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Merrimack College Record

Merrimack College

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MERRIMACK COLLEGE

RECORD

Merrimack to enroll record first-year class in fall 2018

Merrimack College will enroll a record first-year class in fall 2018, with historically high GPAs and the largest number of new students ever to come to campus.



“This speaks to the College’s reputation and attractiveness to young men and women— and it speaks volumes,” said President Christopher Hopey. “Higher education is watching the Merrimack success story.”

More than 1,160 future Warriors had made deposits to join the College in September as of May 5.

The class has the highest GPA average in Merrimack history. It will include 132 new Honors students, 102 Austin Scholars and 182 varsity athletes. Eighty-seven percent have requested on-campus housing.

In keeping with recent trends, the class is slightly more male than female (52-48 percent). The College will welcome a record-high percentage of students of color, 16 percent of the incoming class, and nearly a third of freshman will be first-generation college students.

More than 10 percent of the class has a legacy connection to Merrimack — a family member who previously attended the College. Perhaps most tellingly, nearly two-thirds — 65 percent — of the incoming class committed during the early action/early decision phase of applications, meaning they had decided quickly that Merrimack was the place for them.

“Enrollment at private colleges in the United States has been declining, and we’ve seen smaller institutions forced to close,” the president said. “Merrimack has long bucked the trends, and continues to do so as more and more families see us as the best investment in their student’s future.”

Actress, author Sonia Manzano to keynote 2018 Commencement

Merrimack College’s 68th Commencement Exercises will celebrate more than 1,100 undergraduate and graduate success stories.

“Commencement encompasses all the reasons most of us chose higher education as our vocation,” said President Christopher Hopey. “We ceremonially commemorate the intellect, drive and determination of our students, and honor their families and friends who have supported them. Faculty and students have worked long and hard, side by side, on this journey of discovery, and celebrating the fruit of that success is the highlight of our academic year.”



Commencement, at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 20, will be the culmination of a weekend of celebratory activities that starts with a Saturday luncheon for Legacy graduates and their families and continues through Honors Convocation, for undergraduate presidential scholars; Baccalaureate Mass; and a Hooding Ceremony for graduate students, during which they will be invested by their deans with academic hoods signifying their master’s degrees.

Acclaimed actress and author Sonia Manzano — for 44 years, Maria on public television’s “Sesame Street” and recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Emmy — will address graduating students, families, faculty and staff on Sunday morning.

Manzano will be presented with an honorary doctorate in performing arts, and the college will also bestow honorary degrees on four others who have made a difference to the college and the world:

- Kerridan Crowe P’17, educator and philanthropist
- David Long, chairman and CEO of Liberty Mutual Insurance Group
- Jeff Riley, superintendent of Lawrence public schools and Massachusetts commissioner-elect of elementary and secondary education
- Karen Holmes Ward, director of public affairs and community service and host and executive producer of *CityLine* at WCVB Channel 5 in Boston

The assembly will also hear from graduate student speaker Brian Shea and undergraduate speaker Victoria Robbins.

During the ceremony, college officials will announce and honor the recipients of the Merrimack Medal, awarded to a student who reflects committed and outstanding service to the Merrimack community, and the Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, in appreciation of a faculty member’s devotion to teaching excellence, care and concern for students and deep dedication to learning.

The ceremony will be held in Merrimack Stadium — a return to the college’s tradition of outdoor commencement, made possible by the opening of the new facility in October.

As a reminder, Commencement weekend includes:

Saturday, May 19

Legacy Luncheon, 10:30 a.m.

Honors Convocation, 1 p.m.

Baccalaureate Mass, 4 p.m. (followed by reception)

Graduate Hooding Ceremony, 4 p.m. (followed by reception)

Sunday, May 20
Commencement Exercises, 10 a.m.

President announces initiative for science and engineering



Building on the success of the Together For Good capital campaign – which, with 18 months to run, has raised more than \$49 million toward its \$50 million goal — Merrimack will reposition the campaign to focus on a new initiative for science and engineering facilities.

The initiative, which President Christopher Hopey announced during a meeting with School of Science and Engineering faculty, is aimed at creating another 20,000 to 40,000 square feet of teaching, research and maker spaces for the school.

In the near term, the College may lease space nearby, the president explained, pending faculty review and approval of potential programming. “You tell me what you need,” he said to faculty.

New facilities ultimately depend on both fundraising and enrollment growth, at the undergraduate and graduate levels, the president said. He asked faculty to join the capital campaign to explain to potential donors what their investment in Merrimack will fund.

“Donors want to invest in you and your future,” he told the school meeting. “They’re interested in what you’re doing in the lab and the classroom. They get excited when they talk to you about research and teaching.”

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations will begin working with faculty to create promotional materials and events for the initiative.

The plan for science/engineering facilities flows from Provost Allan Weatherwax’s Academic Investment Initiative, which has seven top-level goals:

- Build and develop new academic programs and centers that drive enrollment, revenue and reputation.
 - Foster research, scholarship and creative activities.
 - Support and champion faculty hiring and development.
 - Enhance student success.
 - Stimulate educational and pedagogical innovation
 - Promote cutting-edge technology to improve academic and administrative priorities.
 - Align academic and mission priorities.
-

College sets summer work schedule, holidays

Recognizing the hard work of Merrimack College staff and the desire to spend time with family and friends during the summer months, the College is pleased once again to announce an abbreviated summer work schedule.

College offices will be closed every Friday starting May 25 and ending Aug. 10 — with the following exceptions:

- Reunion weekend, June 1-2, will require many staff members to help celebrate returning alumni and their guests and create a welcoming environment for all.
- New student orientation is also vitally important, as incoming students and their families come for their first formal introduction to living and learning in the Merrimack community. Many areas will be involved in preparations on June 15 and 22.

Senior vice presidents will communicate with their peers and their divisions to ensure that these major events are appropriately staffed.

Please note that the College will be closed July 4-8 to mark the Independence Day holiday, reopening Monday, July 9. The College will be open Labor Day, Sept. 3 to serve students moving in for the fall semester.

Please note the following holidays for the upcoming year

Independence Day July 4
Day after Independence Day July 5
Columbus Day Oct. 8
Day before Thanksgiving Nov. 21
Thanksgiving Day Nov. 22
Day after Thanksgiving Nov. 23
College closes for break 3 p.m. Dec. 21
Christmas Eve Dec. 24
Christmas Day Dec. 25
New Year's Eve Dec. 31
New Year's Day Jan. 1
College reopens Jan. 7
Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 21
Presidents' Day Feb. 18
Holy Thursday April 18
Good Friday April 19
Easter Monday April 22
Memorial Day May 27

There may be some departments and/or employees deemed essential personnel who are scheduled to work on a holiday in order to meet the needs of the college. In these instances, the employee will be paid for hours worked on a given day as well as receive a banked holiday for future use at a time that is approved in advance by the supervisor. Banked holidays should be requested/scheduled within six months.

For the full 2018-2019 academic calendar, please visit the Provost's Office/Faculty Resources under Offices & Services on the main page of the Merrimack website.

Record-setting season for spring sports; playoffs in the offing

Merrimack's spring Warriors are again proving their mettle, with tournament bids for men's lacrosse and women's softball and standout track performances that will carry the Warriors into the New England Championships.

Men's lacrosse won its third Northeast-10 Conference championship in program history on Sunday, claiming the league tournament title for the first time in eight years.



Seniors Kyle Stenberg and Blake Boudreau led the way; the former tied his career-high with five goals, while the latter dominated the faceoff X to set the tone for the Warriors in an eventual 11-7 victory over nearby rival Saint Anselm. Merrimack claimed the top seed in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history and will host NYIT in the national quarterfinals at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at Merrimack Stadium.

The softball program learned on Monday morning that it earned the program's second straight NCAA Tournament bid, which marked the 15th overall for the program.

Merrimack earned an at-large bid as the seventh seed out of the East Region, winning over 30 games for the 16th time in program history, and third time in the last eight years. The Warriors will begin the double-elimination tournament at noon May 10 at Saint Anselm.

The men's and women's track and field teams competed at the Northeast-10 Conference Championships this past weekend.

The men's team boasted three individual champions, highlighted by senior John Braga's fourth NE10 crown at the outdoor championships in the decathlon. He broke a NE10 Championship record with over 6,900 total points. Classmate Keith Steinbrecher won the 3,000-meter steeplechase, and junior Trevor Ciempa was crowned champion in the high jump.

The women's performance was highlighted by a second-place finish for its 4x100-meter relay team, while freshman Calene Lazare ranked third overall in the 100-meter dash. They will compete at the New England Championships this weekend at Dartmouth and hope to qualify for the national championships later this month.

President's Town Hall set for Tuesday, May 22

The President's annual Town Hall Meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 22, in the Rogers Center for the Arts.

The president will review the successes of the past year and discuss the College's future direction. He will also honor employees who have reached five-year milestones at Merrimack.

Town Hall will be followed at noon by an employee cookout on North Campus, in front of Crowe Hall.

Town Hall will closely follow the events of Commencement weekend.

College planning process to prepare Agenda for the Future

As we enter the eighth year of the Agenda for Distinction having achieved or exceeded its goals, Merrimack will embark on a strategic planning process to prepare for the College's reaccreditation process and its next long-range plan.

Tentatively titled the Agenda for the Future, the next strategic plan will take the College through 2026 and beyond, setting goals for enrollment, faculty growth, facilities expansion and new program development.

President Christopher Hopey began the process during a retreat with the Board of Trustees in March, facilitated by consultants from Huron/Innosight, who will continue to guide the process under the rubric of "dual transformation." The concept refers to the repositioning of a current business model while inventing and refining a model for tomorrow.

The president will lead a two-day retreat in June with senior College leaders to begin building more specifics around planning, and then will conduct a yearlong series of meetings with faculty, staff and other key stakeholders during 2018-2019.

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