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MERRIMACK COLLEGE

# RECORD

## Faculty Participation Essential in Attracting Future Students

Colleagues,

We have had an unprecedented record of successes at Merrimack College, and this year alone we have celebrated the opening of the Arcidi Center, our entry into Division I athletics and the preliminary state approval of our nursing program — for which we are recruiting our first-ever class to start in fall of 2019.



We have become very attractive to young men and women, for these reasons and so many more. But interestingly, when we surveyed freshman last fall, we learned that more than 55 percent found visiting campus — for an Open House, an Admitted Student Day or just a tour — was “very important” to their decision to come to Merrimack. It is one of the top reasons students choose to join us.

Of course, a close look at our amazing new facilities — such as Arcidi’s Visitor Center, Crowe Hall, Merrimack Stadium, the communications and psychology learning environments, Mendel maker spaces, health sciences technology labs and so many more — is bound to attract intellectually curious high school students and their families. But we know it is more than that. It is meeting our people — students, staff and faculty — that convinces young people to continue their academic journey here.

Merrimack faculty in particular have such a strong impact on prospective students, who hear about classroom and lab experiences they want to be part of and picture themselves in intellectual adventures with some of the smartest and most charismatic people in higher education.

That is why it’s so important to have great faculty participation in Open Houses on Oct. 20 and Nov. 4. Faculty show up in great numbers for these signature admission events, and I personally appreciate the true sense of excitement for Merrimack they are able to instill, be it in panel discussions or one-on-one conversations with families.

Merrimack College, as Money Magazine has noted, is truly transformative. Our future students imagine the possibilities for their own personal transformation every time they talk to one of our outstanding faculty.

We have had amazing successes and a long upward trajectory. I urge everyone to join us on Oct. 20 and Nov. 4 to keep the momentum going.

Thank you for all that each of you does, every day, to make our students' futures brighter and make Merrimack the very special place that it is.

See you on Oct. 20. God bless,

Chris

## Faculty Teach Teachers in Nigeria's Augustinian Schools

It's more than 5,200 miles from North Andover to Nigeria, but the School of Education and Social Policy didn't hesitate in agreeing to help when the Rev. Ken Eze, OSA '17 and the Rev. Peter Imaji, OSA '18 asked for help with a faculty development initiative for three Augustinian-run high schools in their home country.

Working with the benefit of a Zampell Family Faculty Fellowship Grant, the result of a major gift to Merrimack from the Zampell family, Dean Isabelle Cherney asked associate professor and director of undergraduate education Anne Gatling, and assistant professor Amelia Mallona to lead the workshop, which immediately faced challenges of distance and safety.

"Fathers Eze and Imaji felt the teachers weren't being creative or encouraging the students to think more critically," Gatling said.

Gatling and Mallona turned out to be excellent choices for the project. Gatling is experienced in teaching small, remote communities in the Arctic Circle, and



Mallona has experience working in Nicaragua facilitating Pablo Freire's critical pedagogy in urban and rural communities.

They also counted on the help of Associate Provost Kathryn Nielsen, the director of strategic initiatives, and Janet Syed, Merrimack's associate director and lead instructional designer.



"It was a beautiful team," Gatling said.

Gatling and Mallona planned to travel to Nigeria to lead the four-day faculty development workshop, but the threat of violence from religious persecution offered too much danger. So they turned to technology to bridge the distance. When summer arrived, Gatling returned to her summer home in Alaska while Mallona remained in Massachusetts. but with the help of Sai Satish, instructional technology specialist from Merrimack's IT Department, they set up a Zoom account through which they could all link from far reaching locations.

Working with Eze and Imaji, Gatling and Mallona followed academic literature that argues Nigeria's educational system needs partnerships more than educators visiting to present theories that don't apply in its social and cultural context.

According to Mallona, Freire's theory provided a framework for the teachers to critically examine the nature of knowledge, the relationship between teacher and student, and the diverse context in which the learning process happens in the Augustinian schools in Nigeria. Eze and Imaji wanted a workshop showing teachers how to understand and implement strategies that take into account the diversity in classrooms, ranging from different learning

styles and academic backgrounds of the students to social classes and lack of available resources.

Additionally, the workshop looked at place-based education in which teachers use resources the community already has at its disposal; and how to use different rubrics, such as assessing academic progress in a subjective manner.

“The goal of the workshop was to facilitate faculty development in educating the whole person,” Mallona said.

Even though there were thousands of miles separating Gatling and Mallona from the teachers who gathered in Nigeria, with the help of Zoom, the workshop was able to meet as one large group, then break off into smaller groups for discussion, before come back together.

Thanks to the Zampell grant, the team will continue to support the needs of the Nigerian teaching community this school year.

“The grant is allowing us to work with them all year,” Gatling said. “The key thing is that they are going to be able to continue this conversation with our support. If they try something and fail we will be here to say ‘let’s try something else.’”

## **Faculty/Fellow Duo to Address Food Insecurity in Lawrence**

Assistant professor Traci Alberti in the School of Health Sciences is working with graduate student Ashley Hall '19 — the recipient of this year’s John “Jack” Twomey '56 Graduate Fellowship, made possible through a grant from the Cummings Foundation — to address food insecurity and health literacy in Lawrence.

They are partnering with the Merrimack Valley Area Health Education Center.

“Overall, we are going to be providing an opportunity for Ashley and some other students to be exposed and get some hands-on knowledge of social determinants of health, cultural competency, interdisciplinary education, and current healthcare topics, such as food insecurity and health literacy,” Alberti said.

Alberti and Hall will travel to the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va., in November for training to be certified as instructors in the Health Education and Literacy (HEAL) program, using funding from a Community Engagement Provost Innovation Fund Grant. Partial funding for the project is also provided by the Cummings Foundation Grant.

Alberti and Hall be working with Lazarus House in Lawrence to offer a nutrition education program this semester. In the spring, they will lead the HEAL program at Notre Dame Education Center-Lawrence to teach health literacy and health self-management skills for adults learning English as a second language.

“It is a fantastic opportunity for the college and our students to be able to interact and build collaborative community partnerships,” Alberti said. “We are able to explore some of the healthcare and health education needs of the Lawrence community and simultaneously provide students with the exposure and hands-on experience to build new skill sets they are going to be able to carry forward to their careers.”

Hall is a graduate of Rivier University who heard of Merrimack’s Master of Science in Health and Wellness Management by happenstance, when she ran into her old friend Ali Schade '18

M'19 at a farmstand in her hometown of Tyngsboro.

Schade told her she planned to take the graduate program and Hall reached out to Graduate Program Director Lindsey Carbone, who quickly decided she would be a good fit for the Twomey Fellowship and urged her to apply.

"It all happened so fast, but was so exciting and humbling," Hall said.

## **Now in Fourth Year, Women's Hockey Starts Season Strong**

The women's ice hockey team, now in its fourth year of Division I competition, opened the 2018-2019 season with a 2-0 sweep of Union College last weekend.

The first victory — 3-0 — came in Merrimack's first season opener at Lawler Rink since its inaugural season. That 2015 game set attendance records for women's Hockey East play.

Merrimack beat Union again on Saturday 4-1.

They play two games at Penn State this coming weekend.

The Warriors ended last season 11-20-3, just missing the Hockey East championship. This year the team skates 11 seniors.

## **Homecoming Celebration to Span Weekend of Oct. 26-28**

A record number of Warrior alumni, families and friends are expected from near and far to celebrate all things Merrimack during Homecoming weekend, Oct. 26-28.

The slate of events is will keep everyone busy from Friday afternoon through early Sunday.

It all starts when they drop the puck for the game between the women's ice hockey team and the University of Vermont at 3 p.m. Oct. 26 at Lawler Rink in the Merrimack Athletic Center.

There is a slate of games starting at 4 p.m., including the Women's Volleyball Team match against Adelphi University on Hammel Court; Field Hockey taking on Franklin Pierce University inside Merrimack Stadium; and the Men's Soccer Team on the pitch against Assumption College at Martone-Mejail Field.

The Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony to honor this year's class of athletes and supporters will be held at 7 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Lobby in the MAC. It is a by-invitation event.

The party will really get revved up with the Macktober Fest featuring games, music, food and fireworks from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. inside Merrimack Stadium.

For those who want a more intimate setting, Augie's Pub will be serving snacks for those 21 years old or older and have identification from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Sakowich Campus Center.

The activities for Oct. 27 will hit the ground at full speed with the popular Run of the Warriors 5K run-jog-walk that starts inside Merrimack Stadium before stretching around campus.

The MACK Talk Breakfast, for deans and faculty members to share the latest in academics,

research, and student experiential learning, is scheduled for 9 a.m. in the Sak's Multi-purpose Room.

The party starts to really hop at 10 a.m. with the Family-Friendly Tailgate and Fall Fest in the Rogers Center for the Arts Parking Lot E; the Alumni, Parents, and Family Tailgate in the Parking Lot H next to the Sak; and the Young Alumni and Affinity Group Tailgate for those who graduated from 2008-2018 in the Athletic District's Parking Lot M.

Parking for tailgaters will be limited, so pre-registration is required; it includes a parking pass to a designated tailgating lot, two tickets to the football game, and two exclusive Homecoming giveaways. It's recommended that groups of friends, family and alumni buy tickets in the same designated lot and arrive together. All the tailgating policies can be reviewed at [www.merrimack.edu/homecoming](http://www.merrimack.edu/homecoming). There is a \$50 cost per tailgate spot.

The Beer Garden will open at noon inside Merrimack Stadium.

The day's athletics begin when the football team takes on American International College on the gridiron at 1 p.m. The pregame and halftime events will include a tribute to Merrimack's own 2018 NCAA Division II national champion men's lacrosse team.

Also at 1 p.m., the women's volleyball team will take on Pace University on Hammel Court.

Homecoming Mass will be celebrated in Cascia Hall at 5 p.m. Worshipers of all faiths are welcome.

The women's soccer team will take on Saint Anselm College at 6 p.m. on Martone-Mejail Field.

Then, at 8:30 p.m. there will be Big Prize Bingo inside the Sak for students, families and alumni.

Augie's Pub will be open again for revelers to wrap-up their weekend from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Everyone who wants a big-picture view of everything happening on campus can follow along on social media @merrimackalumni. Photographs taken during the weekend can be shared on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter with the hashtag #BacktotheMack.

Tickets for the games can be purchased either online at [www.merrimack.edu/homecoming](http://www.merrimack.edu/homecoming) or by telephone at (978) 837-5324. Tickets ordered online for the football game will include an additional \$1 service charge. Luxury boxes are available for purchase during Homecoming Weekend. For more information visit [athletics@merrimack.edu](mailto:athletics@merrimack.edu) online.

## Hollywood Actor Lang to Perform at Rogers

The Rogers Center for the Arts proudly presents Stephen Lang and his one-man show, "Beyond Glory," written and performed by Lang.

"Beyond Glory" begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1 — days before Veterans Day — in the Rogers Center.

## Coming up

Oct. 6 — Men's Hockey Home Opener  
• 7 p.m., Lawler Rink

Oct. 8 — Columbus Day; college closed.  
• Monday classes meet Tuesday

Oct. 9 - Staff Forum  
• 1 p.m, Crowe Hall Executive Room

Lang (Avatar, Don't Breathe, Hostiles, Into the Badlands) portrays eight Medal of Honor winners telling their true stories in their own voices. In 2010 the Tony-nominated Lang received the Patriot Award from the Medal of Honor Society, in honor of his charitable works for the United States military.

Merrimack was founded in 1947 to educate veterans returning from World War II.

Oct. 26-27 - Homecoming Weekend

Nov. 1 — Feast of All Saints Mass  
• 12:30 p.m., Chapel of Our Mother of Good Counsel

Nov. 2 — Feast of All Souls Mass  
• 12:30 p.m., TBD

Nov. 6 — Honoring Our Veterans  
• 10 a.m., MPR

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