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February 2018



# MERRIMACK COLLEGE RECORD

## From the President



Dear Colleagues,

As the nation, and Merrimack College, continues to mourn the 17 senseless deaths at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida last week, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our strong and mutually supportive community. As a Catholic, Augustinian community, we are particularly horrified that this violence took place within a community of learning, and we offer our prayers and deepest sympathies for those who lost their children, brothers, sisters and friends.



As you know, there is nothing more important than the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and visitors. Tragic events such as the shooting that took place in Florida push us to reflect on our efforts to keep our learning, working and living spaces safe for all. I want to ensure each of you that Merrimack College is consistent and vigorous in our emergency planning. We regularly review, update and train for our emergency plans and want each member of our community to feel prepared should a threat arise.

That is why last fall we began community training sessions for emergency preparedness, which were well attended by students, faculty and staff. The Merrimack College Police Department has planned four more sessions taking place this March. I encourage each of you to attend and familiarize yourselves with how you should respond in the event of a campus emergency. Additionally, in partnership with local police forces, Merrimack Police will also be having on campus exercises to practice and evaluate responses to active shooter events. You will find more information regarding emergency preparedness trainings for faculty and staff below.

The Merrimack College Police Department is accredited, highly trained for emergency situations, and second to none; they maintain strong with surrounding departments who have sped to our assistance in the past. However, campus safety involves every member of our community. Residence life staff are integral to campus security, as they are our ears to the ground. Blue light phones for emergency contact are found throughout campus, as are cameras monitoring campus activities. The RAVE Guardian app allows instant emergency communication with police from any location. And of course, faculty, staff and fellow students watch out for one another, and call on help when something seems amiss.

I want to be clear: We have no particular reason for concern at Merrimack College. However, we live in a world where tragedy is all around us. With the safety of this community our foremost concern, we continue to train, to expand our blanket of security protections, and to prepare for what was once unthinkable. I encourage everyone to take part in the upcoming training sessions — even if you have taken part in earlier sessions — to continue to look out for each other, and to pray not only for those suffering in Florida but for the continued safety and security of all.

God Bless,

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.  
President



## Emergency Preparedness Training - Upcoming Sessions

Emergency preparedness has become a necessary component of modern life. Ensuring a safe and secure campus to teach, learn, live and work is Merrimack's highest priority, and the college has long had procedures and policies to address incidents that arise, and have arisen, at the college.

The Merrimack College Police Department will be holding the next round of emergency preparedness trainings for employees and students on **Tuesday, March 6 and Wednesday, March 7** at Rogers Center for the Arts. (No registration required)

Each day will consist of:

- Faculty and staff training from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- Student training from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Both trainings will highlight the training and measures the school takes to prevent or mitigate emergencies on campus.

To further ensure that every member of the college community stays informed about how best to prepare for, respond and react to emergency situations, Merrimack's policies, procedures and recommendations now exist in one web presence: [www.merrimack.edu/emergency](http://www.merrimack.edu/emergency).

The site provides important information about preparing for emergencies, reporting emergencies, and keeping all members of the campus community safe. It also includes guidelines for sheltering in place or locking down a building, and addresses such topics as:

- Natural disasters
- Smoke and fire
- Bomb threats
- Active shooters
- Hostage situations

Merrimack has been and remains a very safe campus. The college has an armed, well-trained and accredited 30-person police department, many security cameras, blue-light phones, a RAVE Alert system and RAVE Guardian app for emergency communications, and other, less public mechanisms in place. Merrimack also has firm relationships with Andover, North Andover and state police, all located within minutes of campus.

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### **Merrimack Police Officers Participating in Active Shooter Training**

Every sworn officer at the Merrimack College Police Department will participate in an active shooter training in Sullivan Hall on March 26, 27, 28 and 29 from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., during spring break. Several members of the Andover and North Andover Police Departments will also be participating in the training. This 16-hour training is taught by expert instructors and is designed to prepare first responders to isolate, distract, and neutralize an active shooter.

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### **Professor Recognized by Intelligence and National Security Alliance for Contributions to Cybersecurity Research**

Alison Lawlor Russell, Ph.D., associate professor of political science and international relations at Merrimack, was recently honored by the Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA) with a 2018 INSA Achievement Awards for her ongoing research on cybersecurity. Russell was one of only seven recipients nationwide.

Russell, who specifically received the Sidney D. Drell Academic Award, has contributed extensively to the interdisciplinary study of cybersecurity and championed cybersecurity as a public education issue central to national wellbeing. Her research provides critical contributions to the discussion of how the United States operates within cyberspace and the development of cyberspace rules, expectations, and international norms and laws.



"I am honored to receive the Sidney D. Drell Award from the Intelligence and National Security Alliance," said Lawlor. "Cyberspace is of vital importance to our society, economy, government, and military and securing the domain is a critical national security issue."

Russell recently published her second book, *Strategic A2/AD in Cyberspace*, which provides

the first comprehensive analysis of anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) operations in cyberspace (i.e. the ability to suspend a state's access to cyberspace). Her first book, *Cyber Blockades*, was the first to examine whether and how to conduct cyber blockade operations. Her publications and presentations have been of great assistance to the U.S. Navy as it strives to leverage and defend cyberspace as an operation domain. She is also developing an interdisciplinary cybersecurity minor as director of Merrimack's International Studies Program and contributing to ongoing research on cyber and artificial intelligence at the Center for Naval Analyses. Russell's work is pivotal to advancing the national security community's understanding of cyberspace.

She earned a Ph.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, a M.A. in international studies from American University, and a B.A. in political science and French literature from Boston College.

The eighth annual INSA Achievement Awards ceremony took place on February 22, 2018 at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. For more information about the INSA Achievement Awards and the 2018 recipients, visit [www.insaonline.org/Achievement](http://www.insaonline.org/Achievement).

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## Course Explores Just How Political Food Can Be

The nutritional label placed on the food you purchase isn't just a sticker — it's the result of a very political process. Now you can explore how politics shapes and controls our food in a Merrimack course titled Politics of Food, which is taught by Anne Flaherty, Ph.D., associate professor of political science at Merrimack.



The course is taught in segments, where students first learn about food production, obesity, chronic hunger and undernourishment, and other national and international issues concerning food. Then, the class moves into policy formation and implementation in the United States. This section covers issues that range from USDA price supports for particular agricultural products, to food labeling, to programs such as SNAP and the School Lunch Program. Next, the course explores food choice and issues such as vegetarianism or the local food movement and how those are political charged. As a capstone project, students create an engaged, applied project in which they develop or implement action items related to food politics. Past projects have included the early stages of planning and proposing a community garden and a food drive. Students in the course must also complete 10 hours of hands-on service learning, which involves volunteering at both a soup kitchen and a food pantry.

"The class helps students understand and critique the influences on food, both in their daily lives and in the broader food system," said Associate Professor Anne Flaherty. "The class explains how government history, decisions and interests shape social, cultural, and economic dynamics of food and this makes the more abstract concepts of how our federal government works much more intimate and interesting. Students are learning information, concepts, and skills specifically related to political science."

One student in the course, Health Science major Marlaina Rohmann '18, recently served at the Bread and Roses soup kitchen in Lawrence, Mass., to satisfy the service learning requirement. She is interested in a career in public health, and she enrolled in the course to explore the dynamics between our food supply and politics.

“During this course, I was very surprised to learn that the federal government’s involvement in food goes much further than organizations such as the FDA. The vast power of those organizations has also surprised me,” said Rohmann. “I think one of the biggest challenges public health officials face is relaying information to the public. The figures presented in class really simplify some of the concepts.”

Flaherty concluded, “Through the course students are being exposed to information, concepts and skills that I hope will inform their lives and encourage them to consider questions of global and national social justice.”

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## Season of Lent 2018

The Season of Lent is an opportunity for Christians to renew their spiritual lives through prayer, charity toward others, and efforts to modify the habits of our lives in the service of love of ourselves and our neighbors. This year at Merrimack, we offer the following to help us help one another make this season as meaningful as possible:



- **THE CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST** each **Sunday evening at 7:30 PM** and every **Monday through Friday at 12:30 PM** on the second floor of Austin Hall.
- **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** after every Mass as well as every **Thursday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:00 PM** in the small library just outside the chapel on the second floor of Austin Hall or at any time by appointment with one of the Augustinian Friars.
- **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** in the Taylor of Chapel of St. Augustine on the third floor of the Sakowich Campus Center every **Thursday from 5:00 to 7:00 PM**.
- **“TOLLE LEGE,”** a prayerful group reading of the Confessions of St. Augustine **every Wednesday from 12:30 to 1:30 PM** and every **Thursday at 4:00 to 5:00 PM** in the Taylor Chapel.
- **THE OXFAM AMERICA “HUNGER BANQUET”** on **Wednesday, February 28, at 5:00 PM** in the lobby of O’Brien Hall. The Hunger Banquet brings the statistics about hunger and poverty in our world to life. Sign up by contacting Maggie Morrin ([morrinm@merrimack.edu](mailto:morrinm@merrimack.edu)).
- **THE 15TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE** sponsored by the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations will be held on **Tuesday, March 6 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM** in Cascia Hall.
- **THE RESTLESS HEARTS RETREAT**, an opportunity to reflect on and experience the scriptures, the teachings of St. Augustine, the Sacraments, and Catholic devotions and prayers, will be held at St. Ambrose Friary on the evening of **March 16 until the evening of March 17**. Contact Nick DiSalvatore ([disalvatorenm@merrimack.edu](mailto:disalvatorenm@merrimack.edu)) if interested in participating.
- **LENT IN WORD AND SONG** presented by the **Merrimack Schola** on **Monday, March 19 at 7:30 PM** in the Rogers Center for the Arts. This hour long program will address the ever ancient, ever new themes of Lent and humanity’s restless and sometimes unarticulated search for God with a wide range of songs, poems, and scripture readings.
- **MERRIMACK’S 21ST ANNUAL MODEL PASSOVER SEDER** on **Tuesday, March 20 from 2:00-3:30 PM** in Murray Lounge. Rabbi Robert Goldstein will preside and teach the meaning of this Jewish celebration of the journey from slavery to freedom.



- **CIRCLES OF REFLECTION** on the Scriptural basis and real life implications of the 12 statements on the “We Believe in You” Posters on **Tuesdays February 27, March 6, March 13, and March 20 in the Campus Ministry Office from 4:00 to 5:00 PM.**
- The second annual **BACKPACK DRIVE** to assist the Department of Children and Family Services make the always unpleasant and sadly necessary task of relocating children in foster care a little bit easier. Contact Maggie Morrin (morrim@merrimack.edu) for more information.

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### **Merrimack College Radio Now Live**

WMCK, Merrimack College Radio, is now live with a full slate of weekly programming! Please see the attached schedule for a quick look at what you'll be able to listen to on WMCK this spring semester. To listen to WMCK simply click on the following link or download the tunein app to your smartphone or tablet.

**tunein WMCK, Merrimack College Radio**

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### **Lot J Now Available for Faculty/Staff Parking**

Understanding the need for additional parking due to weather conditions, until further notice faculty and staff may park in Lot J in cases where spaces cannot be found in other designated lots. To date, the following lots are designated for faculty and staff parking: Lots **B, C, E, F, L, M and J**. This temporary change will be reassessed as conditions improve. Contact Parking@merrimack.edu with any questions.

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**Are you or one of your colleagues or students running the Boston Marathon? Please let us know at [record@merrimack.edu](mailto:record@merrimack.edu).**



**Welcomes & Farewells**

**Nancy Ludwig, Ed.D.**, vice president for institutional effectiveness, has left the college to focus on further professional opportunities and family health concerns.

Dr. Ludwig came to Merrimack to re-energize institutional research and the registrar's office, she also served as vice president for administrative affairs in the Office of the Provost before her most recent position at Merrimack. This spring she has been working with the Office of Mission and Ministry on the mission renewal initiative. She served as the College's liaison to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and served an internal consulting role to units across campus on strategic planning and data resources.

She came to Merrimack from Northeastern University, where she served as associate vice provost overseeing institutional research, data administration, and data/information support of the responsibility center management budget process. She has also been a visiting assistant professor at Salem State University, teaching in the graduate education program.

Dr. Ludwig earned her doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts at Boston and an M.B.A. from Simmons College's Graduate School of Management.

The college is grateful for Nancy's time and the impact she has made on the institution as well as wishes her the best of luck on future endeavors.

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**Wendy Pearson** joined Merrimack Feb. 12 as the director of field experience, placement, and licensure for the Education Department in the School of Education and Social Policy. Her duties include overseeing teacher preparation for field experience, pre-practicum and practicum for teacher education candidates and school counseling candidates, as well as working with the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to endorse teacher candidates for Massachusetts state licensure. She previously worked at Salem State University's School of Education as coordinator of field placements and practicum, and coordinator for the Center for Education in the Community.

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**Timothy Banahan** was hired Feb. 14 as an on-call campus police officer to supplement the full-time staff on an as-needed basis.

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On Feb. 5, **Morgan Phipps '17** transitioned from a graduate assistant while working on her graduate degree in business management, to a career advisor for the O'Brien Center for Student Success. She is working out of the Girard School of Business working with students on such tasks as landing internships, critiquing resumes, and doing mock interviews.



**Tuesday, February 27, 2018**

**9th Annual First Lecture - Alfred Larsson '18**

**7:00 p.m., Rogers Center for the Arts**

Sweden native Alfred Larsson '18, senior mechanical engineering major and mathematics minor and member of the men's ice hockey team, will deliver the 9th Annual First Lecture - where a student speaks on the topic of their choice. The First Lecture will follow the Open



Forum for Students with President Hopey that begins at 4:30 PM in Cascia Hall. First Lecture is presented by Merrimack Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, Merrimack College Honors Program, Division of Mission and Student Affairs, and the First Lecture Interview Board. A reception will immediately follow the event.

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**March 8, 2018**

**Knowledge is Our Power: Finding Your Voice About Islam and Muslims**

**3:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Cascia Hall**

The Merrimack Institute for New Teacher Support (MINTS) and the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations, co-sponsored by the Abdelkadar Education Project, is hosting a dinner, dialogue, and practice for educators to help increase confidence and capacity to deal with difficult topics in the classroom - namely, the Muslim-American experience, terror, and Islamophobia. The event will feature Daisy Khan, Founder and Executive Director of WISE (Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality & Equality) and former Executive Director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement. **[RSVP Here!](#)**

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**March 8, 2018**

**15th Tolle Lege Reception**

**4:00 p.m., McQuade Library**

Please join us at the Writers House to honor members of our Merrimack community who have contributed to the Tolle Lege collection in the past academic year. *Snow date March 13, 2018 at 4 p.m.*

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**March 11, 2018**

**3rd Annual Faculty Concert**

**2:00 p.m., Rogers Center for the Arts**

Enjoy a variety of styles and genres, as our music faculty and their invited guest artists perform an afternoon of classical, world music, jazz and the blues.

Merrimack Record

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