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Lt. Gov. Lauds Partnership Behind Route 114 Project

Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito praised the public-private partnership that created the crossing connecting Royal Crest Estates with Merrimack College and will, in early 2017, create a sidewalk linking the college with two commercial zones in North Andover.

“Anytime we can have a private dollar to leverage a public dollar, we can have a partnership that’s truly worth celebrating,” said Polito, during an event on campus Nov. 3.

Polito’s comments were echoed by state Rep. Diana DiZoglio, D-North Andover, who joined the lieutenant governor, President Christopher Hopey, North Andover Town Manager Andrew Maylor and other area legislators in a briefing about the next phase of the project: the design and construction of the sidewalk.

“Without our local officials working together with the state delegation and the administration, across party lines, this project could not have happened,” DiZoglio said.

Pedestrians will be able to walk from



President Christopher Hopey, flanked by state Rep. Diana DiZoglio, left, and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, discuss the next phase of the crossing project on campus Nov. 3.

the campus entrance at Elm Street to the corner of Bertucci’s at Route 125/114, along Merrimack’s campus, up to the new crosswalk and around to the Rogers Center for the Arts parking lot. On the opposite

side, a new sidewalk starting at Berkeley Street will traverse the front of Royal Crest Estates, and end at the office building at 510 Turnpike St.

Continued on Page 4

New Degree Programs Meet Demand for Data Scientists, Business Analysts

To address the growing demand for high caliber data scientists and business analysts, Merrimack is launching online Master of Science in Data Science and Master of Science in Business Analytics degree programs through a unique interdisciplinary partnership between the School of Science and Engineering and the Girard School of Business. These online programs will provide an employer-aligned curriculum designed for busy working professionals.

“Merrimack College is committed to providing the highest quality education to all students,” said Allan T. Weatherwax, dean of the School of Science and Engineering. “For busy working adult

professionals, our online data science and business analytics master’s programs offer a unique opportunity to learn in a flexible and convenient environment. Our graduates will be prepared to take on critical management positions and become leaders in the growing field of data science and business analytics.”

The launch of the Master of Science in Data Science and Master of Science in Business Analytics programs coincide with a growing demand for leaders in these rapidly evolving fields. The McKinsey Global Institute notes that “demand for deep analytical talent in the United States could be 50 to 60 percent greater than its projected supply by 2018.”

“ (The program) offers a unique opportunity to learn in a flexible and convenient environment.”

The result, the institute adds, may be a shortage of 140,000 to 190,000 people with deep analytical skills.

Critical input from a broad range of industry experts and employers enables the data science and business analytics programs to be tightly aligned with industry needs. Leading industry experts and employers contributed to our

Continued on Page 4

THEY SAID IT



Butin



Cohen



Nolan



Mascolo

“The deep reason for a teacher is to guide students to grapple with exactly the complex, ambiguous and tough issues that are usually outside of students’ self-awareness or capabilities.”

Professor Dan Butin, in BBC story “University Opens Without Any Teachers,” Oct. 26.

“We know from research it often takes children 12 or more exposures to new food before they start to like it.”

Assistant professor Juliana Cohen, in Newsworks story “Requiem for the Old Reliable School Vending Machine?” Oct. 25.

“The law-enforcement mentality is to get all the data and as much information as possible – Constitution be damned.”

Associate professor Tom Nolan, in CityLab story “Racial Disparities in Police ‘Stingray’ Surveillance, Mapped,” Oct. 18.

“We need leaders to come up and say that we really need to change the way that we think about ourselves.”

Professor Michael Mascolo, in Sputnik story “The Structure of Our Societies Creates Isolationism Through Separation,” Oct. 14.

Committee Seeks Nominations for First Lecture Speaker

The nomination period has opened for Omicron Delta Kappa’s eighth annual First Lecture, scheduled to be presented Feb. 28, 2017. Nominations are due by Nov. 27.

A committee will choose a student to speak about their deepest hopes, dreams, values and passions.

The First Lecture is an outgrowth of the Last Lecture, which has been popular on college campuses nationally, including Merrimack, since the 1990s. The format of the Last Lecture allows a professor to lecture on whatever subject they are most passionate about, as if it were the last lecture they would ever give.

The selection committee is made up of students in ODK and the Merrimack College Honors Program in consultation with the Rev. Ray Dlugos, O.S.A., the vice president for mission and student affairs. The committee will interview each nominee who accepts and make a decision by the end of the fall semester.

Do You Have a Child Applying to Merrimack?

The Office of Admission is scheduling a series of information sessions from November through January for Merrimack employees with dependent children who are interested in applying to Merrimack for their undergraduate education.

The sessions will cover the admission application process, deadlines and follow-up communication from the college. Additionally, Patricia Sonia from human resources will be available to review Merrimack’s tuition-remission benefit.

The sessions will be held in the first-floor conference room of McQuade Library on Nov. 7 from noon to 1 p.m.; Dec. 20 from 4 to 5 p.m.; and Jan. 27, 2017, from 9 to 10 a.m.

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

Live and Learn



Student Tom Ho, above, takes a selfie with fellow members of Merrimack's City of God living-learning community and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh following the mayor's talk, right, at the college on Nov. 2. Also pictured are Sister Jean Gribaudo, C.S.J., above left, and Merrimack President Christopher Hopey, standing at Walsh's left.



HR to Review Positions for Fair Labor Compliance

The U.S. Department of Labor has changed the provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act that sets the minimum salary threshold required for an employee to be considered exempt from overtime.

The FLSA is a federal law that establishes minimum wage, overtime pay eligibility, recordkeeping and youth employment standards affecting workers across the country.

Merrimack will comply with the new FLSA provisions as required, no later than Dec. 1. The senior leadership and human resources director are assessing the impact of this change on the college and affected employees, and the implementation of institutional plans to ensure compliance with the new rules.

The Human Resources Office is

spearheading job analysis reviews of the impacted positions in conjunction with managers over the next few weeks. After a thorough job analysis and classification decision has been made, impacted employees will be notified if there is a change to their FLSA exemption status.

The college understands that this change can have an affect on individuals. Human resources staff will work closely with managers of affected employees to communicate with them as much information as possible.

Faculty, including adjuncts, are unaffected.

Questions should be addressed to Denice Baker, director of human resources, ext. 5231, bakerde@merrimack.edu.

IN BRIEF

Honoring Our Veterans Ceremony Nov. 10

Mack Gives Back will hold its annual Honoring Our Veterans ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 10, from 10 to 11 a.m. in Murray Lounge in the Sakowich Campus Center. The Rev. Ray Dlugos, O.S.A., is the scheduled keynote speaker. The ceremony complements the Hands to Help Mack Gives Back day of service, to be held Saturday, Nov. 5.

Food Basket Drive to Benefit Those in Need

The Grace J. Palmisano Center for Campus Ministry is now accepting food baskets for distribution to those in need at Thanksgiving. Baskets should be dropped off at the center no later than Nov. 22. For more information, contact Maggie Qualter at qualterm@merrimack.edu.

Li Named to Fulbright Peer Review Committee

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars has named Merrimack professor He Li to the Political Science Peer Review Committee for the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. Li will work with other experts on the committee representing a range of specializations and institutions in evaluating applications for the 2017-18 academic year.

McQuade Conducting Online User Survey

McQuade Library is conducting an online survey of faculty, staff and students to evaluate perceptions of the library. To take part, visit www.libqual.org/survey/RWSLJA327EJ86X8HRA before Nov. 19. Participants can enter to win a prize.

Elected Officials Praise ‘Historic’ Initiative

Continued from Page 1

In addition, the project includes new campus lighting and fencing, resurfacing of Route 114 and associated curbing and drainage.

The project is under review by the North Andover Conservation Commission, and is planned to be constructed in spring.

The project is notable because the state and Merrimack pledged \$1 million each to create the crossing and sidewalk on the state road.

“This is a model for public-private partnerships. We are proud to be part of such a historic initiative, said Hopey, who led officials on a walk across Route 114 via the crosswalk.

Several hundred Merrimack students live in the Royal Crest apartment complex, the bulk of them in units leased and overseen by the college.

Polito said the project represents “an extension of (Merrimack’s) success.”

Programs Address Critical Market Needs

Continued from Page 1

program’s curriculum so students will develop the skills and knowledge most valuable to employers. Merrimack’s innovative online programs produce graduates who are poised to become leaders in the fields of data science and business analytics.

“There’s clearly a critical need for a high-quality program like this in the Boston area that can meet both employer demand and employer-determined competencies,” said Mark Cordano, dean of the Girard School of Business. “That’s exactly why this program was designed, with industry leaders, to ensure the curriculum is focused on mastering the advanced analytical and business decision-making skills that employers are looking for when making hiring and promotion decisions.”

The programs — which can typically be completed in 15 months — are highly personalized and blend real-time, faculty-led sessions with self-

paced learning elements to ensure maximum flexibility. Eight courses are offered in eight-week formats with multiple enrollment points throughout the year. Along with faculty who are practitioners and have experience in the fields of data science and business analytics, students will have a dedicated success coach to guide them through the curriculum.

Course projects and assignments are based on authentic, real-world data issues that allow students to use cutting-edge tools and approaches while providing real-world business scenarios and data sets. The curriculum is infused with examples from their own professional experience to provide practical knowledge and problem-solving skills that can be utilized in their current organization while earning their degree.

Enrollment is now open for the first session, which begins in January. For more information, visit the program website at onlineDSA.merrimack.edu.

Employee Benefits ORIENTATION

An opportunity for new and existing employees to learn more about the college's employee benefit offerings

F GAIN UNDERSTANDING of the benefits available to you as an employee of the college.

F ASK QUESTIONS to find the plans that best meet your needs.

F RESOLVE CONCERNS regarding how the plans work, how to find a network provider or how to make sense of a billing issue.

OCTOBER 26 • NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16, 30 • DECEMBER 7, 14, 21
2:00–4:00 P.M. • 217 SAKOWICH CAMPUS CENTER

SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES, AUSTIN HALL, EXT. 5157

Students to Join Teach-in for Justice in Capital

Five Merrimack students will be among 1,800 individuals who are expected to attend the 19th annual Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice Nov. 12-14 in Washington, D.C. The event is billed as the largest annual Catholic social-justice gathering in the United States.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn, reflect, pray, network and advocate in the context of the Catholic faith tradition, officials said. A significant portion of attendees are between 16 and 22 years old, representing Jesuit and other Catholic institutions from across the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and El Salvador.

"I'm very excited that our students will have the opportunity to gather with hundreds of students from around the country who are deeply committed to advocacy for social change," said Father Ray Dlugos, O.S.A. "They will see and feel the passion that their peers bring, and be energized by each other. I'm also happy they will have some firsthand experience with meeting with our political leaders and seeing how the process of effecting change works."

The 2016 Teach-In theme, "Mercy in Action," will mark the closing days of Pope Francis' Year of Mercy, inviting participants to, in the words of the pope, "grow in a love which is courageous, generous and real."

The program is sponsored by the Ignatian Solidarity Network.

"The Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice represents the future of our Church," said Christopher Kerr, executive director of the Ignatian Solidarity Network. "Attendees, particularly young people, will be inspired to respond to Pope Francis' call as people of mercy, striving to build a more justice and sustainable world."

The Teach-In started in Columbus, Georgia, in 1997 and is held yearly in mid-November to commemorate the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador. The six Jesuit priests and their two companions were murdered on Nov. 16, 1989, for speaking out against the country's tumultuous civil war. The teach-in relocated from Georgia to Washington, D.C., in 2010 in response to the growing interest in



legislative advocacy and accompanying educational opportunities.

Keynote speakers are scheduled to include Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley and nationally recognized advocate for immigrants; Father Greg Boyle, S.J., best-selling author and founder and executive director of Homeboy Industries; and Lisa Sharon Harper, author and Chief Church Engagement Officer at Sojourners.



UPCOMING EVENTS

'Buzkashi!' Offers Portrait of Sport as Cultural Mirror

The Office of Global Education and the athletics department present a free screening of "Buzkashi!" on Monday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. in Stevens Theater at Cushing Hall.

The film is the first installment in the Reel Engagement International Film Series, designed to foster cross-cultural awareness and understanding at Merrimack. The first 20 attendees will receive a Reel Engagement T-shirt.

Voted best documentary of the Phenom Film Fest in 2013, "Buzkashi!" explores how the national sport of Tajikistan is

being challenged by cultural and economic developments. The film follows three players: a champion of very traditional values and lifestyle, a young player desperate to find sponsorship to make a living and a third who plays by his own rules and is forcibly changing those rules for his own advantage.

Remembrance Ceremony, Exhibition Recall Holocaust

The Merrimack Concert Choir will perform at "Shattered Glass, Shattered Lives: Remember, Reflect, Rededicate," a prayer and remembrance ceremony for victims and

survivors of genocides, on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill, Massachusetts. The event is made possible through the generous support of benefactor Roberta Braverman.

Buses will be available to transport students, faculty and staff to the venue. The buses will leave from Lot H, next to Cascia Hall, at 6 p.m.

To register, visit merrimack.edu/live/events/769690-shattered-glass-shattered-lives-remember-reflect.

Additionally, Merrimack will host an exhibition, "The Courage to Remember: The Holocaust, 1933-1945" from Nov. 7-18 at the Wiesenthal Center in McQuade Library.

KEY HIRES AROUND THE COLLEGE

Kathy Hansen
Medical Administrative Assistant
Hamel Health Services

As medical administrative assistant at Hamel, Kathy Hansen oversees the immunization compliance program and offers support to health services clinicians. She has over 10 years' experience in a medical setting, joining Merrimack from Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire. Hansen holds a medical assistant degree from Hesser College.



Russell Olwell
Associate Dean
School of Education and Social Policy

Russell Olwell joins Merrimack from Eastern Michigan University, where he was a professor of history and history education, director of the Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Communities, and interim executive director of government and community relations. He holds a doctorate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Rachel Spencer
Physician Assistant
Hamel Health Services

In her role as physician assistant, Rachel Spencer treats students for the full range of medical concerns. Before joining Merrimack, she worked at Family Medicine Associates in Manchester, Massachusetts. Spencer holds a bachelor's degree from Salem State University and a master's degree from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.



Merrimack students brought hats to pediatric cancer patients at Tufts Medical Center.

Love Your Melon: Merrimack Students Join Fight Against Pediatric Cancer

A group of Merrimack College students traveled to Tufts Medical Center in Boston to share hats with children suffering with cancer.

The Love Your Melon charity has about 1,000 crews on 1,000 campuses across the country, including Merrimack College, said Chris Hynes '17, an international business major from Kennebunk, Maine. Hynes is a paid regional manager overseeing the Merrimack College crew and another 200 across the Midwest.

Love Your Melon boasts about 200 members on Merrimack College's campus, including about 20 crew members who make up the leadership team.

Eight crew members gave out 100 hats to children and teenagers at Tufts, Hynes said.

"It was the most eye-opening and humbling experience," Hynes said. "It was surreal to see kids going through this terrible disease with smiles on their faces, and we knew it came directly from us. We're really blessed for the opportunity."

“It was the most eye-opening and humbling experience.”

Love Your Melon, a Minneapolis-based clothing brand dedicated to giving hats to children fighting cancer in the United States, supports nonprofits leading the fight against pediatric cancer, according to its website.

Merrimack students who traveled to Tufts, dressed in Love Your Melon superhero costumes, included Hynes; Thomas Drover '17, an environmental studies and business double major from Peabody, Massachusetts; Lizz Egan '17, a sports medicine major from Dennis, Massachusetts; and Christian Verreault '17, a sports medicine major from Gray, Maine.

On Oct. 20, more than 11,000 Love Your Melon campus crew members across the country took part in more than 300 events to donate more than 10,000 hats to children battling cancer.

Good Ohmen: Goalie Sparks Women's Field Hockey Team

After earning the first conference honors of her career the week of Oct. 24, freshman Merrimack College field hockey goalkeeper Katharina Ohmen '20, of Bremen, Germany, was



named the Longstreth/National Field Hockey Coaches Association Defensive Player of the Week for her efforts defending the net during a 2-0 week for the Warriors.

Ohmen put together the best week of her young career during her 2-0 outing in Northeast-10 Conference action last week, earning both Rookie of the Week

and Goalie of the Week distinctions for the first time in her career. She followed that up with more accolades with the first Longstreth/NFHCA weekly honors for the team this season.

She began the week by recording the first shutout of her career with a career-high 12-save effort in a 1-0 win at Assumption on Wednesday. She then made eight saves to lead the Warriors to an upset victory at eighth-ranked Adelphi University on Oct. 22 to register a 1.00 goals-against average with a .909 save percentage and 20 saves on the week and keeping Merrimack in the playoff hunt.



Merrimack goalie Katharina Ohmen, right, stood tall during her team's victories over Assumption and Adelphi.

Published Authors Urged to Submit Works for Inclusion in Tolle Lege Collection

Officials at McQuade Library are putting out the call for authors at Merrimack whose work has been, or will be, published in books, journals or papers during the 2016 calendar year.

The library recognizes the academic scholarship of the Merrimack community, collecting the published works of faculty, staff, students and alumni for inclusion in its Tolle Lege Collection.

This year's authors will be recognized at the 14th Annual Tolle Lege reception on Feb. 7, 2017, at 4 p.m. at the Writers House.

"It's good for us to keep copies of work our scholars are doing and creative work other people are doing so we can show what we are contributing to the greater scholarly community," said library director Kathryn Geoffrion Scannell.

Copies and citations of any qualifying published book, article or paper should be submitted to Frances Nilsson (ext. 5064), head of resource management, or Michaela Keating (ext. 5267), instruction-liaison librarian for scholarly communications at McQuade Library, by Dec. 9.

Materials may also be submitted to Merrimack's open-access publishing platform at Merrimack ScholarWorks. ScholarWorks promotes the use of Merrimack's unique academic and artistic achievements to a worldwide audience of students and scholars while also ensuring its long-term archival preservation.

ScholarWorks' web-based platform makes its materials easily accessible to scholars and other academic colleagues throughout the world.



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

RECORD

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Warning: You're About to Learn About Spoiler Alerts

Spoiler alert: You're about to learn the interesting and intriguing details of Lisa Perks' latest research — on spoiler alerts.

Perks, associate professor of communication and media, recently had three articles on the subject accepted for publication in leading journals.

Spoiler alerts are warnings that key elements of a television show or movie are about to be revealed to viewers, Perks explained in a recent interview. (Think “Darth Vader is Luke’s father.”) They’re most frequently issued by radio talk-show hosts dishing on the latest shows captivating America before many viewers have had a chance to watch the episode being discussed.

“People can feel spoiled even if they aren’t watching a show, but plan to,” Perks said.

That leads to the idea of so-called time-shifters. They are people who aren’t tying themselves down to structured programming schedules but plan to watch a show or movie at their convenience — for example, through an online service, on-demand or a DVD.

Perks joined Merrimack in 2015. She graduated from Wake Forest University and holds a master’s degree from Pennsylvania State University and a doctorate from the University of Texas, Austin.

The idea for a nearly 8,500-word article in the *International Journal of Communication* that was published on Halloween came out of Perks’ book “Media Marathoning: Immersions in Morality,” published in 2014. (“Marathoning” means watching an entire season of a TV series in a week or less.)

“They had to be time-shifting,” Perks said. “They weren’t watching the shows as they aired and whenever you’re doing that you’re setting yourself up to be spoiled.”

For the journal article, Perks interviewed 13 people who write and edit media coverage of TV. Most were TV critics. She asked about their spoiler practices and what motivates those practices.

There’s plenty of angst to go around while deciding whether to discuss a show, Perks said. Should you just avoid the subject? Is it enough to announce a spoiler alert? And what about timing; how soon is too soon for talking about a show with somebody who hasn’t seen it?

“If a show is old, is it fair game to tell you about it? The ‘Sopranos’ spoiler, for example,” Perks said.



Associate Professor Lisa Perks: ‘People can feel spoiled even if they aren’t watching a show, but plan to.’

She has had two more articles accepted for publication by other journals. “Spoiler Definition and Behaviors in the Post-Network Era” will be published by *Convergence: The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies*, in the next quarterly issue (it is online now); “Television Spoilers Recast as Narrative Teasers” will be published by *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication* in November 2017.

“I wanted to explore changing spoiler attitudes and show people different sides to them — even benefits,” Perks said.

Spoilers have negative connotations because they are, after all, spoilers— but there are positives to them, she said. Some viewers are pulled into shows after hearing the spoilers.

“It’s kind of an opposite reaction,” she said. “Even if they know the plot twist, they want to know how the story was told.”

Office:

Merrimack College