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10-7-2016

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Recommended Citation

Merrimack College, "Merrimack College Record" (2016). *Merrimack College Record*. 3.
https://scholarworks.merrimack.edu/mc_record/3

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All the RAVE: Have You Updated Your Emergency Contact Information?

The RAVE Alert system is Merrimack's primary communications medium for urgent or emergency messages to the campus community, including snow closings. With RAVE, the college can send texts, emails and telephone calls.



Faculty, staff and student email addresses are automatically entered in RAVE, but all can update their preferences, adding up to three mobile numbers, three landlines and two additional email addresses (for instance, those of family members), through the RAVE website, www.getrave.com/login/merrimack.

Honor Those Who Serve By Serving Others

As a way to show support for the nation's military veterans, members of the Merrimack community and their families are encouraged to participate in the college's annual day of service, Mack Gives Back, on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Faculty, staff, students, alumni and other members of the Merrimack family may volunteer as individuals or as a part of a group, team or organization (minimum of 10 people).

There are dozens of sites participating this year, including the Bellevue Cemetery, Lawrence; Challenge Unlimited at Ironstone Farm, Andover; Cor Unum Meal Center, Lawrence; Emmaus House, Haverhill; Food for Children, Manchester, New Hampshire; IMEC in North Andover; Project Home Again, Lawrence; Salem Animal Rescue League in New Hampshire; and The Wish Project, Lowell.

Public works departments in several Massachusetts and New Hampshire communities will also enlist the help of Mack Gives Back volunteers.

To register or learn more about the event, visit merrimack.edu/mackgivesback.

Groundbreaking Ceremony Launches N. Campus Academic Pavilion Work

With big crowds, speeches and a night capped by fireworks, Merrimack College broke ground Sept. 30 for the North Campus Academic Pavilion, the college's first new standalone academic building since the early 1990s.

"Merrimack College is not only an institution of higher learning," said President Christopher E. Hopey at a ceremony preceding the groundbreaking. "Merrimack College is a promise — a promise made and a promise fulfilled.

"This new academic building says to our family and the world that we have built success upon success. It is fulfilling the promise of 'we will be' with 'we are,'" he said.

Hopey was joined in the ceremony by Michael Crowe, chair of the board of trustees, who recalled being an undergraduate when the college's last new academic building, the Mendel Center, was opened. He said he was proud of Merrimack as an alumnus, a trustee and the father of a graduating senior, and said it is a "moment the trustees and administration have been

working toward for a long time," after years of strategic planning.

The 50,000- square-foot building will be home to the Girard School of Business as well as 14 general-purpose flexible

learning environments, the Mucci Capital Markets Lab, the Comprehensive Business Advising Center and the Financial Capabilities Center. Construction will begin soon; the building is expected to open in August 2017.

Girard Dean Mark Cordano said the school has had great success drawing corporate partners and alumni back to work with students and help

them find career success.

"This new building will enhance the connections across our entire community," he said. "It will place our students within an integrated community that will find new ways to collaborate, learn and grow."

Sara Jane Brazda, senior vice president for development and alumni relations,

Continued on Page 7

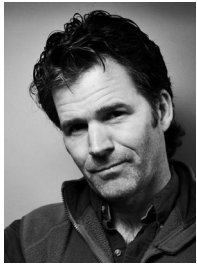


Board chair Michael Crowe, left, joins President Hopey and his wife, Cheryl Lucas, in tossing the first shovels of dirt at the Sept. 30 groundbreaking ceremony.

Dubus Is Fall Writer-in-Residence

The Writers House welcomes best-selling author Andre Dubus III as its writer-in-residence Oct. 12 and 13.

Dubus, who grew up in mill towns on the Merrimack River, is the author of six books. He received an honorary doctorate from Merrimack in 2004.



Three of Dubus' books were New York Times bestsellers: "House of Sand and Fog," "The Garden of Last Days" (soon to be a major motion picture) and "Townie," a memoir. "House of Sand and Fog," published in 20 languages, was a No. 1 New York Times bestseller and Oprah Book Club Selection, and adapted

into an Academy Award-nominated film.

His most recent book, "Dirty Love" — a collection of four short novellas — was chosen as a Notable Book and Editors' Choice by The New York Times.

While at Merrimack, Dubus will meet with students for classes and workshops, and will give a reading at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13, at the Writers House. The event, which is free and open to the public, will include a question-and-answer session and reception.

The Writer-in-Residence program is made possible through support from the Andrea '79 and Ken Robertson Writers House Innovation Fund.

SALT Spices Up Financial Planning

As part of Merrimack College's commitment to preparing students for life after college, the college has partnered with American Student Assistance to provide a resource called SALT.

SALT is a neutral, nonprofit, expert adviser that helps inform life-changing money decisions to empower students to succeed in college and pursue their dreams. SALT makes it immediately rewarding, easy and fun to make smart decisions about money and student loans.

Through this comprehensive program, students receive access to:

- Interactive money management tools that show them how to take control of their finances;
- Scholarship, job and internship resources to help them save on educational costs or find that next work opportunity;
- SALT Courses — self-paced, online lessons that reviews practical money management strategies for budgeting, credit cards, banking and more;
- A loan repayment tool that helps them to navigate and better understand their federal student loan repayment options; and
- Loan advice from SALT's expert counselors.

Students will receive an email invitation to create a SALT profile in the coming weeks.

To learn more about SALT, please visit www.saltmoney.org/merrimack.

Homecoming

October 21-23, 2016



Broken Record: Fall Enrollment Tops 4,000

Merrimack College's fall semester enrollment has set an institutional record, with 4,063 students.

This is an increase of 387 students over last fall and includes 3,260 traditional undergraduate students and 581 graduate students, with the balance consisting of other nontraditional- and nondegree-seeking undergraduates, according to David Hautanen Jr., vice president for enrollment and retention.

In contrast to a number of peer and competitor institutions, Merrimack met its new student enrollment goals with the largest-ever entering class of 1,005 first-year and 67 transfer students. They come from 23 states and 12 countries, with the greatest number coming from Massachusetts, followed by Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Maine and New Jersey.

Merrimack's entering class is also becoming increasingly diverse, with more than 19 percent identifying as students of color or international students. This is an increase of almost 3 percent over last year.

Our new students are enrolled in a wide range of academic majors with the largest enrollment in undeclared liberal arts, followed by human development, athletic training, management, and mechanical engineering.

In addition, programs designed to increase enrollment and retention continue to be attractive for new students. This includes 28 new students in the science

and engineering iTEC Bridge Program, 69 in the Compass Program, 97 in the Honors Program and 163 student-athletes, along with 87 students in the inaugural class of the Promise Program.

This past year saw a growth of 128 graduate students, to total of 581. In comparison to a group of 15 peer institutions, Merrimack has seen the largest percentage growth (nearly 400 percent) in graduate enrollments over the past five years, according to Mark A. Gould, associate vice president for graduate and professional studies.

Both the M.Ed. in school counseling and the M.S. in clinical mental health counseling were added this fall. In May 2017, the college will launch the M.S. in athletic training. In addition, last spring the M.Ed. in teacher education began as an online program and in a competency-based education format.

"I expect this growth to continue during the next several years, as we add additional graduate programs at the college," Gould said.

In this very competitive recruitment environment, both Hautanen and Gould offered their appreciation for the support and engagement of the entire campus community in the college's enrollment and retention efforts.

"No matter your role or department you work for, your work contributes to the campus' ability to successfully meet our enrollment goals," Hautanen said.

IN BRIEF

Men's hockey coverage skates over to WMCK

WMCK, Merrimack College Radio, has been named the exclusive online radio home of Merrimack men's ice hockey, according to athletic communications. The station will also broadcast select women's ice hockey games throughout the season. Fans can also listen to "The Hockey Report" with men's head coach Mark Dennehy every Tuesday at 6 p.m. on WMCK.

Employee socials held every Thursday

The college hosts an open faculty-staff reception every Thursday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Merrimack Club (except when the club is closed for special events). Light fare is offered, and there is a cash bar (beer and wine).

Grants and sponsored programs workshops

The following grants and sponsored programs workshops for faculty will be held in the provost's conference room in Austin Hall.

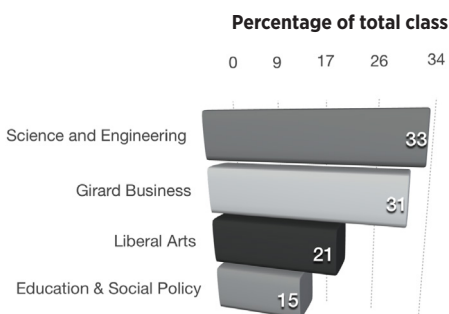
Thursday, Oct. 27 2-3:30 p.m.

"Overview of Grants and Sponsored Programs" — An overview of the resources and services available to faculty seeking external funding for their research and creative activities. They will also provide assistance to faculty who have specific projects in mind.

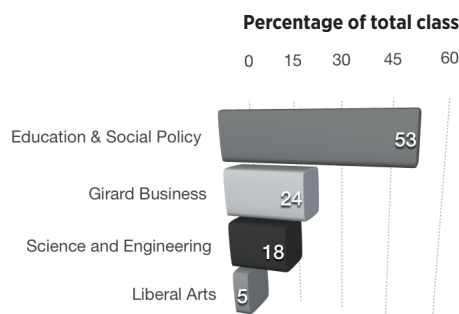
Thursday, Nov. 10 2-3 p.m.

"National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health: Finding the Right Program Solicitations for Your Research Project."

Fall 2016 Undergraduate Enrollment, by School



Fall 2016 Graduate Enrollment, by School



Brand-New Focus: Tutoring and Math Center Hones Its Mission

The Math Center in the McQuade Library has rebranded itself this year and is now known as the Tutoring and Math Center to better reflect its mission, according to Assistant Dean of Student Success Patricia Strazdins, who also serves as the center's director.

To help students more easily find help, Strazdins is consolidating information about tutoring that is offered in all corners of the campus, including the Girard School of Business, iTEC Peer Tutors and Mentors, the Writing and Mathematics centers, and tutors arranged through school departments and fellowships.

Strazdins has designed a schedule of tutoring available on campus. The schedule can be viewed on the college website by clicking the "Fall 2016 Tutoring Schedule" link on the Academic Success Center page. It can also be downloaded in booklet form.

"This is easily editable the way it's designed," Strazdins said. "This is going to be constantly updated."

The Tutoring and Math Center and the Writing Center are both on the library's third floor in McQuade. The third floor is expected to be renovated so that it can eventually house the Academic Success Center.

The center is offering training and an opportunity to become certified to all tutors on campus. The initial training is focusing on academic integrity and ensuring that tutors, mentors, fellow and teaching assistants understand the difference between tutoring and teaching.

It's been standard for tutors working in the Math Center to get training," said Steven Bourque '17, a math and economics major from Lynn, Massachusetts. "I think it helped me a lot, especially when I was new."

The changes are working well, and the center has already had more than 700 visits this semester from students, Strazdins said.

Strazdins is planning open forums for faculty and staff to offer input regarding tutoring and tutor training on campus. She has already begun to talk with other tutor supervisors, including Rachel Silsbee, assistant director of the Writing Center, about how they



Patricia Strazdins, left, and Jacob Ziefle are reorganizing the delivery of tutorial services on campus.

recruit, interview, train and evaluate tutors.

The new format for tutors allows Strazdins to build a sense of community among tutors.

Jacob Ziefle, assistant director of Student Success: Tutoring and Math Center, is coordinating visits to classes around campus to explain the changes and invite students and faculty to visit.

"Sometimes bringing the students here, even if they don't have questions, breaks the ice," Ziefle said.

2017 Employee Benefits Open Enrollment Period

Wednesday, Oct. 26 – Wednesday, Nov. 16

- Medical
- Medical Flexible Spending
- Dental
- Dependent Care Flexible Spending
- Vision



Watch for more information from the Office of Human Resources via Merrimack email

Honors Program Charts New Course to Cuba

Merrimack College's honors program will offer an interdisciplinary course on Cuba, with a short-term study abroad trip to the Caribbean island.

Provost Carol Glod; Vice Provost Kerry Johnson; associate professor of philosophy Bryan Bannon, director of the Environmental Studies and Sustainability Program; and associate professor Luis Saenz de Viguera Erkiaga, who oversees the world language and cultural studies department and the social justice program, traveled to Cuba in mid-September to make arrangements for the course.

They met with officials at the University of Havana's Center for Hemispheric and U.S. Studies, as well as other contacts Johnson made while visiting Cuba on an American Council of Education Fellowship in 2015.

"They were productive meetings," said Johnson, who directs the Honors Program.

The class, Encountering Cuba: History, Culture and Environment (SPA/SOJ 3800H)," will be offered through the International Programs and Global Education Office for 12 to 15 students. The course is open to students in the honors program as well as others who receive permission from the instructors. All students need at least a 3.4 grade-point average to qualify.

"I think, certainly, if you are looking at issues of diversity and social justice, it's a model students don't get to see often," Johnson said. "It's an interdisciplinary course, which we're trying to cultivate."

Bannon and Saenz de Viguera will teach the spring semester class covering the history, culture and environment of Cuba. With a softening of relations between the United States and Cuba, it's increasingly important for students to understand the historical and political situation of the island.

From an environmental perspective, Cuba is a case study of sustainability, Bannon said.

"To a large degree, sustainability was forced on them because of the (U.S. trade) embargo," he said.

The Merrimack party met with officials from Havana's largest organic farm, which distributes 50 percent of its earnings among workers and reinvests the other half in the farm. However, even though the farm has money saved it can't buy new equipment, Bannon said.

The Cubans whom Bannon met had rosy ideas of the United States and seemed to admire it, but were proud of their own culture and especially of some of its social successes such as the health-care system, he said.

The trip gave Merrimack officials confidence in ensuring the course will move forward, Saenz de Viguera said.

"Being able to go there and see where we would take our students was invaluable," he said. "This trip actually allowed us to make sure this course will happen and push Merrimack to the forefront of schools."



Bryan Bannon, left and Luis Saenz de Viguera Erkiaga were among a contingent of Merrimack faculty members who traveled to Cuba last month.



Key Positions Hired Across College



Gornstein

Ken Gornstein
Director of Digital Media
Office of Communications

As Merrimack's new director of digital media, Ken Gornstein oversees the college's web and social media presence in support of promoting the institution's people, programs and key initiatives. Gornstein has more than 25 years' experience in higher education marketing and communications, serving in senior administrative roles at Northeastern University, Brandeis University, Dickinson College and Hebrew College. He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Michigan State University.



Spragens

Melissa Siegel Spragens
Director of Sponsored Programs
Office for Development and Alumni Relations

Melissa Siegel Spragens recently joined Merrimack as director of sponsored programs in the Office for Development and Alumni Relations. Spragens spent the last 10 years at Harvard University, most recently as director of research administration at the Kennedy School. Prior to that, she worked as a consultant with Huron Consulting and as a research administrator at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Spragens has a background in developing and implementing policies and procedures, and in hands-on grants management.



Wilder

Tasha Wilder
HR Business Partner
Office of Human Resources

Tasha Wilder has joined Merrimack College as an HR business partner in the Office of Human Resources. In this position, she will serve as an advisor to assigned business leaders and members of their departments across the college to optimize the delivery of Human Resources services. She previously worked at MIT as an HR Business Partner supporting the Office of Resource Development, MIT's central advancement department. She has worked in the HR field for over 10 years.

Reason enough to get
VACCINATED!
Even healthy people can get the flu, and it can be serious.

FLU SHOT CLINIC
OCTOBER 18, 2016
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
MPR-SAK CENTER
MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED
(BRING INSURANCE CARD)
\$30 WITHOUT INSURANCE

Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine. This means you.
This season, protect yourself—and those around you—by getting a flu vaccine.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu> • 1-800-CDC-INFO
Get the facts.

Get vaccinated.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Faculty Member's New Textbook Rings Up Healthy Sales

Sarah Benes, the senior director and lecturer of the graduate program in health sciences, has co-authored a new skills-based textbook for elementary and secondary teachers that's enjoying national and worldwide success.

With University of New Hampshire clinical assistant professor Holly Alperin, Benes wrote "The Essentials of Teaching Health Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment."

"It's basically a guide for creating a skills-based health education program," Benes said.

Traditional content-based health programs focus on such topics as nutrition, drugs and alcohol abuse using rote learning. Skills-based content will take those same kinds of issues and focus on teaching decision-making skills and advocacy instead.

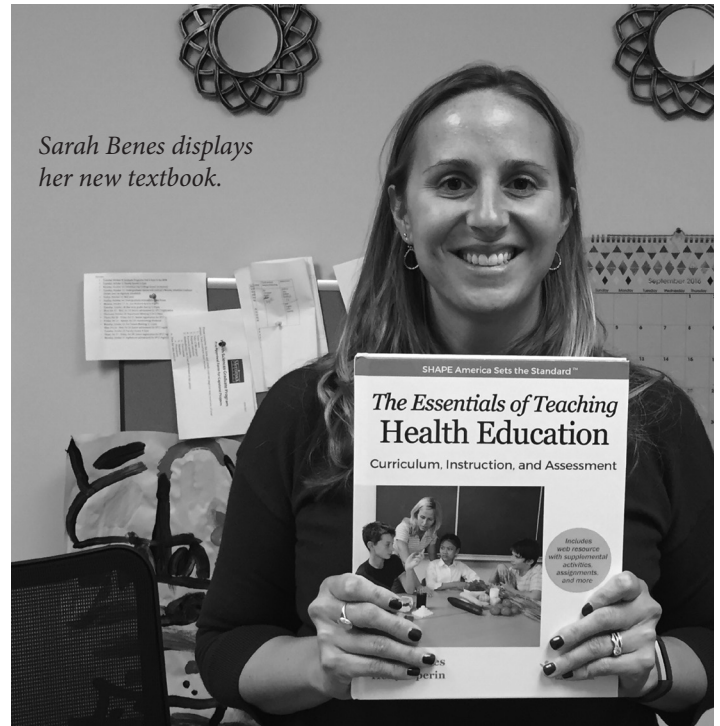
The health sciences program at Merrimack provides students with experiential learning opportunities, and Benes is using the same concept to offer students a hands-on health education experience in the book, said associate health sciences professor Kevin Finn.

"Dr. Benes' book provides teachers with practical strategies for curriculum design and program development using a novel, skills-based approach to health education," Finn said. "The real world and practical examples in the text allows students to become health-literate individuals and develop the 21st-century skills they need for success in their lives."

Sales of the textbook, released in February, have reached nearly 1,500 copies worldwide.

"We, and the publishers, are happy with the number, especially having only been out for about seven months," Benes said.

Benes and Alperin are traveling the country holding professional-development trainings in support of the textbook.



Sarah Benes displays her new textbook.

Writing and editing took about 18 months.

A second book is already in development. Benes and Alperin are soliciting ideas from teachers in the field for activities that align with the skills-based approach.

"So we're going to be more editors this time around," Benes said.

Pavilion Groundbreaking

Continued from Page 1

shared a message from Frank Girard, for whom the business school is named, sharing his honor and excitement to see the school expand and evolve.

The president was joined at the first ceremonial groundbreaking by his wife, Cheryl Lucas; the Rev. Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., vice president for mission and student affairs; Brazda; Cordano; and trustees Crowe, Alfred Arcidi and Marybeth McInnis.

Local government officials and members of the Student Government Association also paused for ceremonial groundbreaking photos.

The ceremony was followed by a block party inside the Multipurpose Room of the Sakowich Campus Center, featuring food, games, music, and a beer garden for those over 21. Fireworks were launched over the athletics fields to conclude the festivities.

Merrimack College Record

**published biweekly during the academic year,
monthly in June, July and August,
by the Office of Communications.**

President Christopher E. Hopey
Publisher

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**Submissions and story ideas welcome at
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*In writing and editing, the Record adheres to
The Associated Press Stylebook.*

College Benefactor's Story of Monks, Muslims Still Resonates

Merrimack College benefactor John W. Kiser recently set up a new website for his critically acclaimed book “The Monks of Tibhirine: Faith, Love and Terror in Algeria,” which foreshadows the current era of terrorism through an exploration of the religious extremism that swept Algeria in the 1990s.

The website, themonksoftibhirine.net, also shares the story of the 2010 Cannes Film Festival prize-winning movie “Of Gods and Men” that relied heavily on Kiser’s book for inspiration. His book explores Algeria’s conflict with the extremist Groupe Islamique Armé in the 1990s.

Kiser recently attended the “Our Muslim Neighbor” program held Sept. 19 at Lawrence General Hospital by Merrimack’s Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations, to which he has been a major donor.

The book touches on the key issues of the war against ISIS extremists, including the fallout from the Arab Spring, Kiser said after the event.

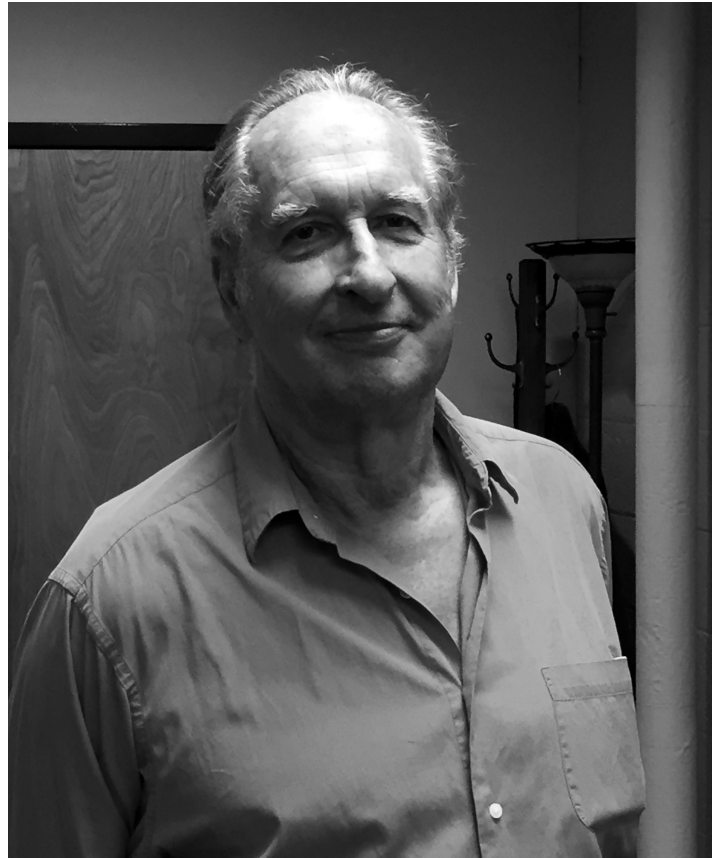
“The reason I think this book is important is it shows the complexity of Islam,” he said.

It also helps explain world events today by examining Algeria and the terrorism it endured in the 1990s. “What happened in Algeria foreshadowed everything happening today,” Kiser said. “They did everything ISIS is doing, but didn’t do it on social media.”

For Kiser, the most significant difference between the conflicts involving the Groupe Islamique Armé in Algeria in the 1990s and ISIS today is the Algerian government’s strategy to combat extremists. Algeria fought without foreign help. When a nation invites others to help fight its wars, it creates the appearance of a puppet government, which strengthens terrorist organizations, he said.

“We learn, I think, that foreign intervention often makes things worse,” Kiser said.

Trappist monks living in Tibhirine were popular among Muslims and Christians alike, so when the GIA murdered seven of them, public sentiment began to turn. The monks of Tibhirine had fostered strong ties with their neighbors in Algeria, often writing letters for the illiterate and having the monastery’s doctor heal the sick.



John W. Kiser: ‘Islam is no more one thing than Christianity is one thing.’

“Then on top of that, the Saudi clerics denounced what was being done in the name of Islam,” Kiser said.

An important strategy to Algeria’s fight with the GIA was differentiating between the terrorists and Islam. Islam can take many forms in the same way that Christianity has different denominations, he said.

“Islam is no more one thing than Christianity is one thing,” Kiser said.

Office:

Merrimack College