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MERRIMACK COLLEGE

RECORD

JANUARY 2018



Message From the President: Mission and Vision Campus Meetings this Spring



The Mission and Vision Statement of the College begins with "Our Mission is to Enlighten Minds, Engage Hearts, and Empower Lives."

That statement is just now beginning its 10th year of inspiring and challenging our community. Over these 10 years it has served us as the bedrock of the 2011 NEASC accreditation, the foundation of the Agenda for Distinction, and the inspiration for the Together for Good capital campaign.

We are aware that a very significant percentage of our current community was not involved in the shaping and crafting of the statement in 2008. This winter, we are hoping to engage as much of our community as possible with this bedrock Mission and Vision Statement, so that it might inspire the next phase of planning and implementing Merrimack's future through, for example, the development of the next strategic plan for the College — the Agenda for the Future — another successful NEASC accreditation process in 2021, curriculum development, service-learning, campus mission and ministry, and our engagement in Lawrence and other neighboring communities.

I have asked Father Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., vice president for mission and ministry, and Nancy Ludwig, vice president for institutional effectiveness, to develop a process through which the entire community can further and deepen their engagement with our mission. There will be a series of public and private discussions this spring through which we will develop and explore ways in which we can all more effectively live out our mission.

Each senior vice president has been asked to encourage staff reporting to them, through

various departments and units, to attend at least one session. Each academic dean will organize events for the faculty and staff of each school. The Student Government Association, the Graduate Student Association, and the Student Athlete Advisory Council are also being asked to organize events for students to participate in the process.

This campus conversation is rooted in and inspired by our Catholic, Augustinian heritage, which undergirds all that we do at Merrimack. We hope to engage the entire Merrimack family in the discussion

Later this year, we will hold another set of conversations about what we have shared and learned from one another in this process.

I hope I will see you all at one or more of these sessions, or engage you with on a personal level on what Merrimack's mission means to you and your important work here at the College.

The following sessions have been scheduled, with more to come.

- Monday, Jan. 29, 12 to 1:30 p.m., **School of Education and Social Policy**, in Crowe Hall Executive Room
- Thursday, Feb. 1, 4 to 6 p.m., **School of Liberal Arts**, in Cascia Hall
- Tuesday, Feb. 6, 4:30 to 6 p.m., **Student Government Association**, in Crowe Hall Executive Room
- Thursday, Feb. 8, 8 to 10 a.m., **open session for administrators and staff**, Cascia Hall
- Tuesday, Feb. 13, 4 to 6 p.m., **School of Science and Engineering and School of Health Sciences**, Cascia Hall
- Tuesday, Feb. 20, 12 to 2 p.m., **open session for administrators and staff**, Cascia Hall
- Tuesday, Feb. 20, 4 to 6 p.m., **invited students**, Blue Line Club
- Tuesday, Feb. 27, 12 to 2 p.m., **open session for administrators and staff**, Cascia Hall
- Wednesday, Feb. 28, 4 to 6 p.m., **Girard School of Business**, in Crowe Hall

I want to thank you in advance for your engagement and participation in this important effort for the college.

God Bless,

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.

President

Professor Listed Among Top Education Researchers for Sixth Straight Year

The Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings has listed Merrimack professor Dan Sarofian-Butin, Ph.D., among America's top education researchers for the sixth consecutive year.

The annual list of 200 scholars, recognizes those who shape public discussions on education.

Sarofin-Butin, former founding dean of the School of Education and Social Policy and full professor in the



Department of Education and Community Studies, has spent much of his career working to enhance engaged learning. His recent work has focused on the pros and cons of digital learning technologies and online learning.

“My public scholarship looks at high-impact practices — such as service-learning — and examines how we can change our teaching and learning to become transformational and help students become thoughtful and engaged citizens, Sarofian-Butin said.

Educators must find ways to make teaching and learning more powerful. Technology is not going away and instead is becoming ubiquitous in the classroom, Sarofian-Butin said.

“So, how do we foster college as an apprenticeship into democracy, rather than what I call an apprenticeship into Wikipedia?”

Frederick M. Hess, director of education policy at the American Enterprise Institute, developed the Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings list that is published by *Education Week*. It uses metrics to calculate how scholars are able to make significant contributions to the national debate on public education by moving ideas from academic journals to the national conversation.

“I’m honored to be a part of this list,” Sarofin-Butin said. “Rick Hess has, I believe, done a very important thing by promoting the idea that faculty should be public scholars and can make a difference by being part of the public debate about key issues.”

Ex-Warrior Icer Named to Canadian Olympic Team



Merrimack graduate Karl Stollery '12, who played for the Warriors' men's hockey program from 2008 to 2012, has been named to Team Canada's 2018 Olympic men's hockey squad. He is the first former Merrimack student-athlete to become an Olympian.

One of the best defensemen in program history, Stollery graduated as a three-time winner of the team's Top Defenseman Award. His 83 points rank 10th among all defensemen in program history and second-most by a defenseman since Merrimack joined Hockey East. He also ranks third all-time in games played, with 145.

Stollery served as team captain during the 2011–12 campaign. He was a driving force in helping the team reach its first-ever Hockey East Tournament Championship Final and its second Division I NCAA Tournament berth. He also earned all-conference honorable mention

recognition as a junior and was an all-rookie team selection as a freshman.

Stollery signed with the National Hockey League's Colorado Avalanche after his final season on campus and spent four years with that organization before shorter stints with San Jose and New Jersey. He has logged 23 appearances in his NHL career and more than 300 games at the AHL level.

The XXIII Olympic Winter Games will be held February 9–25 in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Team Canada will play three preliminary-round games — the first against Switzerland on Thursday, February 15, at 7:10 a.m. EST — before beginning the playoff round on Monday, February 19. The Gold Medal Game is scheduled for Sunday, February 25.

New Research in Health Communication Helps Patients Take Control

A recent study by Andrew Tollison, Ph.D., assistant professor of communication and media at Merrimack College, underscores the value of communication for patients.

Tollison specializes in the role communication plays in health care — specifically among cancer patients and chronically ill people who experience a “loss of control” after being diagnosed. A terminal or chronic health diagnosis is potentially life changing, and can make patients feel as if they've lost control of their lives and the decisions concerning their own health.




“Most people want to feel a level of certainty, but throw something like cancer into the mix and that changes the rest of your life,” said Tollison. “If someone dwells on what is lost, that can begin to shift the person's identity.”

Tollison's research found that patients can regain a sense of control through communication — by taking charge of the decisions such as whether or not to share details of their illness, whom to tell, and how much to share. “How a patient talks about their illness can give them a sense of ownership over their condition,” he said. “In most cases, life doesn't have to stop when you get sick. You can reframe your mindset to focus on what you still have control over.”

Another important component of health communication that Tollison addresses is the physician-to-patient communication — or, stated more plainly, “bedside manner.” “Seriously ill individuals are required at times to relinquish full control of their health to physicians,” said Tollison. “They are literally trusting the doctors with their lives.” That process involves relinquishing some control and exercising a level of acceptance, but patients can still retain a degree of control by letting their doctors know their expectations and staying informed.

Tollison has been invited to several local support groups for terminally and chronically ill patients and their families to help outfit them with communication tools when dealing with medical conditions. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, as well as M.S. and B.S. degrees from the University of Tennessee.



Merrimack Policy



Federal Tax Reform 2018

As you are well aware, major changes were made to the US tax code at the end of last year. On January 11, the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) issued Notice 1036, (the 2018 Percentage Method Tables for Income Tax Withholding) to implement provisions included in the recently enacted Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The updated tables (linked above) reflect new rates for employers to use during the 2018 tax year. This communication provides some important information about these changes and steps you can take to review them.

Federal Income Tax Withholding Information - The new withholding tables are designed to work with current W-4 forms that employees already filed to claim withholding allowances. You are not required to make changes at this time. However, we recommend you review your withholding any time your personal or financial information changes. If you choose to make any changes to your W-4 Employee Withholding Allowance, you may do so by logging into the ADP portal at <https://workforcenow.adp.com>.

2018 Paycheck – ADP, our payroll vendor has implemented system changes that will apply the newly released 2018 tax tables to all paychecks with pay dates on or after January 26th. Verify that your federal, state and local taxes are reflected accurately and report any discrepancies to Payroll Services at Payroll@Merrimack.edu or by calling Kay Coppola at ext. 5329 or Robin French at ext. 5966. More information is also available in the IRS Withholding Tables Frequently Asked Questions -<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/n1036.pdf> and <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-withholding-tables-frequently-asked-questions>

Take Advantage of College's Fitness Benefit

Merrimack's medical insurance plans with Harvard Pilgrim include an annual fitness reimbursement benefit of \$150 per single, dual or family contract. **The deadline to submit reimbursement requests for 2017 is March 31, 2018.** To be eligible, subscribers must belong to a qualified health and fitness club for at least four months in a calendar year while also being a member of Harvard Pilgrim (coinciding months). In addition, subscribers must be currently enrolled in Harvard Pilgrim at the time of reimbursement. Fitness reimbursement applies to monthly fees paid to a facility that provides cardiovascular and strength-training equipment for exercising and improving physical fitness. Qualifying members can request reimbursement by applying online through HPHConnect for Members, or by U.S. mail. For more information and to download the fitness reimbursement form, visit harvardpilgrim.org/public/discounts-savings/fitness-reimbursement, or call member services at (888) 333-4742.

Winter Weather Alerts

Get the latest weather-related news via text and email about delays and closings at Merrimack by **signing up for RAVE alerts!**

W2s Now Available

Merrimack employees can now access 2017 W2's on line on the ADP portal <https://workforcenow.adp.com>



Kevin Gately was appointed Merrimack College's registrar in January 2018. Gately has more than 20 years of experience in academia, including the last eight years as registrar for Rivier University in Nashua, New Hampshire. He previously served as registrar for Middlesex Community College.

Shane Morin joined Merrimack in December 2017 as a police department dispatcher. He is working the swing shift from 3 to 11 p.m. and 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. He's a 2017 graduate of Lyndon State College where he earned an associate degree in business management and a bachelor degree in sports leadership.



Spirituality Lecture Series Features Rabbi Howard Mandell

Tuesday, January 30

7:00 p.m.

Stevens Auditorium, Cushing Hall

Rabbi Howard Mandell will lecture on Jewish spirituality. The speaker series is an introduction to Merrimack's new graduate degree in spirituality and spiritual direction that officially starts in the fall, said professor Joseph T. Kelley, director of the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations. Mandell's lecture is free and open to the public. Mandell follows previous speakers Rev. Ray Dlugos, OSA; associate professor Laura Pruetz; Kevin Salemme, director of Media Instructional Services; and Tufts University chaplain Shareda Hosein, a

former Army officer, who lectured on Islamic spirituality.

“Think Globally/Act Locally: Feed Your Neighbor”

Wednesday, February 7

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Multipurpose Room (MPR), Sakowich Campus Center

Join us again this year to pack 15,000 nutritious meals for the Merrimack Valley Food Bank at a time of year when supplies are low. One-hour shifts from 10am-4pm working side-by-side with our interfaith coalition of congregations and community organizations from around the Merrimack Valley. Contact jcm@merrimack.edu.

Merrimack Record

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