understanding and awareness of the richness of these two religions. His strong commitment to Catholic education is evidenced in many other special programs as well. Santagati has served as the fifth president of Merrimack College since 1995.

COLLEGE RALLIES TO SUPPORT RED CROSS DISASTER FUND

As the shockwaves of September 11th continued, students rallied to show their support of America by organizing the American Red Cross Victims Relief Fund at Merrimack College. Dozens of students, faculty, administrators and staff donated amounts ranging from pocket change to large sums of money which were then matched by the college. Tables were manned by Tau Kappa Epsilon, Phi Kappa Theta, and Theta Delta Chi fraternity brothers as well as Theta Phi Alpha, Zeta Tau Alpha and Alpha Sigma Tau sorority sisters.

The contribution will assist 17 families in the Merrimack Valley who were directly affected by the September 11th tragedy. Assistance ranges from temporary help with living expenses and transporting families to memorial services in New York City to working with the Visiting Nurse Association of nearby St. Michael’s Parish in North Andover and St. Augustine’s Parish in Andover to use the church for Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter Liturgies.

Merrimack students continue to hold weekly Sunday evening Masses there since they outgrew other chapel space, and many special celebrations and Masses, such as the memorial Masses held after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, are also held there.

With all this use, the Collegiate Church is in critical need of upgrades and renovations. Funding permitting, renovations may begin in the church after July 1 this year and will include the installation of an upgraded lighting and electrical systems, and a study is in progress to address the heating and possible cooling system of the building.

Perhaps the most noticeable improvements would be the reconfiguration of worship space which would enhance the worship experience of the college community by bringing members closer to the altar and to each other. Ideally, planners would also like to create a gathering space at the back of the church for worshippers to gather before and after liturgies.

Of the $1.5 million needed to complete the project, close to $400,000 has been promised to date. If the funds are raised, the church is scheduled to be closed for all services from July 1, 2002 through June 1, 2003.

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Merrimack News

Two Elected to Board of Trustees

Church Plans Call for Renovations

The sounds of a beautiful new organ now fill the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher thanks to a generous gift to the Augustinians by Marguerita and Lawrence P. Smith, parents of 13 children including Christine Burke, director of resident life. Both of the Smiths passed away earlier this year.

It was the long connection with Merrimack College, and the desire to give back to the college in some way, that paved the way for the Smiths’ generosity. Mr. Smith worked in the kitchen when Merrimack first opened and the Smiths have been involved with the college for many years ago and Mrs. Smith’s uncle, Fr. Arthur Maxwell, was an English professor as well as the Prior. In addition, five of their sons graduated from Merrimack: Arthur B. Smith ’68, Patrick Smith ’79, Fred Smith ’74 (now deceased), Rick Smith ’79 and Paul Smith ’82.

“One of the few significant gifts my Dad was ever able to buy my mother was an organ,” explained Burke. “Although time and money limited her abilities to take lessons herself, she would often sit, play and sing what she knew. When Father Joe Farrell asked us if we wanted our parents’ gift to go toward the new organ, we thought it was perfect.”

Blessed and dedicated in a beautiful ceremony last December, the new organ has been long-awaited. “We were in desperate need of a new organ,” admitted Father Rick Platt who coordinated the dedication event. “St. Augustine always said that those who sing, pray twice. All music is praise in one shape or form so using this instrument to help the human instrument praise God is an incredible gift to the Catholic identity and Augustinian tradition of the college and to the students themselves.”
Web Site Update Offers New Features

Surf on over to www.merrimack.edu and you'll find a new look for Merrimack's web site, one that is not only easier to navigate, but also provides a new calendar of events and hot links. The enhanced site also has a new front page, the one that is the first visitors see first when the site is opened, featuring snappy and inviting graphics and photos. Several hot links invite the visitor to click directly to the latest information such as sports scores, latest campus news, Rogers Center events and more. Check out the calendar of events under 'What's Happening' off the front page at www.merrimack.edu.

FOOTBALL (6-4, 6-4)
A strong start and even better finish resulted in one of the most successful seasons in the brief history of Merrimack football. The Warriors finished the 2001 season with an overall record of 6-4 and the same mark in Northeast-10 play. Three Warriors earned Northeast-10 All-Conference honors in 2001. The Warrior team defense finished second in the Northeast-10.

YEARBOOK DEDICATED TO AUGUSTINIANS
The 2002 Merrimack College yearbook has been dedicated to the Augustinian friars who are currently ministering at the college. They are (first row, left to right): Thomas C. Kenny, O.S.A., prior of Our Mother of Good Counsel Monastery and former vice president for Fiscal Affairs; George R. Morgan, O.S.A., 91, Office of Institutional Advancement; James A. Wieland, O.S.A., 72, co-founder of educational and spiritual programs at the Center for Augustinian Studies and Laymen; Robert M. Bock, O.S.A., Administration Office; William J. Wyner, O.S.A., retired college librarian and a member of the founding community of Augustinian Friters in 1947; Gary S. McInerney, O.S.A., priest. (Second row, left to right): Richard F. Platt, O.S.A., campus minister; Scott C. Yee, O.S.A., 94, academic support services for North Asian Programs; Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A., director of Campus Ministry; and Kevin E. Joyce, O.S.A., professor, Religious Studies Department. Missing from the photo is James P. Panaro, O.S.A., adjunct lecturer, Religious Studies Department.

WOMEN’S SOCCER (19-4, 12-2)
Four All-Americans, Warriors Among Best in Nation
The Merrimack women’s 2001 soccer program completed one of its most successful seasons in school history, finishing with an overall record of 19-4 and setting a new school record for wins in a season. The Warriors advanced to NCAA post-season play for a third time, finishing runners-up in the New England Regional. The program extended its NCAA record for consecutive winning seasons to 18 and also set a new mark for consecutive wins, starting the season with 14 straight victories. The Warrior placed second in the powerful Northeast-10 Conference. The team has now made three NCAA post-season appearances, won a pair of ECAC championships and claimed nine Northeast-10 titles. Four team members were named to the 2001 national Soccer Coaches Association of America All-America Team, the most of any Division II school, and the team’s goalkeeper was named the Northeast-10 Goalkeeper of the Year.

WOMEN’S TENNIS (13-3, 10-2)
Merrimack Wins Northeast-10 Championship
The Merrimack women’s tennis team won three matches at the Northeast-10 Championship in October to claim the 2001 tournament title.

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL (18-13, 10-4)
The Merrimack women’s volleyball team advanced to post-season play again in 2001, making it to the semi-finals of the Northeast-10 Tournament.

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
Men Claim Two Titles
The Merrimack men’s and women’s cross country teams placed fifth and eighth respectively at the 2001 Northeast-10 Championship in October 2001. The men went on to place fourth at the NCAA Regionals while the women took 10th place.

FIELD HOCKEY (3-13, 1-9)
The Warriors finished the 2001 season with an overall record of 3-13 and a league mark of 1-9.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL (12-15)
The 2001-2002 season began with three consecutive victories for the first time since joining the Northeast-10.

WOMEN’S SOCCER (11-7-0, 6-7-0)
Plagued by injuries most of the season, the Merrimack men’s soccer team battled to an 11-7-0 overall record and a 6-7-0 Northeast-10 mark. Finishing his 20th season at Merrimack, head coach Tony Marzone upped his career record to 186-179-22.

FIELD HOCKEY (4-21)
The Warriors played better in 2001, finishing with a winning record. The team lost to the Northeast-10 leader for the first time since 2000.

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL (16-15, 10-5)
The Merrimack women’s volleyball team advanced to the semi-finals of the Northeast-10 Tournament.

MEN’S BASKETBALL (11-15)
The Lakers made it to the semi-finals of the Northeast-10 Tournament.

MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
The Lakers men’s cross country team placed ninth at the 2001 Northeast-10 Championship in October 2001.

MEN’S BASKETBALL (11-15)
The Lakers men’s basketball team finished their season with a 11-15 record.

MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
The Lakers men’s cross country team placed ninth at the 2001 Northeast-10 Championship in October 2001.

MEN’S SOCCER (11-7-0, 6-7-0)
The Lakers men’s soccer team finished their season with a 11-7-0 record.

MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
The Lakers men’s cross country team placed ninth at the 2001 Northeast-10 Championship in October 2001.

MEN’S BASKETBALL (11-15)
The Lakers men’s basketball team finished their season with a 11-15 record.

MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
The Lakers men’s cross country team placed ninth at the 2001 Northeast-10 Championship in October 2001.
M62

Roger Damphousse was named to the board of trustees at Rivier College, Nashua, N.H. He recently retired as division president of Benchmark Electronics in Hudson, N.H., after a 38-year career in the electronics manufacturing industry. He has held a number of senior management and executive positions with various companies, including Lockheed Martin, Calcomp and Harris Corp. The former basketball player is a member of the Merrimack Athletic Hall of Fame.

M63

Dr. Thomas Elwood is on the board of directors of the National Health Council. His membership consists of 120 organizations in the following categories: voluntary health agencies such as the American Cancer Society, professional and membership associations such as the American Medical Association, non-profit organizations such as AARP, and industry entities such as Pfizer.

M64

Paul Sweeney, Joe Buch '64 and Joe’s wife Patty celebrated the Fourth of July in Surf City, N.J. Paul is retired from the U.S. Secret Service. Joe is Regional Sales Manager for Monterey Boats, Williamson, Fla.

M65

Dr. Jo-Ann (Merolla) Sipple is a distinguished professor of communications and information management in the graduate program at Bar Path College, Longmeadow, Mass. Jo-Ann is a former chief academic officer at Merrimack College.

M66

Peter Casey, after more than 31 years of service, retired from Johnson & Johnson in April 2001. He held numerous supervisory/managerial positions with the company that took him and his family to New Jersey, Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico during his career in the accounting/finance area. Pete and his wife Joanne live in Palm Harbor, Fla. with one of their three daughters.

Gary Mceaur has retired from the IRS after 33 years of service. He is at home on Long Island, “knocking off some household projects that have been building up over the years.”

M67

Class Notes

M68

Michael Sheh is the principal at Hauhtorne Brook Middle School in Townsend, Mass. He has been an educator in the North Middlesex Regional School District for the past 31 years.

M70

Robert Linsley received a master of arts degree from the University of Arizona's School of Information Resources and Library Science. He is a librarian with faculty status, at Pima Community College, Tucson, Ariz.

M71

Tori (Schuartz) LeBeau has retired from the Dow Chemical Company after 29 years. She was the corporate director of Investor Relations. She and husband Joe live in Vail, Colo., and in Charlotte, Mich.

Carol Roberts is the personnel administrator for the town of Reading, Mass.

The Rev. Michael Steele, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Wakefield, Mass., recently received the 2001 Tsongas Award for his leadership and support during the crisis at Edgewater Technology in the aftermath of the 2000 post-Christmas shootings. Steele counseled the employees of Edgewater Technology and led interfaith healing services for the community.

M74

Malcolm Cohen is a broker and partner with the Andover Market Center in Andover, Mass. He has worked for several Fortune 500 companies, spanning three decades, including General Electric, Honeywell Inc., Digital and Compaq.

Robert Lounsb is the executive director of the New Bedford Economic Development Council. He was formerly chief economic development officer for the City of Lawrence, Mass.

Ann McCarthy is the supervisor of student development for preschool and kindergarten students at Fuller Elementary School in Gloucester. She was the district's early childhood director last year.

Jean (Somma) Poth received the ATHENA 2001 Merrimack Valley Award for her leadership and support in the community.

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REUNION 2002

Honoring the classes of '52, '57, '62, '67 '72, '77, '82, '87, '92 and '97.
Pippin" at Musicals at Richter, a Boston-based non-profit organization dedicated to training and aiding disabled men and women to enter the workforce. Thomas Manning is on the board of directors at Community Work Services, which provides investment banking and strategic management advisory services to technology companies worldwide.

M90

Robert Sullivan is on the board of partners and principals at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, a global professional services firm. Robert is the Americas managing partner for the firm, based in New York City.

M82

Robert Astill is on the board of trustees of the New England Seaport Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of America’s last coastal steamship, the S.S. Norlina.

M83

Kevin Foley is an associate in the civil litigation department at Murphy & Michaels LLP, located in Boston and Andover, Mass. The former administrator of the Massachusetts Board of Review was graduated from the Massachusetts School of Law in December 2000.

M84

Teresa GoveArnold has launched her own management consulting business in Gloucester, Mass., specializing in strategic planning, staff structuring for optimum performance, and studying organizational behavior.

David Tassinari is national sales manager of Pianedoli Baking Co., of Medford, Mass.

M85

Peter Bernardini is on the board of directors for the Massachusetts Societies of Certified Public Accountants, Inc., the state professional association of certified public accountants. Peter is both a CPA and a lawyer. He’s an associate at Artidill & Morse, P.C. in Danvers, Mass.

M86

Michael Doyle is the president of PP Systems, a Haverhill, Mass., company that creates instruments on the cutting edge of horticultural science. The equipment is used for research. Plants are enclosed in a chamber where the instrument measures the photosynthesis rate under both natural and varying environmental conditions.

Philip Pukay is director of quality assurance for Agris Corporation, in Roswell, Ga., a division of John Deere’s Special Technology Group. The firm is the largest supplier of information management systems for agribusiness.

M87

Steve Adams in managing director of business banking in New England for Citizens Bank, the second-largest commercial bank-holding company. Steve was previously president and chief operating officer of Citizens Mortgage Corporation.

M88

Tom Boucher, owner of T-Bones and Cactus Jack’s restaurants, conceived a slogan for his company and sold it to Coca-Cola. The slogan: “Life tastes good.” Tom and his partners were also presented with the New Hampshire Restaurant and Lodging Association’s award as “Restaurateur of the Year.”

M89

Michael Cecere is a partner at Hayard, Gray & Grav, LLP, certified Public Accountants, Westbrook, Mass.

M90

Stephen DerManuelian is director of retail human resources with Best Buy Company. To take the job, he and his family relocated from California to Minnesota.
Julie Pierce is chief technology officer at Portsmouth, N.H.-based eVelocity Corp., a leading provider of Internet-based electronic invoicing services.

Michael Sachs is global marketing and e-business manager for the Premier Automotive Group, the luxury car division of Ford Motor Company. Mike, wife Karen (Kincy) 98 and their two sons relocated from New Jersey to Southern California.

More than 70 Florida alumni, parents and friends gathered in Florida this spring for an alumni reception featuring a Red Sox vs. Yankees game. A reception was also held in Fort Lauderdale the same weekend.

Robert Williams Jr. is senior recruiter of corporate employment at FleetBoston Financial, Boston.

Brian Creata is the U.S. Health and Human Services Administration’s representative for Region 1, covering New England. Cresta formerly represented the 22nd Middlesex District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Joe Jastro is girls soccer coach at Bishop Fenwick High School in Peabody, Mass. He also works as an accountant for North Shore Health Systems at Salem (Mass.) Hospital.

John Kurzinnick manages the family business, the Watchmaker in Stoneham, Mass., a retail watch and clock store. In addition, he has his own business repairing clocks, called JFK Clock Repair.

Cheryl (Caravace) Pyburn teaches ESL adult education classes at Operation Bootstrap, Inc., in Lynn, Mass. She received a master’s degree in English Language from Salem (Mass.) State College.

Philip Rando Jr. and his father founded a frozen dessert company in 1996, Philip R’s Simply Sorbets. The Woburn, Mass., company has expanded and changed names, to Philip R’s Frozen Desserts.

James Kozik is director of business development for Grissold, Heckel, and Kelly Associates, a national interior design and facilities management firm based in Boston.

Kevin Rhodes is vice president of finance for Edgewater Technology, Inc., an e-business consulting and financial integration firm based in Wakefield, Mass.

Jennifer Hurley is a business analyst for Citigroup Investments in Hartford, Conn.

Janette (Settelman) Jaynes is a public relations specialist at Plymouth Savings Bank in Middleborough, Mass.

Meghan Conolly is a fifth grade teacher at Norman E. Day School in Westford, Mass. In 2001, she received a Master of Education degree from Lesley University, Cambridge, Mass.

Jessica (Rancourt) Fogg is the project director for Penobscot Valley Hospital’s Community Partnership in Lincoln, Maine.

Heather (Leibovitz) Spolidoro is a third grade teacher at Shawsheen School, Wilmington, Mass. In 2001, she received a master of education degree in elementary and moderate special needs from Lesley University, Cambridge, Mass.

Angela McGriff is a script analyst for Boston-based Scout Productions, which did the Boston-area production for “Good Will Hunting” and produced this summer’s “Session 9.” Scott’s next film will be based on a screenplay by local detective-mystery author Dennis Lehane.

Allison Sampson received a master of science degree in exercise and sport sciences from Ithaca (N.Y.) College in 2001. She is an assistant athletic trainer at Cornell University.

Robyn Vallarelli is a support services teacher at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School in Billerica, Mass. Robyn has master’s degrees in elementary education and special education from Lesley University, Cambridge, Mass.

Patricia Wigandt received a master’s degree in English from Simmons College. She is also working part time in the City of Concord’s (Mass.) human resources department and is a student in the master’s degree program at Suffolk University, Boston.

Allison Jones is living in Philadelphia, working with the AmeriCorps community services program.

Adam Knight has joined the staff of Massachusetts State Senator Charles Shumon (D-Winchester) as constituent services aide.

Christopher Stack is a legislative aide at the Massachusetts State House.
Class Notes

Marriages

LORE MILLIGAN '85 and BRETT GOURPTE at St. Mary Church, Methuen, Mass., July 28, 2001.


ROBERTS BRUNO '90 and MARK PILLER at St. Mary Church, Billerica, Mass., June 24, 2003.

The reception for the Billows' June 2003 matt Holle wedding was held at the Endicott Chow Club, Andover, Mass., where the married couple was served Matt Holle's best man, but took a break to pose with the happy couple. Matt looks more casual.

TRACY DUGGOTT '89 and DANIEL MORSEY at Trinity Episcopal Church, Melrose, Mass., September 30, 2000.


KATHY PINTER '90 and MATTHEW FIEDLER at Elimt the King Church, Kingston, R.I., July 27, 2001.

SUSAN STOLGI '89 and PETER WOODFORD, AUGUST 11, 2001.

ELIZABETH SMITH '89 and STEPHEN REEDY at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Waltham, Mass., July 20, 2001.

MATTHEW CODY '91 and ANDREW BURR at Forty Point, Charles City County, Va., October 13, 2001.

PAMELA NORDSTROM '91 and MARK PUCLIN at Mary Queen of Peace Church, Salem, N.H., September 29, 2000.


VINCENT J. BATES, JR. '93 and LINDA COOK at the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, Merrimack College, August 26, 2001.

ELLIE WILDE '93 and PETER McRICHARD at Our Orthodox, April 7, 2001.


VINCENT J. BATES, JR. '93 and LINDA COOK at the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, Merrimack College, August 26, 2001.

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Class Notes

Marriages


Laure Leung '98 and Matthew LaCapra '98 at the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, July 1, 2001.

Gregory Napier '98 and Ann Gaillo at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Worcester, Mass.


Scott Tausiaki '98 and Michelle Lecanto at the Most Blessed Sacrament Church, Wakefield, Mass., July 1, 2001.


Rachelle LaMarche '99 and Geoff Gilbert at St. Louis de Gonzague Church, Northampton, Mass.


Mark Carlson, husband of Kelly (Ashes) Carlson '86, and daughter, Ashley Dawn of Warren County in Kenz.

Lisa (Bratton) Lane '98 and Richard Lane '98 at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Worcester, Mass., January 16, 2001. He joins brother Brian and sister Lauren.


Candice (Bibliophob) Gardner '77 and husband: a daughter, Nicole Jane, June 12, 2001. She joins brother James.

Due to the increasingly overwhelming submissions, we will be unable to print photos of weddings and births in future issues of Merrimack. However, we encourage you to please continue to send us your wedding and birth announcements to John.carter@merrimack.edu.

New Arrivals

John (Davlin) O'Shea '87 and husband John: a daughter, Megan Marie, October 30, 2000. She joins brother Brendan. Megan was also welcomed by grandparents Joan (McNulty) '58 and Raymond L'Etoile '57.


Kari (Williams) '93 and John Finocchi '90: a son, John, July 1, 2001. He joins sister Lily Elizabeth.

John Froio '98 and wife Christ: a son, Andrew Thomas, April 12, 2001. He joins brother John and sister Carmen.


Pamela (Gilbert) Patterson '90 and husband Daniel: a daughter, Katie John, December 20, 2001. She joins sisters Kelle and Sebby.

Mark (Davlin) O'Sullivan '90 and husband: a daughter, Brooke Elizabeth, June 21, 2001. She joins brother Griffin.


Kara (Willie) '89 and John Fenlon '89: a daughter, Brooke Elizabeth, June 21, 2001. She joins brother Griffin.


She joins brother Daniel.

Christine Martin-Tripani '90 and husband Anthony: a daughter, Lindsay Katherine, November 29, 2001. She joins sister Megan Anne.
Heidi (Fagan) '90 and Stephen "Woody" White, Jr.: a son, Brendan Adam, April 24, 2001. He joins brother Kyle.
Cherie (Vesey) '91 and John Chadwick '92: a daughter, Alissa, April 5, 2001. She joins big sister Kelsey.
Melinda (Butler) Sweeney '91 and husband Lawrence: a son, Sean Christopher, November 16, 2000. He joins sister Anne.
Matthew (Howard) Butler '92 and husband Marc: a daughter, Meghan Christine, August 21, 2000. Marc is also the grandchildren of Mark (Butler) '62 and the late William Howard '62.
Michelle (Halliwell) '92 and Marc DiBella '92: a daughter, Ashley Michelle, January 16, 2001. She joins brother Brian Matthew.
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Class Notes

Class Notes

Deaths

William O'Connell '51, 73, of Dunellen, N.J., died July 2, 2001 at Mease Countryside Hospital, Safety Harbor, Fla. He was regional, national and international sales manager for Hamilton Beach and CEO of the company's subsidiary in Mexico, and most recently president of Cansway Trading Co., exporters to Latin America. He was a Navy veteran of World War II.

John King '51, 74, of Salem, N.H., died February 10 at his residence after a brief illness. He was a partner, tax and estate planning, Tebksky, Mass., and East Hartford, Conn. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II where he served in the South Pacific. Prior to his retirement, he was employed as an aviation technician at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Company of East Hartford.

Alfred Larose '51, of Chelmsford, Mass., died September 29, 2001 at Fairhaven Nursing Home in Lowell, Mass. He was a certified public accountant and served in the Navy during World War II.

Frederick Crossdale '52, 74, of Burlington, Mass., died July 6, 2001 of complications of a heart condition. He served in the Army during World War II. A financial administrator for RCA Corp. for more than 35 years, until his retirement in 1987, he was also employed by AVCO and Sikorsky Corp. For the past 50 years he also had his own tax service company. He was a founder and past president of the Snowbank (Mass.) Boys and Girls Club.

John McCarthy '52, 75, of Salem, N.H., died February 11 at Merrimack Valley Hospital in Haverhill, Mass. He was an educator in Groveland, Mass. schools for 35 years, including 15 as an elementary school principal. He served in the Navy during World War II and the Marine Corps. Reserves during the Korean War, retiring as a gunnery sergeant.

William Cuddy '53, of Georgetown, Mass., died Jan 8 after a long illness. A native of Lawrence, Mass., he was a Navy veteran. He worked in the accounting department of the former Western Electric for 35 years, where he also began the Explorer Scout Post.

John "Buffy" Martin '54, 73, of Lawrence, Mass., died June 27, 2001 at the Greenes Extended Care Center in North Andover. He worked as a teacher and assistant principal for 32 years in Andover, Lawrence, Mass., and Windham, N.H. schools. A veteran of World War II, he had served in the United States Army Air Corps.

Phillip Haggerty '55, a resident of Centerville, Mass., died October 30, 2001. He was a Vietnam-era Air Force veteran. He worked for Wausau Insurance for 32 years.

Frances R. Ryan '56, 84, of Andover, Mass., died May 9, 2001 at his daughter’s residence. Frances retired as a supervisor of the former Western Electric at Lucent Technologies, after 35 years of employment.

Hebert Barrett '56, 69, of Burlington, Mass., died September 3, 2001. He was an engineer for Raytheon Missile Division for 35 years. For nine years after retirement, he worked for his son Stephen’s accounting practice.

Joe Foley '57, 60, of Somerville, Mass., died May 10, 2001 at his sister’s home in Exeter, N.H. He was a teacher and assistant principal in the Somerville, Mass., school system for 40 years.

John Quinn '56, 64, of Framingham, Mass., died January 10 at his home. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he served from 1969-1966. He was self-employed for many years as a manufacturer’s representative of printed circuit boards.

Harold Hersey '62, 65, of Groveland, Mass., died October 1, 2001 at home. Harold was an Army veteran of the Korean War. He was employed at AT&T for 34 years.

Martin Freeman '65, 64, of Beverly, Mass., died June 24, 2001 at home after a long battle with colon cancer. Martin served in the U.S. Navy. He worked for GTE Government Systems as an electrical engineer, and was also a lawyer and a member of the Essex and Worcester County bar associations.

Evelyn Tyree (Doherty) Thornton '66, 56, of Hamden, Conn., died February 3, 2001. She was the wife of Wally E. Thornton '64. She was a teacher in the Region 12 District.

Francis Flattery '67, 59, lifelong resident of Manchester-by-the-Sea, Mass., died October 16, 2001. He was employed for a number of years as a professional electrical engineer for the Westinghouse and Western Electric corporations before embarking on a new career in law. He practiced law in Manchester-by-the-Sea for the past 27 years, and was the town counsel and counsel to the housing authority.

Robert W. Kramer '70, 52, passed away January 23, 2001. He worked for 30 years at Lucent Technologies where he was a project manager.

Patrick Cullen '70, 51, died suddenly on October 22, 2001 in Chelsea, Mass. He was a longtime resident of Tewksbury, Mass. He worked as a longshoreman for 25 years as a member of the Boston Shipping Association's Longshoremen's Association Local 799.

Ralph (Sokol) Sobel '73, 69, of Metlo, Calif., died June 15, 2001. Ralph was a homemaker and a member of several religious organizations. She lived in Lawrence, Mass. and Andover before moving to Metlo three years ago.

Greg Comisky Sr. '74, 49, of Estral, N.J., died on June 16, 2001 after receiving a heart transplant at Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia. He was married to Danielle (O’Leary) ‘74. Greg courageously lived and waited at Temple Hospital for 10 months before receiving his heart. He was the president and CEO of Comisky Construction for 20 years, a company he founded.

David Lewis '71, 56, of Cooperfield Drive, Madison, Conn., died November 1, 2001 at JFK Memorial Hospital in Westfield, Mass., having recently moved to Westfield 10 years ago. He was a high school football and baseball covers for the Eagle-Funnel.

Ralph B. Vincent '77, 68, formerly of Kingston, N.H., died April 28, 2001 at Baystate Hospital (Marion County Hospital), Ocala, Fla., after a brief illness. Robert was a retired supervisor for AFTE at North Andover. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War and Vietnam War, receiving a bronze star for his military service.

Patricia Sullivan Porter '74, 50, of Dedham, Mass., a homemaker, died April 1, 2001 in an automobile accident. She was a former Hare Model and the owner of the Merrimack Room at The Scout. She worked as a teacher in Minnesota and as a social worker in Massachusetts.

George Rembis Jr. '74, 61, of Hudson, N.H., died March 5, 2001 at his home. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he employed as a physical engineer with the former Bell Labs, now Lucent Technologies, for 32 years.

Jeffrey "Joy" Bowe '75, 47, of Rochland, Mass., formerly of Melrose, Mass., died September 2, 2001 at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, Mass. He was a graduate of Boston College before earning his degree in human resource administration in 1988.

Mary Taufenhan Papalarado '75, 54, of Methuen, Mass., and Lawrence, Mass., died September 11, 2001. She was a passenger on United Airlines Flight 175. Marie worked as a coordinator for AIA Inc. in Paramount Calif.

Robert Scott '75, 63, of Georgetown, Mass., died November 24, 2001 at Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport, Mass., after a brief illness. He was a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (I.E.E.E.) and had worked at Osram Schott in Denmark for 35 years. He was an Air Force veteran.

Robert Benedict '77, 46, formerly of Kingman, N.H., died April 28, 2001 at Schra's House (Marion County Hospital), Ocala, Fla., after a brief illness. Robert was a retired supervisor for AFTE at North Andover. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War and Vietnam War, receiving a bronze star for his military service.

Betty Lavelle '77, 57, of Wakefield, Mass., died September 21, 2001 in an automobile accident. She was a former Hare Model and the owner of the Merrimack Room at The Scout. She worked as a teacher in Minnesota and as a social worker in Massachusetts.

Greg Comisky Jr. '74, 49, of Estral, N.J., died June 16, 2001 after receiving a heart transplant at Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia. He was married to Danielle (O’Leary) ‘74. Greg courageously lived and waited at Temple Hospital for 10 months before receiving his heart. He was the president and CEO of Comisky Construction for 20 years, a company he founded.

She was a member of the Esposito and Worcester County bar associations.

Sylvia's House (Essex County Hospice), North Andover. She was a former Hare Model and the owner of the Merrimack Room at The Scout. She worked as a teacher in Minnesota and as a social worker in Massachusetts.

Marie (Taufenhan) Papalarado '75, 54, formerly of Methuen, Mass., and Lawrence, Mass., died September 11, 2001. She was a passenger on United Airlines Flight 175. Marie worked as a coordinator for AIA Inc. in Paramount Calif.

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We'd like to hear more about you!!

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

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Nickname if preferred

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Home Telephone

Business Telephone

Email address

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My previous address was

Employed by

Position

Business Address

City/State/Zip

Here's my news:

Merrimack Class Year

Degree

Major

Spouse's Name (include maiden name and Merrimack year if applicable)

Children's Names, Birthdates, Other Information

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☐ Class Agents  ☐ Reunion

IN HONOR OF CRAIG WOOD

After their good friend and fellow alumni Craig Wood '95 was killed tragically the day after Christmas 2000 while working at Edgewater Technologies, friends of Craig wanted to remember and honor him. As a tribute to Craig, his love of Merrimack College, and his giving spirit, they established the Craig W. Wood '95 Scholarship Fund. Last June they hosted the first Craig Wood '95 Classic Golf Tournament, raising $27,000. This is the first year that a student will benefit from the annual endowed scholarship.

The second annual Craig Wood Classic will be held on June 21, 2002 at the Sheraton Colonial in Wakefield, Mass. For information on the golf tournament, contact Chris Gaudelet (978) 886-6468, ext. 3511. To make a donation to the scholarship fund in Craig's name, please send a check payable to Merrimack College, Donor Relations Office, Box A-8, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover, MA 01845.

NEW ALUMNI COUNCIL INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE RESOURCES

Find yourself at the crossroads of your professional life? A new Alumni Council initiative, CHAT is a support service designed to assist alumni who may be re-entering the workforce, changing career paths, have been recently laid off and searching for a position, or even exploring consulting options. Starting in fall 2002, Coming Home: Alumni in Transition (CHAT) will provide resources, i.e. professional journals, newspapers, computers with Internet access, to assist in job searches. Whether your job-search skills are just a bit rusty or you just need a confidence booster, CHAT workshops on interviewing, resume writing and related topics will meet the needs of many alumni. Watch for more information on CHAT in the next issue of Merrimack.

ALUMNI BASEBALL TOURNAMENT SWINGS INTO ACTION

Last October the first annual Warrior Alumni Baseball Golf Tournament was held at Far Corners golf course in Boxford, Mass. Over 30 former players, from classes 1987 to 2000, participated in the event with the foursome of Terry Hurley '94, Mike Dorosko '94, Chris Gajnos '94, and Brendan Reen '96 taking home the coveted trophy. Anyone interested in playing in this scramble format event in future years can mark the first Saturday in October on their calendars.

For more information or to sign up for the October 2002 tournament, email one of the following people:

Garrett Larkin at arkin_garrett@emc.com

Scott Robillard at s_robbird@yahoo.com

Terry Hurley at terrance hurley@hmc.org

Two Continuing Education students were presented with $500 scholarships from the Andover-North Andover Rotary Club last fall thanks to the efforts of DCE graduate and CEDAR committee member Bob Barlow's '94. Christine Williams of Methuen and Patricia Archambault of Tewksbury were each awarded this scholarship toward their tuition.
Dear Fellow Alumni,

I trust that you have survived the winter. For us in New England it has been a particularly mild one with little snow, a blend that I suspect frustrated some and delighted many others. As meteorologists compile the statistics that tell just how warm these past few months have really been, I can assure you that their readings will be dwarfed by the heat of the fire radiating from your alumni council. I am speaking specifically about two alumni initiatives that were ignited at this fall’s alumni council meeting, and about the delight and pride emanating from alumni as they visit the campus and discover the renaissance that has enveloped our alma mater.

Inspired by a Merrimack presentation, Council members, including 1986 classmates Sheryl York and Linda DeCiccio, went into immediate action to form a new committee to aid their efforts. Called Community Connection (communityconnection@hotmail.com), its initial mission is to encourage alumni to join in outreach to the Lawrence community, focusing initially on the needs of Lazarus House and Bread and Roses. They are anxious to enlist interested alumni to participate, so please consider contacting Sheryl and Linda at their new e-mail address.

Driven by the vision and enthusiasm of Claire Golden ’87, CHAT (Coming Home Alumni in Transition) is a newly proposed initiative of the Alumni Resource Committee. Consistent with the broader mission of that committee, the purpose of CHAT is to provide networking and other tools in finding a new job or career path. These tools may include workshops on interview skills or resume writing, or how to conduct a job search on the Internet.

With each passing month more and more alumni return to campus and discover the transformation. I want to encourage you to do even more. Don’t just come and take a quick look. Instead, come, look, and plan to return often. See a show in the Rogers Center, enjoy a game in the Volpe or on the athletic fields, visit the library, hear a visiting lecturer or take a class. There are countless opportunities and activities throughout the year, most of which you will find listed on the college website at www.merrimack.edu.

A renaissance rooted in the long-standing Augustinian tradition and history that has marked Merrimack since 1947 is what captivates and delights returning alumni. With that closing thought, I invite you to experience the excitement yourself, and encourage you to take pride in our alma mater.

Bob Carmichael ’78

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**Upcoming Events**

- **May 7** Opera New England presents “The Daughter of the Regiment”; Rogers Center for the Arts
- **May 15** Friends of Merrimack Annual Dinner
- **May 20** Commencement
- **June 7 and 8** REUNION 2002 – Honoring the classes of 1952; ’57; ’62; ’67; ’72; ’77; ’82; ’87; ’92; and ’97.
- **June 21** Craig Wood ’95 Classic Golf Tournament
- **July 19-20** Merrimack Valley Players present “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying”; Rogers Center for the Arts

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**The Charitable Gift Annuity Provides Income for Life to Donors**

Last year as the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1951’s graduation drew near, the discussion arose of an appropriate class gift. Eileen and I wanted to participate within our means and learned about the mutual benefits of a charitable gift annuity at Merrimack College. We chose that form of giving and we are glad we did.

Later, when my former classmates recommended that the class gift take the form of a scholarship, we were even more pleased. We felt that not only would this perpetuate the unique place of the Class of ’51 in the annals of Merrimack College, but it would also pay homage to the growth of the college and become part of its promising future.

— Larry ’51 and Eileen Morrisroe, Spring 2002

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**To Learn More About a Charitable Gift Annuity, and How It Can Benefit Both You and the College, Please Call Merrimack College at 1-800-210-8695.**

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**Merrimack College Office of Institutional Advancement**

C/o Elizabeth Magliozzi, 315 Turnpike Street, N. Andover, MA 01845 1-800-210-8695/978-287-5136

- Yes! Please send me information on charitable gift annuities.
- For a personalized example:
  - My date of birth ________________ Second beneficiary’s date of birth ________________
  - Amount of gift ________________ ($10,000 minimum gift amount)
  - I have already included Merrimack College in my estate plans through my will, a trust arrangement, other ________________

Name (please print) ___________________________
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City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______
Class Year ___________ Telephone ___________
E-Mail Address ___________________________

This information is strictly confidential.