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A Fitness Center, a Space for Student Organizations

Merrimack College

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INSIDE:
A fitness center, space for student organizations, and areas for prayer anchor plans for Gildea’s renovation and expansion.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Goal
Is Ambitious
but Achievable

Merrimack's fiftieth anniversary is an auspicious moment in the College's history. This past year saw many unprecedented changes. While the many positive changes and tremendous growth we have experienced are full of promise in and of themselves, we have also proved that our dreams for Merrimack College can be, and indeed, in many areas, have already been realized. It is, therefore, with great confidence and a real sense of privilege that I share with you the formal inauguration of The Campaign for Merrimack College and our ambitious, but achievable, goal of $25 million.

It is my privilege to report to you that we have already exceeded the halfway point toward our common goal - with $13 million in gifts and pledges received, and, notably, 5 seven figure commitments - the first in the College's history. Your support thus far has given us the confidence that the path we have started on is a journey we will successfully complete.

The theme of the Campaign for Merrimack is "Awaken the Minds and Hearts of a New Generation." In this issue of Merrimack you will read about leadership and the courage necessary to pursue a higher vision. We see how Merrimack is carrying forth St. Augustine's message, how Merrimack transforms people's lives and how we strive to make a very real difference in the world we live in, now and for the next millennium, one student at a time.

For Merrimack, the time has come. After a half century of sure and steady progress, the College is poised to break into the front ranks of the nation's Catholic institutions. Now the College must seize the moment and go forward. Our strength lies in our foundation - in our values - in our Augustinian tradition. Together, let us raise our vision of Merrimack to become the pre-eminent Catholic College in the Northeast.

"Leaders don't force people to follow - they invite them on a journey," said author Charles S. Lauer. As the president of Merrimack College, I invite each of you along on our mission - our exciting journey - to accept the challenge to awaken the minds and hearts of future generations. Join Merrimack as it continues the journey it started fifty years ago.

At the culmination of our Fiftieth Anniversary celebration, an advertisement promoting the College ran in several national newspapers, including The New York Times. We've reproduced the ad, at a much smaller size than the original, on the inside back cover of this issue. Be sure to take a look.

At the capstone celebration for the College's fiftieth anniversary, President Santagati enjoyed the company of several student leaders. Shown above, left to right, are Stacy Dell'Orfano, Stacy Smart, Heath Stone, and Christine Venzel.
It's about passion. Everyone desires it, but few can actually lay claim to it. It's about knowing what you want and going after it. It's not a fragrance. It's leadership.

"Reagan had the ability to communicate what he wanted. JFK galvanized the nation with his ability to communicate." — Dr. Peter Ford

Good managers need to be good leaders," Koziell says. Inspiring people to do things they might not want to do is a perennial management challenge.

General Charles de Gaulle, addressing a meeting during his campaign for president of France in 1948. DeGaulle topped Dr. Peter Ford's list of great leaders in history. Ford is a professor of history at Merrimack.
The Hon. Michael T. Stella Jr. ’65

its most difficult periods, and he was effective largely because he came into office with a program and executed it. “Reagan had the ability to communicate what he wanted,” Ford says. Good communication skills are a must for a leader. “JFK galvanized the nation with his ability to communicate what he wanted.”

But Ford wouldn’t place either president in the same category as Charles de Gaulle. In fact, he says of current national and international would-be leaders, “the landscape is kind of barren.”

A Practical Approach

Often, the greatest leaders of all are those who work closer to home. Michael T. Stella Jr. ’65, first justice of the Lawrence Division of the Massachusetts Trial Court and a new member of Merrimack’s Board of Trustees, said, “The people at the Boys’ Club feed 350 kids every night. These kids might not eat otherwise. They are the real leaders. They go out and make an impact on people’s lives.”

As the presiding judge at the court, Stella is, by virtue of his position, a top leader in his community. To get there, he stood for a grueling vetting process, which included lengthy background checks by both the Governor’s office and the Massachusetts Bar Association; interviews with the Governor’s top staff; and an open hearing before the Governor’s Council, an elected body which must approve all gubernatorial appointments.

“You have to be able to hold up an untarnished reputation,” Stella said.

His advice for those seeking to build on their own leadership skills is to get involved in the community. “You have to prove yourself with a basis in community involvement,” he said. “It makes it easier if it’s in conjunction with your career path.”

Stella worked with Greater Lawrence Family Services; Reality Inc., the state’s first inpatient drug facility; the Lions Club; and the Chamber of Commerce, to name a few.

Through his involvement, Stella built a strong network of friends and professional acquaintances. “They know my reputation. I know theirs.”

He began building that network at Merrimack, and said, “I attribute all my success to what I did at Merrimack” — since he met his wife, Barbara A. (Donovan) ’67, while he was in college.

At the college today, Stella says, the popularity of Merrimack’s student service organization, in evidence that many Merrimack students are well on their way to becoming leaders. “They’re getting involved. They’re sacrificing. That’s what leadership is. It’s a commitment,” he said. “And sometimes, it’s a sacrifice.”

4 KEYS TO IMPROVING YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Leadership is both an art and a science, and most experts believe that it can be learned. So what can you do to maximize your potential? Here are some tips.

Have a plan — Whether you’re FDR with a depression-relieving alphabet soup of programs or the accounting manager intent on easing the pain of audit time, you need a roadmap. Without one, you can’t be an effective leader. You’ll be too busy asking for directions.

Hone your communication skills — Great leaders are great talkers. Like Reagan, their words paint pictures people can relate to. Remember: listening skills are key, too.

Build a strong network of friends — Judge Michael T. Stella Jr. ’65 says that the greatest benefit of having a large circle of friends is knowing people who can get things done. “If you’re a general in the army, you have to know who your lieutenants and corporals are,” he said.

Be sincere — The people you’re trying to lead will intuitively know whether or not you’re honest. You don’t have to sing La Marseillaise, but it might help.

Awakening the Minds and Hearts of a New Generation

"After a half century of progress, Merrimack College is poised to break into the front ranks of the nation’s Catholic institutions."

President Richard J. Santagati
Merrimack College: The Next Fifty Years
The Capital Campaign is the Means to Merrimack's Excellence

Merrimack College has a plan to meet the challenge of the next fifty years, the challenge to become the pre-eminent small Catholic college in the Northeast. That plan involves raising $25 million, money that will be used to upgrade facilities and enhance the quality of a Merrimack College education.

The vision
Since assuming the presidency, Richard J. Santagati has led the community in a provocative and challenging, campus-wide discussion on where we've been and where we're going. In those discussions, President Santagati hoped to discover both what makes Merrimack special and how to build on the college's strength to thus meet the goal of becoming the pre-eminent small Catholic college in the Northeast.

The answer to the first question quickly became clear. At Merrimack, students get more than an education. A Merrimack College education awakens both the hearts and the minds of its students.

The answer to the second seemed to coalesce around a set of four immediate needs, needs that must be met before the college can move forward.

Merrimack, the community agreed, needs to build a new multi-purpose campus envisioned for Merrimack's future. First is the college's strength to thus build on the college's strength to thus meet the goal of becoming the pre-eminent small Catholic college in the Northeast.

The answer to the second question eventually approved by the board had already been raised.

Where the money will go
The plan developed for building the sophisticated and academically superior campus envisioned for Merrimack's future is perhaps the primary reason the campaign staff and volunteers have had success in obtaining the early, pace setting gifts.

Nearly half of the money will go to improving the college's physical plant. The expansion and renovation of Gildea Hall, long overdue, will provide a hub for campus life. Proposed as a creative mix of athletic spaces, small conversational areas, and larger forums for speakers, the center will serve as the focus of social, recreational and learning activities on campus.

The complex will house offices for student activities, an information center, a chapel, Campus Ministry, Career Services, and various eateries, including an outdoor dining courtyard. A recreation wing will provide space for aerobics, dance, locker rooms, squash and racquetball courts, and a health and wellness center.

The center for the arts will serve not only the college but the entire region. Thanks to a gift from the Rogers Family Foundation, the proposed center will be a 500-seat auditorium; an orchestra pit; an art gallery; and state-of-the-art acoustics, lighting, and sound systems.

Other money raised will be dedicated to increasing Merrimack's endowment, improving the college's information technology; and increasing the funds for new program initiatives, faculty support and financial aid.

Especially important to the campaign is a 50-year old gift of $1 million from the Order of St. Augustine's Provincial of St. Thomas of Villanova. The gift will enable the college to establish The Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy. The unprecedented show of support from our founding order will help articulate our unique identity as a Catholic and Augustinian college.

The campaign seeks an additional $7 million in endowment funding. For small institutions like Merrimack, which depend heavily on tuition income, endowments are the financial buffer that allows the college to hold tuition rates down while still enhancing the academic program.

Student financial aid will account for $3 million; another $3 million will endow faculty chairs; and $1 million will be earmarked to support the new campus center.

In a related goal, the campaign seeks to increase the amount of money raised through the Annual Fund. Growth in the Annual Fund will ease the financial aid burden, and will help the College extend its academic support services and other initiatives and ongoing programs.

Improvements in information technology are crucial to Merrimack's competitiveness. Interactive multimedia technology, common now at many colleges and universities, still remains uncommon at Merrimack. "Smart classrooms" where every student has access to an interactive multimedia computer - allows students to work in groups, analyze and discuss complicated data, and share ideas across the campus or across the globe.

Such classrooms support a hands-on approach to teaching, sharpen critical thinking, and help develop and hone interdisciplinary research skills. Quite simply, they transform the educational experience by becoming the network that strengthens and binds the academic community.

Upgraded technology will speed registration and other administrative functions, and will give students an easy way to get all the facts they need in one place: Merrimack plans to set up computer kiosks around campus so students may register for classes, check their grades or the status of their accounts, check cafeteria menus, or access information on such activities as sports and social functions.

The improvements, like all of the campaign's proposals, will help make the campus more vibrant and cohesive.

Alumni are vital to success
Rightly, the members of the Campaign for Merrimack's Steering Committee are all graduates of the college. These leaders have already raised millions for the college, and they will be on the front line as millions more are raised to support the campaign.

As the Capital Campaign progresses, the college's graduates will continue to be critical to its success. The alumni participation rate, or the percentage of alumni giving to the college's annual fund, has risen by 36 percent over the last four years, and is on track to have doubled by campaign's end.

While the monetary value of contributions made by alumni is of primary importance, strength in alumni giving has collateral benefit.

Grant-awardng foundations, from which Merrimack receives a great deal of support, nearly always ask the percentage of graduates who contribute to the college. This number is considered a good indicator of the college's institutional health.

Merrimack is fortunate to have graduated gifted and generous people in its first half-century. Today, the college finds itself on the cusp of an era - one in which it will develop into one of the finest small Catholic colleges in the nation.

Friars Pledge $1M for Augustinian Center
Thanks to Merrimack's founding Fathers, the North Andover campus will soon be home to a national think-tank for inquiry into the life and teachings of St. Augustine.

The Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, the Order of St. Augustine has pledged $1 million to create the Center. St. Augustine, a fifth-century theologian and scholar, influenced many academic disciplines, including philosophy, theology, spirituality, history and science.

"The Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy at Merrimack College will be an invaluable source of research, study, and education on St. Augustine and the Augustinian Order. Augustine's spiritual message of building community among people and appreciating the richness in diversity has never been more appropriate," the Very Reverend John E. Deegan, O.S.A., said. Father Deegan is the Prior Provincial of the Province and served at Merrimack's fourth president from 1981 to 1994.

"As we celebrate our fifteenth anniversary, Merrimack is demonstrating to a complex and sometimes troubled world that Augustinian ideals are now more relevant than ever. The Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy will carry forward the Augustinian heritage so firmly established here at Merrimack during our first fifty years," said President Santagati.

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1. Early Supporters: The family foundation represented by Jacqueline and Irving E. Rogers Jr. pledged $1.5 million to build a cultural arts center on the North Andover campus, helping to build the campaign's considerable momentum.

2. Sister Elaine Polcari, SSND, director of campus ministry; Trustee Alice R. Murray; Rev. Joseph Farrell, O.S.A., campus minister; and Ann Royal, staunch college supporter and widow of beloved math professor John Royal were all smiles as they helped launch the college into a new era.

3. Anne and Mary Regan sparkled for the camera.

4. Still laughing: Rita (Bonanno) Collins '56 obviously enjoyed the evening. She's pictured with hubby Ed '56, co-chairman of the capital campaign.

5. Maureen Lanigan, director of college fundraising events, shares a smile with the Hon. Michael T. Stelle Jr. '65, a newly elected member of the college's Board of Trustees.

6. Left to right are Alma and Joseph T. Kelley and Arleen Roche. Dr. Kelley is vice president for student life; Mrs. Roche, a dedicated member of the Friends of Merrimack, is the wife of Kevin Roche '62, vice president of finance and chief financial officer of DOW JONES & Company, Inc. and a trustee of the college.

7. Attorney James J. McInnis '57, former trustee, and Dr. Robert Cosmo '69, chief economist at Boston Edison, chat with members of the Massachusetts Legislature: Representative Denise M. Cusano and Senator John D. O'Brien. Of course, Donna and Bob see a lot of each other on the home front.

8. Get Down: While speeches and commentary are de rigueur for such an event, Merrimackians know how to celebrate!

9. Old Friends: Pictured with President Santagati are Armita and S. Peter H'71 Volpe, generous supporters of the college. The Athletic Center is named for Mr. Volpe, formerly a member of the Board of Trustees.

10. Interim Dean of Science and Engineering Dr. Kathleen A. C. Smidler and her husband Stephen.

Photos by David M. Barron
LIFE ON CAMPUS: Leading by Example

An ongoing discussion about what makes Merrimack different focuses on resident life by Mary Beth Donovan, O.S.A.

Resident Director Cristina Delgado said she will never forget the evening Rev. Scott Ness, O.S.A., ‘94, arrived at Monican Center to bless the building. After leading prayers in the main lobby, Father Ness walked through the hallways, stopping before each resident’s door to sprinkle holy water and give a blessing. As he progressed, a growing number of students followed him. Others opened their doors to see what was going on.

While many students seemed a little intimidated by the event, they embraced it, said Delgado. “Father and his blessings were literally touching their lives, their personal space. It felt neat,” she said.

But unexpected, perfect moments happen for many students.

LIFE ON CAMPUS:
FROM THE HEART

“We have to be role models and have our values assessments in place. We need to teach them about the expectations that are expected of them.”
—Rev. Richard Jacobs, assistant to the president

George Scotti, a fifth year co-op student.

“Some come with a lot of baggage. They need to bolster their self-esteem and understanding. They may have had hurtful lives before they arrived here,” said Elaine Grant, director of resident life.

And in the face of all that, living on campus contributes in large part to the intellectual and emotional growth for many college students.

“As parents,” said Janet Smart, “we hoped our children would experience and grow in the same spiritual values we taught them at home, but in a more adult way. Campus residency can provide for that need, as we’ve seen at Merrimack with our daughter, Stacy.”

Add these issues and expectations to the everyday struggles of getting laundry done, being a witness to every-one you know, and trying to study, and problems can crop up.

That is why resident life is so crucial to the college’s educational program, and why the people involved in resident life must be knowledgeable in their leadership roles, participants said.

“Jesus taught by leading,” said George Scotti, a fifth year co-op student. “We have to be role models and have our values assessments in place. We must challenge by example and get others to buy into it.”

A student resident advisor, for instance, who spends a night drinking and when on duty chastises his students for drinking will get no results or respect, he said.

Other staff members said their mistakes and difficulties adjusting to campus life encouraged them to seek advice from other students. Erica DeSimone, a fifth-year senior and resident advisor, said she used to leave campus every Friday afternoon and return Sunday nights. She and her roommate had a rocky relationship. She turned to a student advisor for help and found that she was able to transform the whole experience into a positive one.

Now, she takes great satisfaction in helping other students through their own adjustment struggles. When students knock on her door with a simple question they probably know the answer to, DeSimone knows they really just want to talk. She always invites them in.

At the beginning of this school year, DeSimone read a poem about self value and respect to the young women on her floor. While some giggled at the message which celebrated traditional values, others bowed her and asked for copies. “They may not know it at the time, but some of these students are really looking for that, he said. “They have to be ready to offer it.” DeSimone said.

Waluk said he was at first very disappointed by campus life. A serious student, he had a hard time fitting in when he felt others were devoting more time to socializing than studying. “At first I hated it. It was not what I expected and I suffered for that,” he said. He became a resident advisor to help people who may feel as he did.

The secret to keeping the Merrimack spirit alive for everyone is not only in gestures of understanding and empathy, but in sending clear messages of what is expected and what constitutes responsible behavior, the participants said. “From the first day of school,” one student said, “there are meetings and messages designed to tell students what is expected of them.”

“There’s a dilemma that resident life personnel in every college confronts, the same challenge that we parents deal with all the time. That is, we all talk about what will do things we’d prefer they wouldn’t. So, the question is, how will the college bring that to the forefront? “What is expected of them?” asked Bill Gibelli, a parent whose son is a first-year student.

Gibelli suggested that the college formulate a statement of principles which students and their parents agree to when they come to Merrimack. He also suggested that these principles be used to guide decision-making when students go too far.

Whether codified or not, all rules seem to lead back to the Golden Rule. “Respect for others,” Gibelli added, rephrasing the adage: “Respect each other and the campus community.”

“Rules can be helpful to students. But there has to be consistent follow through,” said Grant.

Waluk suggested the rules might be easier to follow if there were more open discussion about why they exist. “If we work together as a faculty, think it would be more helpful to students.

Resident life must be knowledgeable in their leadership roles, participants said.

John DeSimone, a fifth-year senior and residence hall director, said he has found his own way to spread the word that Merrimack is a Catholic institution based on St. Augustine’s teachings.

Each weekend, before he goes to Mass, he puts on a tie and makes his way through his dorm making small talk. Ideally someone will ask why he is dressed up. “I’m going to Mass. Want to come?” is his stock answer. Sometimes, he gets takers.

And when his friend Father Ness visits, Waluk likes to leave his door open. Students walking by typically do double takes when they see a priest. Not so long ago, every dorm had an Augustinian in residence, said Waluk. “This is my way of bringing the Church back to resident halls, and if we can come up with something to do, why should it be so strange now?”

LIFE ON CAMPUS:
FROM THE HEART

Students walking by typically do double takes when they see a priest. Not so long ago, every dorm had an Augustinian in residence, said Waluk. “This is my way of bringing the Church back to resident halls, and if we can come up with something to do, why should it be so strange now?”

Among the needs identified by participants in the discussions were better athletic training and workout facilities, common spaces for informal gatherings and conversation, and more formal, comfortable, and quiet spaces for reading and reflection. The student shows these studies in the midst of the bustling Warriors’ Den.
In August of this year, Merrimack will open a new residence hall, a home away from home for three hundred first-year students.

The John E. Deegan, O.S.A., Hall, named after former Merrimack College president and Prior Provincial of the Augustinians, will be state-of-the-art. All rooms will be wired for data, voice, and video. There will be conference rooms, computer rooms, and three lounges on each floor. But the building will be much more than new bricks and mortar and sophisticated technology, promises Dr. Joseph T. Kelley, vice president for student life.

"It will shift the culture of the campus, and what happens there will be very visible to everyone on campus," Kelley said. "The idea is to help the first-year students create a real sense of community."

Some classes or seminars for first-year students may be held in the new hall's conference rooms. Commuter students will be invited to use the lounges and other common areas. Merrimack leaders began talking about building three years ago, when it became evident that the college's growing national and international reputation was attracting more students who wanted to live on campus. Elaine Grant, director of residential life, said an increasing number of students from area communities have also been opting to live on campus rather than commute.

"And every year it has been getting a little bit more crowded," said Kelley. Currently there are 1160 residents on campus, while technically there is only room for 1060. As a result, three students might live in rooms created for two or, instead of four students sharing a suite, there are five.

"Given that trend and the future we are predicting for increased demand, it became obvious this is what we need," Kelley said.

Construction on the $10 million project started in August and has been on schedule and under budget. Visible in the background, for points of reference, are Cascia Hall's steeple, the top of O'Reilly Hall, McQuade Library, and the Mendel Center.

"People will open a new residence hall, a home away from home for three hundred first-year students next year. The residence hall aims to provide more than just new bricks and mortar. It will shift the culture of the campus, and what happens there will be very visible to everyone on campus," Kelley said. "The idea is to help the first-year students create a real sense of community."
Unusual Message Sounds at Academic Convocation

Unusual Message Sounds at Academic Convocation

The event was the culmination of a series of ceremonies marking the opening of the new academic year.

Dr. Jane Tompkins signs a copy of her book, A Life in School, for Merrimack student, Robert Koen, after Academic Convocation. Tompkins' message — that most of what is important in life isn't learned in school — is one Merrimack students are encouraged to examine.

Unusual Message Sounds at Academic Convocation

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Talking Theology

Adults are being offered an opportunity to go back to school — CCD, actually — at an area parish, and Merrimack is helping make it possible.

A two-year series of theological discussions, entitled “Faith Seeking Understanding,” is planned at St. Michael Parish in North Andover. Noting that, once confirmed, most Catholics spend little or no time reflecting on the teachings of the church, the parish developed the series to help parishioners review and, perhaps, reframe their faith.

The faculty, drawn primarily from Merrimack, includes Dr. Joseph T. Kelley, vice president for Student Life; Dr. Jack Calareso, vice president of Academic Affairs; Rev. Scott Neos, O.S.A.; ‘84 and Rev. Joseph Farrell, O.S.A., campus ministers; and Dr. Warren Kay, associate professor of Religious Studies.

Origami Anyone?

by Jocelyne P. Fauerbacher

For many, math is a subject to struggle with. “Most people think of math as a four-letter word,” Dr. Tom Hull says with a grin. Hull began teaching math at Merrimack last fall. But give him some colored paper and a little time to fold it, and he can make it fun.

“Origami can be used to illustrate many math principles,” Hull says. Origami is the Japanese art of folding paper into decorative shapes. “By creating something, whether it be a sphere or a butterfly, kids learn to enjoy math. Origami helps by taking away the phobia that most kids associate with math.”

Hull was introduced to origami at the age of eight, while visiting an uncle in Boston. His uncle handed him an origami book and his affinity for folding paper took hold then and there.

“I remember folding my first model out of tinfoil on the car ride home,” he says. “As a kid you want to do anything having to do with spatial relations — including puzzles, games — and origami.”

As an undergraduate at Hampshire College in Amherst, Hull started to explore the relationship between mathematics and origami. Although Hampshire does not require its students to declare a major, Hull concentrated on mathematics. He was encouraged by professors to continue exploring the relationship between math and origami, but there were limited resources and research available on the subject.

Hull’s origami research involves the paper’s crease patterns — networks of points and lines. It is this same type of research that is often used for understanding complicated phone and computer networks.

If you walk by his office in Mendel, you’ll see his paper creations from giant colorful spheres to winged demons adorning the bookshelves. Some models are based on algorithms, with patterns so intricate that no two colors intersect. Some of the designs are so intricate, it’s hard to imagine they’re just folded pieces of paper. One model was a few years in the making.

So the next time you get stuck folding that paper swan or solving a tricky math problem, you know who to call.
HELP WANTED

Wanted: Good people to help shape the future of our alma mater.
Qualifications: A willingness to make new friends, try new things, and have fun, too.
If this sounds like you, consider joining the growing group of alumni volunteers actively participating and contributing to the success of the college and its programs. For information about any of these programs, contact the alumni director, Susan A. Wojtas '79 at swojtas@merrimack.edu or call the alumni office at (978) 837-5440, fax (978) 837-5225 or return the form at right.

Alumni Ambassadors
Enrollment and student quality at Merrimack are in great shape. Alumni play a big role in this success through the alumni ambassador program. Help supplement the admission office’s efforts to attract and enroll quality students by participating in our fall and spring phonathons to high school students, representing Merrimack at a college fair, or hosting a reception for accepted students.

Fundraising
Alumni make the difference in the success of our fundraising efforts. Our continued success as an institution depends upon our ability to expand programs, provide scholarship assistance, and improve facilities. Volunteers can help contact other alumni or provide input for our corporate and foundation efforts.

Career Networking
The Career Networking/Alumni Resource list is maintained to provide job-hunting assistance to alumni and students. Career counseling is available. Contact us if you would like to be part of the network or need help in your own career.

Reunion
Seeing old classmates and friends brings back lots of happy memories. There are opportunities to contact classmates by serving on social and fund raising committees.

Regional Clubs
Regional clubs are a great way for you to have a little of Merrimack brought to your home town. We have clubs in the Delaware Valley (Philadelphia area), Washington, D.C., New York City, Southern New Hampshire, and Connecticut, and more are planned.

Continuing Education Alumni
Continuing Education Division alumni have their own alumni club, CEDAR (Continuing Education Division Alumni Reunited). Special events are held and a newsletter is published.

I WANT TO HELP

Name ____________________________
Class Year ______________________
Home Address ______________________
Home Telephone ______________________
Business Address ______________________
Business Telephone ______________________
Job Title ______________________

Please check programs of interest to you:
☒ Alumni Ambassadors
☒ Fundraising
☒ Career Networking
☒ Reunion
☒ Regional Clubs
☒ Continuing Education Alumni

Please return to Susan A. Wojtas '79
Director of Alumni Relations
Merrimack College
315 Turnpike St. Box A8
North Andover, MA 01845

When a student-athlete signs on to play for Merrimack College and Head Coach Ron Anderson, he is expected to do two things without question as hard as possible and graduate.

Those two objectives are the backbone of Anderson’s program, a program that graduated eight seniors last season and earned its first home ice berth in the Hockey East Championship Tournament.

The loss of eight seniors may be daunting to some but Anderson is optimistic. “I like what we have returning this season,” he said. “I think we have an awful lot coming if we can plug a few key holes.” Indeed, the Warriors have a lot coming back.

Merrimack welcomes seven of its top ten scorers back for the 1997-98 season, firepower that includes three of the top four scorers: senior alternate captain Casey Kesselring, junior alternate captain Rejean Stringer and junior sniper Kris Porter. Those three alone combined for 47 goals, 37 percent of Merrimack’s goal-scoring prowess, last season.

It was no mystery that goal scoring was what stoked the Warriors to their best Hockey East finish ever and it will be no different this season. “I think the big difference for us last season was our goal production in the second half of the season,” Anderson said. “We have three of our top four goal scorers back, and if some of the younger guys from last year take their game to the next level we should be all right.”

With that in mind, let’s look at the Merrimack College Warriors by position.
FORWARD
Senior Casey Kesseling caught fire in the second half of last season and fashioned a 15-game consecutive scoring streak that enabled him to lead the Warriors in that same category.

In that tradition, the Warriors boast defensemen. The blueliners have also finished among Hockey East's top five scorers. The Merrimack Top 50 All-Time scorers.

Martin Larocque returns for his senior year donning the captain's “C,” the only Warrior to have played in all 36 games last season. Senior Jason Feeley also returns for his final season in Merrimack’s blue and gold. The gritty winger will continue to add spark and desire as a Warrior forward. Sophomore Mike Rodrigues, a tough, “blue-collar player” type, will be a very creative offensive player. Sapienza returns to the Warrior hockey program after playing 10 games during his freshman season in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League and is a well-schooled, stand-up player who skated last season at Canterbury Prep.

DEFENSE
Junior Darrel Scoville stepped up his play in both ends of the ice and the offensive defensive mindset that he brought with him during last season with 23 points. Scoville will be vital in engineering the Warrior power play. Senior Ryan Guelter enters his final season in a leadership position that will force him to continue to perform in both ends of the ice. A gifted player who possesses poise, he will also play a significant part in the Warriors’ special teams.

Junior Roland Greille returns to action after breaking his wrist in last season’s second semester. Greille is a rugged blueliner whose toughness will be a key component in the defensive end of the ice. Junior Chris Silvestro enters the 1997-98 season with high expectations. After a season in which he returned from serious back problems, Silvestro played in 14 games last season. Fully rehabilitated, look for Silvestro to jump into the middle of Merrimack’s lineup.

Sophomore Andrew Fox returns after a freshman season in which he potted a goal and three assists in 25 games. Not a classic Merrimack defenceman in stature, Fox is a smart player who will move the puck well and use his body judiciously in denying opponents scoring opportunities. The Merrimack coaching staff see sophomore Mike Rodrigues as a tough, “blue-collar player” type of defenceman who plays a rugged game behind the blue line. With 16 games under his belt in his rookie season, Rodrigues looks ready to blossom.

Sophomore Tony White played in 22 games for the Warriors last season. Used primarily as a defenceman, White is a versatile player, valuable due to his offensive and defensive skills.

That sentiment is what Merrimack College men’s basketball coach Bert Hammel is counting on for the start of the 1997-98 season.

What follows is an insider’s guide to Warrior basketball.

FORWARDS
No. 40 Regional Carter One of the most physically gifted and talented blueliners to launch from the Merrimack campus, Reggie Carter enters his sophomore season with expectations that, if fulfilled, could make him one of the most revered athletes Coach Hammel has had in his program.

Hammel’s View: Coach Bert Hammel says of sophomore Reggie Carter, “He could be an all star in this conference.”

No. 22 Jeff Caron Junior Jeff Caron always seems to expect the new season in great shape. The 1997-98 season is no exception in that Caron arrived physically stronger and mentally tougher. With two years of collegiate experience, Caron could be a surprise star on the horizon.

Hammel’s View: Expected to increase his role in the offensive scheme...He has a better understanding of how to move without the ball...He is a very good outside shooter.

No. 32 Richard Barden Sophomore Richard Barden spent last season learning the game at the collegiate level. Barden played in eight games and hustled constantly.

Hammel’s View: Definitely has a better idea of the college game...He can compete at this level physically and will play a contributing role.

No. 33 Brian Johnson Sophomore Brian Johnson played in five last season and learned a great deal in his first year of collegiate basketball. He possesses a good shooting touch and should see more action this season. Hammel’s View: He could be the surprise player on the team this season...He is a player who can play on the perimeter, the post. He needs to believe in himself, that he can be a very good player.

No. 44 Kirk Stockwood After taking last season off, senior Kirk Stockwood returns to the Warrior program with renewed enthusiasm and determination. He is an extremely hard working who can shoot the ball and carry an offense when he hits.

Hammel’s View: Has come back with fire in his belly and wants to prove he can succeed again...He is physically and mentally ready to play this season...He is a tough kid who is ready to play.

MEN’S BASKETBALL OUTLOOK
“...he is a very intelligent player...He is a very intelligent player...He will benefit from the talented players that return...”

No. 20 Barry Spears: Hammel’s View: Will be eligible at Christmas and will play when he returns...Very athletic and has the ability to get to the basket...He can rebound with the big players despite his size...We expect big things.

No. 34 Michael Dunn: Hammel’s View: Had a great high school career at Central Catholic...He is a power forward and has great skills inside...It might take some time for him to adjust to this level of play but he should manage well.
Hard work will determine the path of Lady Warriors

Women’s basketball head coach Debbie Cogan sums up her 1997-98 team in two words: defense and run. Those two words will be the backbone of Cogan’s strategy as she enters her twelfth season behind the Merrimack bench. “We are going to be an exciting team to watch this season,” said Cogan. “We will be playing more up-tempo offense and work extremely hard in the defensive end of the court.”

Forwards

No.13 Lynn Gaglioti Senior co-captain Lynn Gaglioti will be the offensive catalyst for the Lady Warriors this season. She enters her final season having scored 741 points and will be the focus of Cogan’s perimeter game plan. Cogan’s View: A very important part of the team whom I will challenge constantly throughout the season...She could be one of the better players in the Northeast-10 this season and is vital to our program because of her experience and versatility.

No.20 Beth Kelly Senior Beth Kelly brings the emotional leadership a young team will need in order to compete in the Northeast-10 Conference. Kelly only played 12 games last season, but was plagued by injuries. Cogan’s View: Beth is our emotional leader...She will play the fouled position this year and we will count on her to take her emotion onto the court every night.

No.33 Amy Veilleux Senior co-captain Amy Veilleux rounds out the returning crop of forwards who will guide the Lady Warriors this season. Veilleux is a 6’1” center who played in 25 of 26 games last season. She is Merrimack’s main threat on the boards and will be expected to continue to show fierce determination in the paint. Cogan’s View: She is the foundation on the inside...Needs to be a leader on the floor every night and we will rely on her smarts.

Guards

No.3 Heather Cretella Sophomore Heather Cretella appeared in 18 games last season coming off the bench. Cretella is a tough guard who makes opponents work for every point they get. Cogan’s View: Had a good off-season and is more confident coming into this season...Will probably come off the bench and needs to be an aggressive player both offensively and defensively.

No.11 Megan Burke Came in last season as the starting point guard and led the Merrimack offensive charge. She played in all of the Lady Warriors 26 games last season and averaged 7.9 ppg and shot 81 percent from the free-throw line. Cogan’s View: Best off-season of any returning player...She worked extremely hard on the court as well as in the weight room...This year she will play in her more natural position as a two-guard...She deserves to have a good season because of her hard work.

No.32 Christie Proctor Sophomore Christie Proctor possesses a tenacious attitude when the scoring lane opens and she sets her sight on the hoop. Entering her second season of collegiate basketball, Proctor could become a very important player in the Merrimack scheme. Cogan’s View: She also worked very hard over the off-season...Offensively, she is very talented and we’ll expect big things from her after a lesson-filled freshman year...She has the potential to be a very good player in the NE-10.

No.34 Madeline Pagano Touted last season as one of the most fundamentally sound players to enter Merrimack, Pagano saw time in 13 of 18 games last season. As she enters her second season of play, playing time will increase and comfort-level will rise. Cogan’s View: Solid player who has improved...She is a solid fundamental player who will be able to stabilize force when she enters the game.

Newcomers

Coach Cogan and assistant coaches Julie Dabrowski and Ed Kelley welcome four position this year and we will bring the emotional leadership a young team will need in order to compete in the Northeast-10 Conference. Kelly only played 12 games last season, but was plagued by injuries. Cogan’s View: Beth is our emotional leader...She will play the fouled position this year and we will count on her to take her emotion onto the court every night.

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Another semester has come and gone at Merrimack and, as with each new year, changes are evident all around the campus. A new residence hall is under construction. Student life is expanding and expanded student center are in the works.

Despite all of the outward changes, the college remains committed to its mission as a Catholic, Augustinian institution of the professions, liberal arts, and sciences. This commitment to community, which grows directly out of Augustine's teachings, is reflected in the many activities of our alumni and our Alumni Council.

There are many opportunities to become more active in the alumni community. Elsewhere (page 16), you'll find a form with information on our subcommittees. It's our invitation to you to join us. I hope all of you will consider being part of the alumni team.

The Admissions Committee, chaired by Joe Daly '65, reported that more than 1,500 calls were made this last year by more than 225 alumni volunteers to prospective Merrimack applicants.

The Alumni Resource Committee, headed by Bill McAvoy '83, held its Career Networking Night in November for students and alumni. In addition, the committee sponsored the Alumni Resources Networking List, which included 800 alumni who are available for mock interviews, guidance, career planning, and most important networking.

The Student Liaison Committee, headed by Pat Bowman-Skeffington '98, focused on student life and student government, enhancing the college experience for our students by becoming student advocates.

The CEDAR (Continuing Education Division Alumni Reunited) Committee, our newest committee, is chaired by Kathy Newman. CEDAR publishes a newsletter for DCE students, faculty and alumni. The committee held receptions for DCE students, faculty and alumni throughout the year.

The Catholic Action Committee, this year under the leadership of Joanne Bibeau '78, organized a Night of Reflection and an Alumni Retreat in cooperation with the campus ministry office. The 1998 retreat will be led by campus minister Rev. Scott Noss, O.S.A. and held February 21. The night of reflection will be April 1.

The Nominating Committee has a new chairman, Rose DeStefano '54. As does every year, the committee nominated new council members and the officers and members of the executive board.

As president of the Alumni Council, I offer my personal thanks to the council members, alumni participants, and committee chairs for their dedication and support of these programs.

Every day is reunion at Central Catholic High School. More than 350 staff members are Merrimack graduates. They work in administration and teach and coach students. Left to right: Mary Beth Donovan George '80 of the development and alumni office, John Housianitis '81, accounting teacher; Shannon Butelli '90, girls' varsity basketball coach, Karen McManus '73, English teacher; Sally Hanlon '93, math teacher; Peter Peckelis '86, athletic director; Frances (Manninen) Cook '72, biology teacher; Robert Reardon '66, social studies director; Chris Sullivan '85, English teacher and admission director; Dan Corriff '79, business manager; Carol Petrella Cullen '73, math teacher; Dave De Filippo '70, guidance director; and Karen R. Barnes '72, vice principal. Missing are Vincent Pastore '85, math teacher; Richard Lourie '79, boys' varsity basketball coach; Kist Page '94, girls' varsity soccer; and Kurt Guerre '96, junior varsity girls' basketball. Central Catholic is a co-educational high school in Lawrence. It has 1,100 students from 30 different communities, is 65 years old and is run by the Marist Brothers.

There is a large student body, a strong athletic program, and a great reputation.

The Alumni Council, President's Letter

At the September council meeting, members heard committee reports. As you read over the minutes of the meeting, you'll see a tremendous depth and breadth of the contributions which alumni make to the college community.

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M76
Marie Cappello has been promoted to executive director for the Rockingham Economic Development Corp. in Exeter, N.H. The REDC provides economic development financing for growing and expanding businesses. They serve 27 communities in Rockingham County.

Wayne Lima's King's Row Band has been opening the act for three consecutive years at the Newburyport Musical Theatre in Rhode Island. The band released its new CD "By Request" this summer.

Julie A. Sidon has established a private practice as a certified public accountant in Gloucester, Mass. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Management from Bentley College. Julie was previously employed as a manager in Horowitz & Fitch, P.C., C.P.A.s, in Gloucester.

Dr. John W. Verbicky has been named president and chief executive officer of Chemfab Co. in Merrimack, N.H. John holds a doctorate in organic chemistry from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He lives in York Beach, Maine.

M77
Jack Walsh has been named director of inspectional services for the town of Framingham, Mass.

TOP: Hackers' committee members Tim Mayhaim '88 and Corin O'Quinell '87 are shown above with John Hippe '11, center of the women's longest drive hole. Below: WITTENWORTH! WinTomer the annual Hackers' Golf Tournament ( coward division) Bob Ad and Kelley Hollis ( Target) and Alison (McLaughlin) '87 and Kevin Lahiff '88.

Please Mr. Postman...

When we received word that Michael P. Walsh '78 was named postmaster in Salem, N.H., we weren't surprised. After all, Merrimack has a past with the post office. According to our records, a passel of parcels are processed by postmasters who are also, predictably, graduates of Merrimack. There's George Meuse '84 in Dunstable; Barry Begley '93 in Andover; John P. Meuer '84 in Hingham; John M. Driscoll '74 in Reading; and of course our own Paul Oar '94, master of Merrimack's posts.

M78
John F. Conforti has joined the executive team of R. M. Bradley & Co. Inc. in Boston as a residential broker. He was past president of the Downtown Council of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board's Residential Agent's Association, and in 1993 was named an award recipient of the Downtown Council of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board's Residential Agent's Association. His business development team at CORE Management Consulting was awarded to one person each year. 

Costs associated with the search for a donor are massive. Nancy Shattner Kilar '88 is looking for someone to save her life. She has been diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome, a rare, life-threatening disease. Her only hope is to find a compatible donor for a bone marrow transplant.

M79
Christopher Nicholas has completed the Asset Management Education Program offered by the National Endowment for Financial Education's Institute for Wealth Management. He is the principal of Nicholas Financial Services in Mansfield, Mass.

Thomas Selling has started his own civil and environmental engineering consulting company in Londonderry, N.H. He writes, "Business is great. Without the exceptional education I received at Merrimack, this would not have been possible. I'd like to thank each and every professor for their dedication and pursuit to seeing that each individual student excels to the best of their ability. My only regret — I wish I'd started my own company five years ago!"

M80
Gregory F. Fallon has joined the business management faculty at Siena Heights College in Adrian, Michigan. Fallon served in the US Navy and Marine Corps. He is also a member of the American Management Association, Service Corps of Retired Executives, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and A/C Engineers, and the Society of Naval Architects and Engineers. He and his wife, Marie, '81, live in Saline, Mich.

Joseph Humpsey is with Ameri-Pride in Connecticut, selling to major accounts in Connecticut, western Massachusetts and Westchester County N.Y. He and his wife, Maureen, live in Bradford, Conn., with their son Michael.

M81
Daniel A. Cameron is an account manager at Massachusetts Electric Company. He was recently elected director of the Everett Chamber of Commerce.

Christine (Burke) Goodwin is employed by Florida State University. She and her husband have recently been promoted to Director of the Oxford/FSU Adult Summer Program.

Mark M. Heffeman has been appointed an associate by R.M. Bradley & Company. He works in its Commercial Real Estate Brokerage division.

Howard Stanton III has been elected senior vice president and chief financial officer of the Caribbean Bank and Trust, a subsidiary of Cargill Bancorp, Inc.

Barry Sullivan has sold the accounting firm he co-founded, Sullivan & Dowks, to American Express Tax and Business Services, Inc. He will join American Express as a director and will relocate his office to Wakefield, Mass. In July he was elected President of the Beverly Rotary Club. Barry and his wife Susan live in Beverly, Mass.

M82
Mary Jackson is employed by Cash America International. She was promoted to vice president of government relations of the company.

Mary has been married to her husband Jerome for 17 years. They have three children, Laura, Katie, and Kelly.

M83
Say "Cream Cheese!" It is Philadelphia, after all. Bob Whalen '67, president of the Delafield Valley Alumni Club and Alty, Frank McG '82 are pictured at a Merrimack alumni donor held at the Philadelphia Country Club. John Driscoll, O.S.A., H '77 was the guest of honor at the event in recognition of his service to Merrimack as chaplain and trustee. Father Driscoll was recently named President of Villanova University.

M84
Merrimack alumni dinner held at the Philadelphia Country Club. Rev. John Howard Stanton III has been appointed an associate by R.M. Bradley & Company. He works in its Commercial Real Estate Brokerage division.

Mary and her husband Andrew.

M85
Two funds have been established to aid Nancy and her family. The Friends of Nancy Shattner Kilar Fund accepts tax-deductible donations. Costs associated with the search for a donor are massive. Nancy Shattner Kilar '88 is looking for someone to save her life. She has been diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome, a rare, life-threatening disease. Her only hope is to find a compatible donor for a bone marrow transplant.

M86
Jeff Higgins lives in Derry, N.H. With his family and has been a law practice. He will practice in the area of Elder Care Estate Planning, Family Law, and Personal Injury law.

M87
Robert Porcaro is a brokerage director for the Boston office of Baystate Financial Services. The firm specializes in estate planning for families and businesses. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two children, Jared and Nathan, and live in Walpole, Mass.

David Sullivan has been elected to the Board of Directors of Cargill & Co., P.C. as a shareholder in the accounting firm. He is a member of the firm's retail services group and specializes in evaluating and analyzing business operations. David is a member of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce and is president of the Boston Aid to the Blind. He is a member of the board of the New England Retail Financial Executives Association.

M88

Daniel Garvey '88

Jack Quinn lives in Manhattan and is the senior developer of the Lotus database for Jefferson Insurance.

M89
Louis Bonasera, a certified public accountant, is controller for the Massachusetts Health System Inc., a skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility. He is also pursuing a master of business administration degree at Northeastern University.

Kett (Wheeler) DiNapoli is a first grade teacher at the Lebanon Eton Elementary School in Reading, Mass.

M90
Carla Cruz-DeSimone received a pharmacy degree in communication. She is employed as a registered pharmacis

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Tell Us About Yourself
If you've received an award or a promotion...been married or had a baby...earned a graduate degree...moved...obtained a new job...celebrated a special anniversary...taken an exotic vacation...or have other news (or tantalizing bits of gossip) you'd like to share, write us. Send photos along, if you wish, the more colorful the better. Please complete the form below.

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Date ____________________________

Home Address __________________________

City/State/Zip ___________________________

Home Telephone ( )-____-____

Business Telephone ( )-____-____

This is a NEW address. My previous address was __________________________

Employed by ___________________________

Position ___________________________

Business Address __________________________

City/State/Zip __________________________

Here's what's NEWS!

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Say “Cheesburger in Paradise!” This group of Merrimack alumni danced to the left and danced to the right at the Jimmy Buffett concert in August. Back row, left to right: Bob Lanigan ’81, Brent Rafftery, Jen Mednis ’95, Shane Loughlin ’95, Paul Harding ’95, Dave Lanzoni ’95, Chris Ross ’95, and Mark Coble ’95. Front row, left to right: Lauren Lam principles, Catharine D’Angelo ’95, Mag Pollard ’95, Beth Anamol ’95, Kim Rayla ’95, Nancy Daly ’94, and Mike Connolly ’94.

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Mike Doneghey has been named head hockey coach at Fairfield University, a Division I Independent that plays in the ECAC South conference. Kieran Murray lives in Arlington and is a claims examiner with Lexington Insurance Company in Boston.

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George Bouskulas is a performance analyst at Fidelity Investments.

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Karen Smith graduated with a master’s degree in education from Western Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge. She was chosen by her classmates to deliver the student address at commencement. Karen works in the campus ministry department at Regis University in Denver, Colo., as the retreat director and Christian life communities coordinator.

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Karen K. Crawford has completed a second year in the Franciscan Futures Third Order Regular Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Loretto, Penn.

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Philip McMenamin has joined American Insulated Wire Corporation as Safety Manager for the Pawtucket, R.I. facility and is a member of the North Shore Association of Realtors.

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Michael Snyder recently had an accident in which he suffered a severe (but non-fatal) head injury. The accident occurred on the campus of Merrimack College, where he is a student.

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Vasilius Nol Mantia has earned a master’s degree from the Simmons Graduate School of Social Work.

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Tina A. Kenny has been appointed assistant district attorney in the Essex County District Attorney’s Office. She has been assigned to the Lawrence District Court and will be prosecuting criminal cases on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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Vasilius Nol Mantia has earned a master’s degree from the Simmons Graduate School of Social Work.

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Owen A. O’Connell transferred to the Becker College as an environmental engineer in the engineering, and support services section. She lives in Moodus, Conn.

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Mark Conway has completed a baccalaureate internship at the Winchester, Mass., County Club, the third ranked golf course in the state. He writes, “My bachelor’s degree from Merrimack has given me a huge advantage over others in my field. I have been able to move up quickly due to this.”

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Mark Fleming entertained audiences with his portrayal of the comic character Dogberry in the Shakespearean play “Much Ado About Nothing” at Madonna State Park in Newburyport, Mass.

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Jean Henchey transferred to Brussels, Belgium in March for her employer, the MITRE Corporation. She is a national representative and information systems engineer. When she’s not travelling around Europe on business, Jean says, she’s learning the local languages and flying around recreationally.

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Ferdinand Coelho has been added to the staff of the Massachusetts Personnel Division.

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Jeffrey M. Drucker has joined the Safeco Insurance Company as a Staff Accountant. The company is a subsidiary of Swiss Bank Corp., as a Staff Accountant. The company is a subsidiary of Swiss Bank Corp.

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Continuing Education Division graduates Clennon is chairman of ClDAR.

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Continuing Education Division Alumni Reunited.

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Sharing a Smile: Elizabeth Hutchison ’80, Barbara Reiger ’87, and Karen Ann Clemens. (Not shown: Sarah Langford) During Family Weekend last fall, all three were at the Merrimack College campus, where they graduated in 1987 and met at Merrimack College. They still maintain contact with each other. (Photo by John A. Chu.)

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Kevin O’Brien and wife Beth have bought a house in Wakefield, Mass. Kevin is a senior analyst at North Shore Bank’s Peabody office of the Massachusetts Association of Realtors.

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Alia Plausen is employed at Metaf USA Refining Corp., a subsidiary of Swiss Bank Corp., as a Staff Accountant. The company refines gold, silver, palladium, and platinum. She handles all the accounting aspects of the refinery.

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Michael Snyder recently had an article published in the technical journal IEEE Transactions on Broadcasting. Michael is a hardware development engineer for Avid Technology Inc., where he is involved in projects dealing with serial digital video.
Susan Palmucci '94 and Timothy Taylor at May's Chapel in Timonium, Md., March 8.

Carolyn Chamberlain '98 and Rodney Thompson abroad the Mount Washington on Lake Winnipesaukee, N.H., July 17.

Karen Mathews '88 and Peter Fine Jr. at St. Cecilia Church in Wilmington.

Robert Dominick Punzlin '88 and Richard Theroux at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Manchester, N.H.

Lisa Cole '90 and Richard Barthelemy at St. Mary of the Annunciation Church in Dracut.

Paul DeCoste '99 and Enera Reis at Merrimack College on July 1.

Debra Santomassino '89 and Scott Gray at Hampton United Methodist Church in Hampton Falls, N.H.

Kevin O'Brien '90 and Beth Kachinsky at St. Mary of the Hills Church in Milton, March 15.

At the marriage of Philip Manning '91 and Cindy LaSpina, a group of Merrimackians posed for a photo. Standing, left to right, are Kevin Maloney '91, Edward Cerruti '90, Nicole Romano '92, Larrie Paul '92, Sherry Frazier '92, the bride and groom; Julie DiElefips '92, and Erika (Knight) Cormier '92. Kneeling are Paul Manning, currently a Merrimack student; Michael DeBurro '91; David Mahoney '93; Claude Cormier '93 and Steve Elston '90.

A big Merrimack crowd turned out at the marriage of Heidi Vass '87 and Mark Gudaitis. Shown above are back row: Michael Wilks, Donna (Magnante) Wilks '86, Paul Cullinane '86, Jacky (Payce) DeCesare, Rich Peters '87, front row: Anne Marie (Mitchell) Magnante '86, Mike Barrett '85, Julie (Cahill) Cullinane '86, Pam (Feeney) Barrett '86, Susan (Rochelle) Reis '86, Cathy Gaudette '86, Tim (Doucet) Brave '86, Don (Breton) Gaudette '86, Dave Breton '84, and Karen (Sweeney) Stowe '86.
Ted Wynne ’86 and wife Susan: a son, Andrew Carlson, October 2.

Joyce (Saco) Buccheri ’84 and husband David: a daughter, Mia Christine, November 23, 1996. She joined sister Julie.

Christine (Youn) Eppolito ’84 and husband Patrick: a daughter, Lauren, April 21.

Mauria (Nellis) ’86 and husband Paul: a son, Aidan Daniel, February 1.

Mauria (O’Connor) ’86 and Frank: a daughter, Bridget Lauren, April 8. She joins sister Sally.

Maura (O’Day) Campion ’86 and husband Mike: a son, Matthew, December 24.

Amy (LaPonte) ’89 and James: a daughter, Jenna Noel, July 26. She joins brother Nicolas and sister Alexa.

Roger LaPonte, Jr. ’91 and wife Wendy: a son, Paul Matthew, July 6. Paul Matthew is also the grandson of Shirley (Salo) LaPonte ’52.

Peggie (Pellegrino) Beach ’89 and husband Raymond: a son, Christopher Joseph, March 1. She joins brother Raymond.

Sean Tierney ’89 and wife Gail: a son, Devon Sean, July 16.

Shelba (Biden) Shelley ’86 and husband Mark: a daughter, Caitlin Precilla, June 19. She joins brother Patrick Francis.

Lisa (Morrill) Wells ’90 and husband Dan: a daughter, Brianna Marie, October 8. She joins three brothers, Brian, Paul, and Matthew.

Karen Provencher Harrington ’87 and husband France: a daughter, Kelly Ann, October 23. She joins three brothers, Brian, Paul, and Matthew.

Karen (Smith) Robbins ’88 and husband Scott: a daughter, Abigail Elizabeth, October 16.

Linda (Fleming) ’89 and husband Robert Bombard ’90: a daughter, Elizabeth Claire, August 13.

Christina (Melota) ’89 and husband Donald Fox, Jr. ’87: a daughter, Brittany Marie, October 16. She joins daughter Danny.

Massachusetts (Merrimack) ’87 and husband John: a son, Brendan James, September 16.

Jacqueline (Driscoll) ’87 and husband Robert: a daughter, Alexandra Grace, May 29.

Richard DeMild ’88 and wife April: a daughter, Brianna Marie, October 5. She joins brother John Louis.

James Vincent DeCarolis ’83 of Tewksbury died November 1 after a brief illness. He had been a well-known area builder, developer and avid tuna fisherman. DeCarolis founded James V. DeCarolis Builders and the Decca Building Corporation. Together, these firms employed several hundred people. He was a member of the Tewksbury Board of Selectmen, the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce and the Tewksbury-Wilmot-Lodge of Elks. He is survived by his wife, Patricia E. (DiBello); two sons and a daughter in-law, James and Christine DeCarolis of Pepperell and Peter DeCarolis of Tewksbury; four daughters; and sisters, Ann and Julie.

DeCarolis was retired from the Arlington Trust Company, where he had worked as a real-estate manager. He had worked at New England Telephone for 28 years and was the former business manager for the Massachusetts Blue Cross of Employers. He was a Past Grand Knight and member of the Trustees for the Winchester Knights of Columbus. As a young man he served in the Marine Reserve. Simon leaves his wife, Eileen (Daugherty); three sons, Simon of Tualatin, Oregon, David of West Roxbury, and Mark of Brooklyn, four daughters, Kathleen Provancher of Winchester, Jennifer Gorden of Rutland, Vermont, Sheila Provancher of West Roxbury, and Mary Provancher of Guilford, Connecticut.

Donovan was the former chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Winches
ter Knights of Columbus. As a young man he served in the Marine Reserve. Simon leaves his wife, Eileen (Daugherty); three sons, Simon of Tualatin, Oregon, David of West Roxbury, and Mark of Brooklyn, four daughters, Kathleen Provancher of Winchester, Jennifer Gorden of Rutland, Vermont, Sheila Provancher of West Roxbury, and Mary Provancher of Guilford, Connecticut.

DeCarolis also worked closely with the American Red Cross.

She was a real estate agent and was a partner with McGinn & Gillis for many years. She is survived by her children, Vincent 2017 and his wife Kathy, Matthew Gillis, all of Wakefield; Michael 2018 and his wife Paula, and Simon. He also leaves his wife, Diane; his mother, Dolores; and two sisters.

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For Carolyn Michaud, that line is more than just a brushoff. She really will call you. Since your phone could ring at any minute, we thought you might like to know a little more about her.

She’s a junior majoring in accounting; she lives in a townhouse during the semester and in Chicopee when school’s on break.

So why is she going to call you?

Carolyn is one of about two dozen Merrimack students who make our annual fund drive a success. Working four nights a week, these students call graduates, asking you to financially support our college.

The money they raise helps keep tuition low, support educational programs, and maintain our facilities.

So when the phone rings and Carolyn tells you she’s calling from your alma mater, give her a few minutes of your time.

(See inside this cover for a picture of all our callers.)