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Merrimack College Record

Merrimack College

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

New Year Renews
Spirit of Optimism

I am pleased to welcome you back for the start of the spring semester. As you come to campus, you will engage in what will be an even more exciting time at Merrimack.

Merrimack today is a dynamic institution that welcomes new faces, programs and traditions as well as continues its evolution in the form of construction, enrollments and academics.

We began this semester with the appointment of a new provost, Dr. Allan Weatherwax, and with the announcement that five assistant professors have earned tenure.

In addition, record numbers of prospective students and families have registered for Admitted Students Days in February, as we continue to be a strong and attractive option for more young people to further their education. I urge everyone to read how they can assist in welcoming students to our community.

The North Campus Academic Pavilion continues to rise, with a grand opening planned for fall — the most visible, but far from the last, sign of the college's continued growth.

As Together for Good continues its great success, we envision greater things to come. The Record will keep our community informed of it all.

God bless,

President Christopher Hopey has asked members of his senior leadership to create a new initiative providing opportunity for women at the college to participate in networking and mentorship and to grow personally and professionally.

Create Your Impact: Development and Leadership Initiative has been charged with working for a more gender-enlightened campus community in which a diverse range of women is supported and empowered to contribute to the organization.

“This new initiative will provide an environment where all Merrimack community members can thrive,” Hopey said. “I am looking forward to hearing the recommendations from the steering committee and working with them as we continue on Page 6

Initiative Seeks to Foster Professional, Personal Growth of Women on Campus

Weatherwax Embraces Next Career Challenge

Allan Weatherwax has seen this show before. It was just 18 months ago that the renowned physicist left behind a 14-year career at Siena College in upstate New York to assume the deanship of Merrimack’s School of Science and Engineering — and all the pressures that come with it.

Today, Weatherwax is settling in to his new position as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs — the college's chief academic officer, reporting directly to the
New Provost Embarks on Listening Tour With Faculty

Continued from Page 1

president — and again finds himself thrust into a new challenge with high demands and even higher expectations.

"It's been nonstop. I've yet to come up for a breath of air," Weatherwax said in an interview last week. "But it's been wonderfully exciting. The team (in the provost's office) is great, and all the people in Austin Hall have been very welcoming. It's been a great first two weeks."

Weatherwax, who has developed a national reputation for his geophysics research in the Arctic and Antarctic, was tapped as the college's 10th provost by President Christopher E. Hopey in late December after a national search that attracted 90 candidates. He succeeds Carol Glod, who returns to her research and teaching duties in the health sciences department at the School of Science and Engineering.

Committed to continuing his self-described collaborative management style, Weatherwax said he will spend his first few months on the job learning more about the needs and concerns of faculty across campus. He established regular provost office hours this week, and will soon begin meeting with every academic department at Merrimack.

"I really don't want to do anything major as far as movement or reorganization until I have a chance to hear what the faculty, senior administrators and other staff have to say," he said. "I want to spend a couple of months just listening, getting a feel for the office and how to prioritize."

But that doesn't mean the work of the provost's office will grind to a halt. Weatherwax said two major priorities of his early tenure will be to strengthen the college's core curriculum and re-imagine ways academic technology can assist students and teachers in their work.

His own research and scholarship will take a back seat to his new responsibilities, Weatherwax said.

"Being provost and taking on a very senior leadership position takes priority right now," he said. "I'll always have my hands in that type of work, but I'm going to have to leave more to my junior investigators."

Before moving into the provost's suite on Jan. 6, Weatherwax served for 18 months as dean of the School of Science and Engineering. During that time, he expanded undergraduate and graduate programs at the school, most recently with the announcement of two joint master's degrees — in data science and business analytics — with the Girard School of Business.

Formerly dean of science and professor of physics at Siena College, Weatherwax is a graduate of Binghamton University and holds a Ph.D. in physics from Dartmouth College. He has been the principal investigator on numerous National Science Foundation and NASA grants, and is currently co-director of the Firefly satellite mission, which is exploring the mysteries of gamma rays produced by lightning discharge.

Professor of Chemistry Cynthia McGowan now serves as interim dean of science and engineering.

Final Weeks in Recruitment Process Crucial to Admission Success

Last fall, Merrimack welcomed 1,005 freshmen to campus. Their class included the first cohort of Promise Scholars and the largest iTEC and Austin Scholars community to date. They represent 22 states, 13 countries and an 2.5 percent increase in diversity. In January, they were joined by 60 new spring students, largely students transferring into Merrimack after having attended a different college.

The college's goal is to continue to enroll 1,000 or more students for each entering fall class. This year, applicants have three admission deadlines: Early Decision (binding) and Early Action 1 (Nov. 15), Early Action 2 (Jan. 15), and Regular Decision (Feb. 15). We are quickly approaching deadlines for our next fall freshman class.

Applications are higher than last year. In addition, person-to-person counts are up in every category, including high school seniors who have visited campus or met with an admission counselor at their high school. Approximately 3,000 students have and will be admitted from the Early Action and Early Decision deadlines, and Regular Decision applicants will receive admission decisions in late March.

The Office of Enrollment and Retention continues to promote interest in Merrimack through emails, phone calls, texts, mailings and social media such as Snapchat.

Please direct any students and families who are interested in applying to Merrimack to admission@merrimack.edu and they may also stop by the Welcome Center in McQuade Library for assistance.

There are three very important Make It Merrimack: Admitted Student Days coming up; attending these events is our highest predictor for students choosing the college:
• Saturday, Feb. 4
• Saturday, April 1
• Saturday, April 8

Leading up to these events, the Office of Enrollment & Retention partners with all interested academic departments for a faculty phonathon. Student volunteers make the first round of calls, and admitted students can ask for a faculty member to contact them, too. The start of these relationships is something that sets Merrimack apart.

Here are some things the campus community can do to support these new student goals:
• See people on campus who look like student and/or parent visitors? Introduce yourself and ask if you can help. Direct them to the Welcome Center in McQuade Library.
• Smile, wave, say hello and hold doors for campus tours.
• If it isn't too disruptive, leave office and classroom doors open so visitors can get a peek into the real Merrimack experience.

If your area would like to be involved with welcoming admitted students, contact Darren Conine, associate vice president for admission, at conined@merrimack.edu.
Five Faculty, Representing All Schools, Awarded Tenure

President Christopher Hopey has announced the awarding of tenure to five members of the faculty, representing all four of the college’s schools. They are:

BRITTNIE AIELLO, PH.D.

Brittnie Aiello is an assistant professor of criminology in the School of Education and Social Policy.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology and modern languages from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, as well as master’s and doctoral degrees in sociology from the University of Massachusetts.

Aiello’s research focuses on the experiences of incarcerated mothers and their children. Her work examines the role that motherhood plays in the punishment and control of incarcerated women. Additionally, Aiello has examined the ways in which children endure emotional and physical discipline when they visit their mothers in jail.

Aiello’s teaching interests include race, class and gender inequality in the criminal justice system.

She is the internship coordinator for the criminology department and recently began an education program at Essex County Correctional Center.

JIMMY FRANCO, PH.D.

Jimmy Franco is an assistant professor of chemistry in the School of Science and Engineering.

He did his undergraduate work at Beloit College, where he earned a degree in chemistry, and holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California, Davis.

Before joining Merrimack, Franco was a visiting professor at the University of Toledo in Ohio.

Franco’s research is focused in the areas of medicinal chemistry and chemical education.

The medicinal chemistry aspect of his work focuses on neglected diseases such as tuberculosis and histoplasmosis. His group uses a combination of organic synthesis, biochemistry and computational chemistry to identify novel therapeutics for these diseases.

In the area of chemical education, Franco works to identify engaging pedagogical methods in chemistry and biochemistry. Franco credits undergraduate student researchers for their integral roles in both areas of research with a number of their contributions being acknowledged as co-authors on peer-reviewed publications and presentations.

SIRKWOO JIN, PH.D.

Sirkwoo Jin is an assistant professor of management in the Girard School of Business.

He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in psychology from Seoul National University in Korea and a doctoral degree in business and management from the University of Maryland’s Robert H. Smith School of Business.

Jin has taught a number of courses in leadership, work group and teams, and creativity to graduate and undergraduate students. As a doctoral candidate, he received a Top 15 Percent Teaching Award from the University of Maryland.

Jin has published in refereed journals and conference proceedings and presented his work at numerous national academic meetings. One of his publications has been featured in the LSE Business Review in the United Kingdom and Maeli Business Newspaper in Korea, in 2016.

Jin’s research interests include leadership, work-related emotions and emotional intelligence, and creativity in the workplace.

SUSAN MARINE, PH.D.

Susan Marine, Ph.D., is associate professor and program director in the higher education master’s program in the School of Education and Social Policy.

Marine earned undergraduate degrees in philosophy and women’s studies from Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky; a master’s degree in college student personnel from Bowling Green State University in Ohio; and a doctorate in higher education from Boston College.

She has 20 years’ experience leading initiatives in higher education for the advancement of women and trans students of all genders. She teaches courses in higher-education history, theory and practice, and her research interests include feminist praxis in higher education, trans-student inclusion and agency, and ending campus sexual violence.


SALLY SHOCKRO, PH.D.

Sally Shockro is an assistant professor of history in the School of Liberal Arts.

She holds bachelor’s degrees in history and classical archaeology and ancient history from Brandeis University, where she also completed the medieval studies program, and a doctorate in history, with a specialization in European Middle Ages, from Boston College.

Shockro’s research examines early medieval European intellectual culture, with a focus on the writings of Bede. Her recent work analyzes the ways in which saints’ lives were adapted and rewritten in the early Middle Ages.
Kara Hockmeyer joined Merrimack College Jan. 18 as the Title IX coordinator and director of compliance, to ensure all students on campus get equitable educations no matter their gender, class or disability.

“I’m very excited, very much looking forward to joining the Merrimack community,” Hockmeyer said. “After having the opportunity to speak with a lot of disciplines on campus, there seems to be a need for someone to step in full-time to give attention to compliance needs on a universal scale.”

Hockmeyer is an attorney who most recently worked at a medical malpractice law firm in Boston. She is a graduate of Colgate University and holds a law degree at Suffolk University.

In her new post, Hockmeyer will tie together the compliance work being done in the departments, offices and schools around campus, as well as lead efforts to address issues related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

“It’s about best practices, it’s about transparency, it’s about leadership I think a lot of people want,” said Vice President and General Counsel Nicholas McDonald, the college’s former interim Title IX coordinator.

Though Title IX is often associated with athletics, it covers the gamut of issues that are found across college and university campuses nationally. Title IX also covers clubs, nonathletic extracurricular activities and living arrangements as well as all educational activities, including allegations of sex discrimination in academics.

“The issue is not just about women and gender,” Hockmeyer said. “It’s more expansive. It’s equality and fairness based on merit.”

Victims of sex discrimination or sexual violence are denied the full benefit of the college experience so schools must fight to protect students from discrimination of all types, McDonald said.

“Every person regardless of gender is entitled to the benefits of an education, and Title IX ensures that,” McDonald said. “Any discrimination on the basis of sex cannot be tolerated.”

Hockmeyer to Coordinate College’s Title IX Efforts

Kara Hockmeyer

Kelsey Hargrove
Instructor and Physics Laboratory Manager
Physics Department

Kelsey Hargrove has joined the physics department as an instructor and laboratory manager. In addition to her teaching duties, her primary responsibilities include aiding students and managing the department’s lab spaces. Hargrove recently earned a doctorate in physics from the University of Central Florida.

Heather Notaro
Media Relations Specialist/Senior Writer
Office of Communications

As media relations specialist and senior writer in the Office of Communications, Heather Notaro will promote the college to local and national media and write stories for The Record and campus website. She previously worked at Merrimack from 2005 to 2010 as public relations manager and web editor. Notaro holds a B.S. and M.P.A. from Suffolk University.

Karen Slaton
Instructional Technology Specialist
Information Technology

In her new role as instructional technology specialist, Karen Slaton will support academic technology on campus, provide training, and partner with the Center for Excellence for Teaching and Learning to fulfill its mission. Slaton previously worked in IT at Harvard and spent three years as a technology integrator in K-12 education. She holds a master’s in computer science from Villanova University.

Emergency Plan Process Under Review

Merrimack College has engaged Ed Davis, former commissioner of the Boston and Lowell police departments, to assist in reviewing and updating the college’s emergency plan, response procedures and training.

Davis, who oversaw the investigation into the Boston Marathon bombing, is the principal of Ed Davis LLC, a consulting firm that works with businesses and institutions on emergency preparedness.

Davis has met with President Christopher Hopey and senior leadership to discuss the college’s longstanding emergency planning efforts and desires to continue to make Merrimack a welcoming and safe environment. He reviewed policy and the campus physical plant, and considered how to create even more seamless cooperation between Merrimack police officers and those of local communities, as well as state police.

The college will announce dates and times of upcoming public training and exercises as the senior leadership considers how best to expand upon Davis’ recommendations.
SPORTS

Women’s Track and Field Sprints to No. 16 in Country

The Merrimack College women’s track and field team is ranked 16th and put together another all-around good performance at the Bowdoin (College) Invitational in Brunswick, Maine, Jan. 21, where Savanna Spencer ’20 and Gabrielle Eldridge ’20 placed second in their respective events.

“It’s great to be into the full swing of the season,” said head coach Jacky Mendes. “We’ve still got a lot of work to do moving forward but the Warriors have continued to deliver some great performances while training. Most notably on Saturday, Spencer and Eldridge had some amazing performances that will keep the momentum going as we get into the more elite meets of the season.”

Spencer, of Seabrook, New Hampshire, ran a 1:43.82 to in posting a second-place finish in the 600-meter event.

Eldridge, of Easton, Massachusetts, had a personal best of 11.75 meters in the shot put to earn a second place finish for the day.

Other notable finishes included Mariessa Ricciardi ’19, of Holden, Massachusetts running a 1:44.36 in earning a fourth-place finish for the 600-meter event.

Tori Daigle ’19, of Dayton, Maine, earned a top-five spot in the 60-meter hurdles and a NE10 qualifying time by running a 9.65.

Chantal Sayegh ’17, of Melrose, Massachusetts, ran a 8.06 60-meter dash to finish third in the event and Leniesha Williams ’18, of Bennington, Vermont was right behind at 8.14 to finish fifth.

Merrimack also enjoyed success in the field.

Kathryn Skotnicki, ’17, of Haddon Heights, New Jersey, earned a fourth-place finish in the high jump with a 1.47-meter effort, which qualified her for the NE10.

Lauren MacGregor ’18, of Salem, New Hampshire, had a 10.67 meter triple jump to earn a fourth-place finish.

Shape Up for New Year at Fitness Center

The Merrimack College Record is published biweekly during the academic year and monthly in June, July and August, by the Office of Communications.

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Send submissions and story ideas to record@merrimack.edu.

Merrimack’s Savanna Spencer ’20 placed second in the 600-meter event with a time of 1:43.82.

"The most important thing
I tell my staff is we want
to congratulate people for
making a positive life choice.”

Merrimack's Savanna Spencer '20 placed second in the 600-meter event with a time of 1:43.82.
Faculty Development Grant Proposals Due Feb. 1

The Faculty Development Grant Committee is now accepting proposals for the 2017-18 academic year. Five copies of all completed and signed application forms and supporting information should be sent to Laura Hall-Seeleg, Mendel Hall 256, Mail Stop N5. Application forms and details on application procedures are available in the Faculty Handbook under “Faculty Development Grants.” The deadline for applications is Feb. 1.

Liberal Studies Core Results to Be Presented Feb. 6

Peter Stokes, of the Huron Consulting Group, will present the results of the Liberal Studies Core evaluation to each school in separate meetings on Feb. 6. Times and locations are: School of Education and Social Policy, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Cascia Hall; School of Science and Engineering, 11 a.m.-noon, Cascia Hall; School of Liberal Arts, 3:30-4:15 p.m., Murray Lounge, Sakowich Campus Center; and Girard School of Business, 5-6 p.m., Room, 310, O’Reilly Hall. Please try to attend your school’s meeting, but feel free to attend another meeting if you have a conflict.

Provost Establishes Open Office Hours

Provost Allan Weatherwax has established open office hours for faculty on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 10 a.m. The provost suite is on the first floor of Austin Hall.

College to Be Closed on Presidents Day

The college will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, in celebration of Presidents Day.
CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Upcoming Events, Job Opportunities from O’Brien Center

The O’Brien Center for Career Development empowers students to explore their strengths and values, and engage with professional opportunities and connections in order to successfully pursue a meaningful career and life. “Best fit” internships, co-ops and jobs with employer partners provide opportunities for each student to become their most successful self.

Below, you will find a sample of the most recent opportunities and events available to our students and alumni.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Professional Development Retreat, Class of 2018 — Feb. 16 and 17, Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center

Sports Management Networking Lunch — Feb. 23, noon to 3 p.m.

Criminology Event — March 1, 5 to 7 p.m.

Marketing Networking Breakfast — March 2, 8 to 10 a.m.

Health Sciences Networking Event — March 3, 8 to 10 a.m.

Spring Career Fair Kickoff — March 20-21

Liberal Arts Career Night — April 5, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

ON-CAMPUS RECRUITING EVENTS

Information Session: PwC, Feb. 2

Ask an Employer: Engineering and Life Sciences — Feb. 28, 2 to 4 p.m.

On-Campus Interviews: PwC — March 6 Position: 2017 Elevate Program

Spring Career Fair — March 22, 2 to 4:30 p.m.

FULL-TIME OPPORTUNITIES

ALKU — Executive Assistant to the CEO
Barton Associates — Associate Account Development Manager, Associate Recruiter
BlueGrace Logistics — Account Executive
Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence — STEM/Digital Arts Coordinator
Brine Group Staffing Solutions — Associate Recruiter
Cintas Corp. — Management Trainee
Citizen Schools — AmeriCorps Teaching Fellowship, Boston and Chelsea Public Schools
Cutler Associates — Project Engineer
EMARC — Day Program Skills Instructor, Residential Direct Support Professional
FIS Global — Product Management Support
Hanscom AFB — Logistics Management Trainee
Methuen Construction Co. — Project Engineer
MFA — Business Analyst
NEL Corp. — Project Engineer
North of Boston Media Group — Advertising Sales Professional, Page Designer
NovaBioAssays — Assistant Scientist
Primary Design — Account Executive
Promise Cyber School — Pre-K/Elementary Teacher in China
ScribeAmerica — Medical Scribe
Sherwin-Williams — Management/Sales Trainee
Siefert Associates — Assistant Engineer, Assistant Geotechnical Engineer
Watts Water Technologies — Engineering Leadership Development Rotational Program

INTERNSHIP/CO-OP OPPORTUNITIES

American Dental Partners — Corporate Development Intern
Blackduck Software — Multiple Internship Positions: Accounting and Finance;
Customer Success; Data Scientist; Education Services; Human Resource/Recruiting; IT; Software Engineer; Marketing; Technical Support; Vulnerability Analyst
Department of Homeland Security — Secretary’s Honors Program Cyber Student Volunteer Initiative
Ernst & Young — Emerging Leaders Program (Summer 2017)
Law Office of Kevin Patrick Seaver — Marketing Internship
Market Veep — Social Media Intern
Northern Essex Community College — Project Manager Internship
NXTevent — Event Planning Intern
Primary Design — Account Services Intern
Siefert Associates — Co-op/Intern
Technology Business Research — Sales Internship
Watts Water Technologies — Co-op, Mechanical Engineering Program
Weston & Sampson Engineers — Engineering Co-op

PART-TIME OPPORTUNITIES

Beacon ABA Services — Associate Behavior Therapist
City of Amesbury — Beach Director, Lifeguard
Colony Foods — Inside Sales
Danvers Community YMCA — After-School Group Leaders, Lifeguards and Swim Instructors
EMARC — Family Support Respite Skills Instructor, Westerly Public Schools
J&L Marketing — Promotion Coordinator
Muscle Milk — Protein Trainer
Rockland Trust — Bank Teller
YWCA of Lowell — Youth Program Facilitator

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Alternative Winter Break: Rewards Outweigh Sacrifices

About 38 students and faculty gave up parts of their Christmas vacation so they could take part in Alternative Winter Break organized by the Grace J. Palmisano Center and Campus Minister Jeffrey Wallace this year. Students traveled to Jamaica to work with orphans; Washington, D.C., to help the homeless; and Camden, New Jersey, to aid in community revitalization. “They were really successful experiences this year, which I was happy about,” Wallace said.

Students who applied for the domestic trips were organized by the types of service activities they preferred. That included students who traveled to the nation’s capitol to work with the homeless population in such venues as soup kitchens and thrift shops. Students who traveled to Camden learned about the city and explored its neighborhoods. “So it’s a little bit more of an immersion that way,” Wallace said of Camden. “You learn a little more about the culture of Camden and why Camden has become what it’s become.”

Camden had 13 people, including 10 students, two student leaders and an adult adviser. Fourteen people went on the Washington trip, including 10 student participants, two student leaders and two adult advisers. Another 10 students and Father Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., spent a week in Jamaica.

This was the second alternative break trip for Katie Brooks ’17, of Dracut, Massachusetts, who traveled to Washington, D.C., as a co-leader this year with Megan Bouchard. She went on the Alternative Spring Break to New Orleans last year.

It was a nerve-wracking experience to take a leadership role but it turned out well, Brooks said. The group teamed with Youth Service Opportunities Project and other groups while in D.C. to help provide direct and indirect services for people experiencing homelessness.

“I go on these trips because, not only am I helping many other less fortunate people, I get to experience different environments and immerse myself in their lifestyle and remember that we are all humans and all deserve love and respect,” Brooks said. “With these experiences, I am able to bring back knowledge and experiences I have gained to my own community.”

Just listening to Father Dlugos, you can tell he loved the experience working with Merrimack students and the children living at the Blessed Assurance Home, run by the international Catholic organization Mustard Seed Communities. Mustard Seed has 12 apostolates in Jamaica. Merrimack students worked at a home with children and teens suffering severe developmental and physical disabilities.

“What they thrive on is human contact and pure love,” Father Dlugos said. “We fed them, then we’d just hold them, hug them, play with them, roll with them.”

Merrimack students learned to see the children as human beings with personalities, souls, hearts and spirits, and were able to connect with them person-to-person, he said.

Students also performed manual labor such as weeding and cleaning chicken coops with as many as 292 egg-laying chickens. “We do this to really stretch the hearts and minds of our students — let them see realities they generally don’t see,” Father Dlugos said. “This was really eye-opening for them in many ways.”

The Alternative Winter Break was so popular among students there were waiting lists for both the domestic and international trips, Wallace said.

Office:

Merrimack College