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MERRIMACK

SPRING 2004

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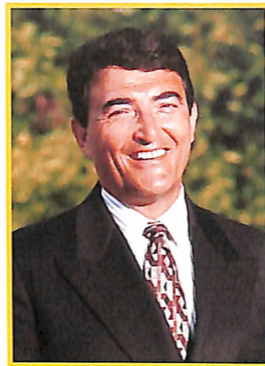
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Recently, I made time to reflect on my ten years as president of Merrimack. Nostalgia set in as I wondered at how much we have to be thankful for, and how far our young college has come. The nostalgia soon retreated as I considered how far we can go, and the many hopes and dreams we all share for the college's future. I am more convinced than ever that the future of Merrimack College is a strong one.

Again this year, we are anticipating a freshman class strong in numbers and academic potential. Applications for admission have increased; more than 3,500 potential students applied for admission to the Class of 2008. Our early action applications also experienced a significant increase. Merrimack is the first choice of these applicants, who come from 21 states and include many valedictorians.

Our students, freshmen to seniors, have had an outstanding year. Academically, in the community, and on the playing field our students are pushing themselves and reaching new heights. A group of civil engineering students won the New England Steel Bridge Competition and are preparing for the national competition; the Warriors women's basketball team won our first-ever Northeast-10 Conference and Regional titles, and traveled to the Elite Eight tournament in Missouri; and students used the winter semester break to volunteer in the Dominican Republic for the first time. Other student groups are engaged in numerous research projects, campus life programs, and programs assisting our neighbors throughout the Merrimack Valley.

Our students are, and will always be, the strength and cornerstone of Merrimack College. They have heart, unfailing commitment, determination, and support for one another. I am extremely proud of each one of them. They truly make Merrimack College the strong, vibrant community that it is today.

Thanks to our students, as well as careful planning and fiscal restraint, we have reached a significant milestone in our evolution. We have invested millions of dollars in the college's facilities, technology, human resources and more, while also increasing the endowment, a critical move for enhancing access for many students. The future looks bright, the pieces are in place, but we still have more work to do.

As we begin what I believe to be our final steps toward preeminence, several issues of major importance stand out. If we tackle these issues successfully, as I have every confidence we will, then I believe that Merrimack College will be forever changed.

In the near future, we need to significantly enhance McQuade Library, which celebrated its 35th year in 2003, to meet the growing academic demands of our students and to truly serve as the campus' intellectual center. We must continue to invest in our future by growing the college's endowment to provide critical resources such as scholarships, endowed faculty chairs, faculty development opportunities, and to continue to provide technology that enhances teaching and learning. We must also work to complete the renovations and improvements to the Volpe Athletic Center.

Addressing these issues will be challenging yet gratifying, because in the end we will have achieved our goal - securing the future of Merrimack College. Merrimack will stand as an extraordinary Catholic, Augustinian institution of higher education, a preeminent liberal arts college with a superior academic curriculum, innovative interdisciplinary programs, strong co-operative education and career development programs, and so much more.

Your continued commitment to and belief in Merrimack College is crucial to our success. I invite you to come visit Merrimack and enjoy a little nostalgia yourself!

Richard J. Santagati
President

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Merrimack Mentors Build Math, Science Skills

By David Rattigan

In the cafeteria of the Lawrence (Mass.) Family Development Charter School, members of the Spar and Spindle Girl Scouts Council are studying small jars of pond water. Using droppers, they remove water from the jars and deposit it in a petri dish. They examine the water with magnifying glasses and use charts to identify the tiny invertebrates that live in it.

"Based on the type of animal, they can tell if it's high-quality water or low-quality water," Laura Powers '05 said. "Some animals can tolerate pollution, and some animals won't."

In slightly different words, sixth grader Yariana Clas concurred, "They all look like worms, but they have different names and live in very different places," she said. "If they change the water, they'll die."

Powers is a site coordinator for the Lawrence Math and Science Partnership, a higher education Learn and Serve Program funded through a \$295,000 grant to Merrimack from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNS). In five Lawrence locations, approximately 60 Merrimack College students serve as once-a-week mentors for 180 middle school children. The federal grant was one of only two to higher education in Massachusetts.

The program goes to the heart of Merrimack's mission. Service to community is part of the Augustinian tradition, and much appreciated by the middle schoolers.

"Hanging out with college students is fun for them," Powers noted. In addition to the charter school, the program also runs at the Blessed Stephen Bellesini Academy, the Asian Center of Merrimack Valley,

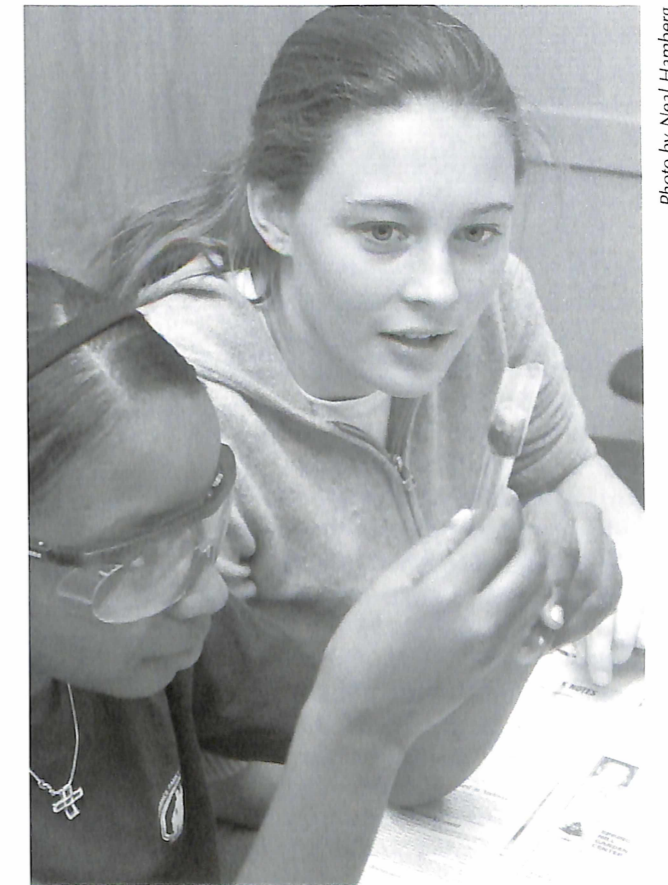
Adelante! and at Lawrence Community Works. Directed by Dr. Linda Foote, professor of biology, and supported by Mary McHugh, director of the Stevens Service Learning Center, the after-school program is designed to strengthen the students' math and science skills. The Merrimack students also assist with homework as part of each session.

Merrimack student mentors receive mandatory two-day training that includes instruction and participation in science workshops as well as exploration of cultural and diversity issues. Such training helps foster a better understanding of

In five Lawrence locations, approximately 60 Merrimack College students serve as once-a-week mentors for 180 middle school children, thanks to a \$295,000 federal grant to Merrimack.

the challenges and experiences of middle school students, especially those of students who often speak English as a second language.

In this lesson, the students are



Student Laura Powers works with a Lawrence middle school student in the Math and Science Partnership program.

introduced to the scientific method of gathering data and testing a hypothesis, explained Jonathan

Parrelli '06, one of the Merrimack volunteers. "When they get into high school and college and they're using the scientific method and writing papers, they'll remember this," he said.

The hands-on approach is designed to make learning fun for the students, and it does, said Girl Scout Coordinator Sylvia Woods. "The only thing I remember (when I was in school) that was hands-on was dissecting a frog," she said. "This is definitely hands-on: They get to touch and experience it."

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Merrimack Mentors

Although the program benefits both girls and boys, Woods appreciates the impact it may have on girls, who may eventually follow the path to a career in science. That area, like math, is one in which females are historically outnumbered by males.

Clas, 12, is already a convert. Asked about her future plans, she explained that she wants to be a forensic scientist. "I like that show, *Forensic Files* (on Court TV)," she said. "It's very interesting."

The program is beneficial for Merrimack students as well. Participation in such programs enhances student scientific literacy and math and technical skills; develops skills in experimental design, data analysis, problem solving and reasoning, critical thinking, teamwork and communication; and develops enhanced civic and social responsibility, respect for cultural diversity, and personal and academic development.

➤ "Medical schools are beginning to introduce concepts of non-traditional medicine into their curricula," said Marcia Walsh, Ph.D., chair of the Biology/ Allied Health Department. "But this is the only undergraduate program that we're aware of that offers this level of training and insight to students."

Unique Undergrad Course Looks Beyond Traditional Medicine

By David Rattigan

An innovative class at Merrimack is teaching students to look beyond traditional medical treatment methods and introducing them to alternatives that include herbs, needles and touch. "Integrated Approaches to Sports Medicine," offered for just the second time, presents knowledge outside the Western realm, from Chinese herbal therapy to acupuncture, chiropractic, massage therapy and more.

"Medical schools are beginning to introduce concepts of non-traditional medicine into their curricula," said Marcia Walsh, Ph.D., chair of the Biology/Allied Health Department. "But this is the only undergraduate program that we're aware of that offers this level of training and insight to students."

Dr. David Sollars, one of the class instructors, said this is another indicator of an evolution among medical practitioners, with more willingness to coordinate care using traditional and alternative treatments. That is a message he has espoused for many years, as a practitioner of acupuncture and homeopathy.

"One of the messages in this (class) is that times are changing," Sollars said.

The course is team-taught by members of the staff at First Health of Andover, Mass. a health and wellness center that offers complementary and alternative medicine treatments that include acupuncture, homeopathy, chiropractic, massage, Chinese herbal medicine, and other modalities. For eight years, First Health practitioners have served as guest

lecturers in Merrimack's athletic training program. The course developed from that relationship.

"We realized we had an incredible resource close by," Walsh said. "We recognized their interest in education, and together with our desire to develop opportunities for students, it seemed like a good fit." She added, "This may really broaden the options for career development for students."

Sollars said that by presenting a hands-on class taught by practitioners in the field, they provide the students with a more complete understanding of different practices.

"We can present the research and trends in the industry, but also speak of the day-in, day-out experiences of those that perform the therapies," Sollars said. "We can give case studies, and go beyond the literature."

That approach is appreciated by Ursula Gromek '04, a sports medicine major who took the class last semester. Like many of her classmates, she found herself more accepting of the techniques after she'd investigated and witnessed the methods and results. "It is useful knowledge," she said, noting that an athlete is the type of person that likes to use all of his or her options when it comes to rehabilitation. In a quest for swift and sure results, the athlete is traditionally open to modalities outside the norm.

"In the training room, if an athlete asks 'what do you think of this?' I can honestly tell them what I think," she said. "At least I know what it's about, and we can go from there."

Professors Bring Real-World Experience to Classroom

By David Rattigan

When three electrical engineering professors at Merrimack want to blend classroom theory with real-world applications, they can find examples in their own catalogue of work. During successful careers in industry, professors Daniel O'Brien, Sam Bitler and Vance Poteat played a role in the design of many items used in everyday life, from Caller I.D. to the 911 emergency system.

All three Merrimack professors hold patents on devices that may be found in your home. O'Brien, associate professor of electrical engineering, was a system designer and engineer on the first 911 project, and Bitler, associate professor of electrical engineering, - whose circuit boards were important in the history of long-distance telephone technology - holds a patent on a "pre-distorter" utilized by the CATV industry, which minimizes non-linear distortion in lasers.

While at Bell Laboratories, Poteat, now in his third year as an assistant professor, designed items such as cordless phones, speaker phones, digital cable boxes, routers, and universal remote controls. One of his specialties was to redesign products to make them affordable, a competitive imperative in the consumer electronics field. Poteat admits to getting a little kick

telephone technology that uses hardware, software and a display unit that will spell out the name of an incoming caller. That technology is part of the "Caller I.D." system.

In the early '80s, Poteat's team was working on the first "digital telephone," which they felt would become a household item in the 1990s. They were wrong. Although most of the signal in a telephone line travels digitally, from telephone pole to handset, most still use the "analog" system created by Alexander Graham Bell. Poteat's job was to design what was called the "Calling Party I.D." The patent he has now is used by those who modified the system to work in analog telephones, creating the "Caller I.D." so popular today. "We didn't realize how much people would like it," Poteat said. "We considered it a secondary feature at the time."

At New England Telephone in the late 1960s, O'Brien designed the nation's first 911 emergency call system. As part of that system, he developed the concept of "forced disconnect" (dispatchers can disconnect if there's an attempt to tie up multiple

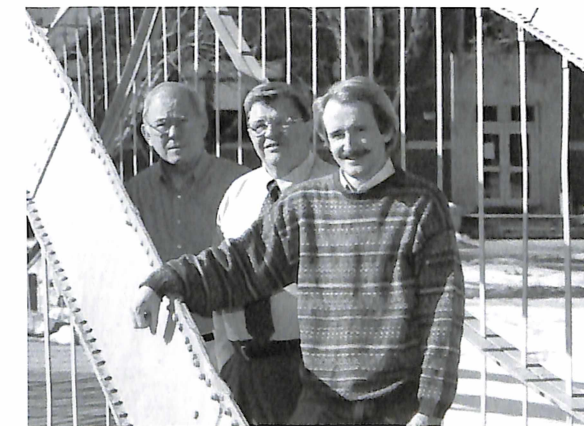
➤ All three Merrimack professors hold patents on devices that may be found in your home.

lines), and "caller party hold" which allows police to lock onto a line and trace it.

Poteat worked on early-stage optical transmission equipment, and helped design the first video telephone on the consumer market. His team holds a patent on digital cable television anti-pirating technology, and perhaps most significantly, a patent on

from walking into Radio Shack or another appliance store and seeing his work displayed on the shelves.

"Over the 27-plus years I spent in industry, I'd say I have developed and designed hundreds of systems with perhaps 10 to 15 designs with patentable concepts and/or applications," said O'Brien, who has been teaching at Merrimack for 20 years.



Electrical Engineering professors (left to right), Samuel Bitler, Daniel O'Brien, and Vance Poteat.

Photo by Neal Hamberg

He also holds a copyright on software written for the United Nations, which allowed remote taxing database data to be retrieved remotely on distributed Novell Lan platforms.

As part of the team that designed parts of the long-haul telephone network system for AT&T and the Federal Aviation Administration, Bitler knows that for years most long-distance calls were transmitted over circuits he designed. The FAA used a similar system for its backbone communication network, providing safety for the flying public. Among projects he worked on over 29 years at Bell Labs, in addition to digital radio systems, was piezoelectric timing devices and fiber optic transmission for the CATV industry.

Bitler has also been teaching at Merrimack for 20 years. Like his colleagues, he enjoys teaching in a college environment, and believes that the experience he gained in his field has made him a better teacher.

"It gives us the ability to let the students know what the real world is like," he said. "That really benefits the students."

Poteat noted that Merrimack has a diverse engineering faculty, and that the mix of instructors with strong academic credentials and industry experience is welcomed, with the emphasis for both groups to pass on their knowledge to students.

Bradley's Work Reveals the Human Side of Math

By Julie Jackson Flynn

Beyond formulas and equations, there's a personality to math that Professor of Mathematics Michael Bradley wants young middle school students to know about. Students at Sacred Heart School in Lawrence (Mass.) are serving as reviewers for his book, *Pioneers in Math*, which profiles 50 mathematicians. As they provide Bradley with valuable feedback, the students are also learning about the lives and personalities of mathematicians.

"Most people think mathematics is a collection of facts that have always been known," said Bradley. "That is not the case. Like any discipline, it has evolved and it's been a human endeavor. It is ideas that people have discovered and there is a real human aspect to mathematics. There are lots of interesting human stories and some compelling human dramas about discoveries in mathematics."

➤ "In studying the lives of mathematicians, there is a theme about the importance of mentoring and having someone look out for these individuals."

Recently, Bradley and several Merrimack faculty and students served as judges at the school's math fair which required pairs of students to read a chapter on the life of a man or woman who made a significant contribution to mathematics. The teams then prepared 5-10 minute poster presentations profiling the lives of the mathematicians.

Slated for publication in 2005 by Facts on File, Bradley's books-in-progress present engaging and inspiring stories about the lives of mathematicians rather than the formulas and equations for which they are



Dr. Michael Bradley, professor of mathematics, participated in judging the projects on mathematicians at the Sacred Heart School in Lawrence, Mass.

known. The series of books will focus on the events that influenced these individuals to pursue mathematics and the obstacles and challenges they had to overcome.

Some of the mathematicians Bradley profiles include nineteenth-century French mathematician Sophie Germain, who wrote under a boy's name at Paris's L'Ecole Polytechnique

where girls were not admitted; Sonya Kovalevsky, a nineteenth-century Russian woman, who agreed to an arranged marriage so that she could leave the country and attend a German university; and eighteenth-century Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler who was asked to resign his position at a Russian

academy of science because he was a foreigner in an era of nationalism.

"In studying the lives of mathematicians, there is a theme about the importance of mentoring and having someone look out for these individuals. There were obstacles to overcome and I believe there's a real lesson here to young people to find something that they enjoy doing and to work hard to develop their talents," said Bradley. "The lesson is that there are going to be obstacles. If you want to excel at something - whether it be music, sports, or math...you need to believe in yourself and refuse to take 'no' for an answer."

He points out that it wasn't a long time ago when women were discouraged from careers in science and mathematics. "Many of our faculty members at Merrimack were the only women in their physics or calculus courses when they were in college,"

he said. "They had to really fight and have a lot of confidence in who they were and what they wanted to accomplish. There are many stories of people throughout history who overcame obstacles to go on and do great things."

The reaction of the middle school students has been gratifying for Bradley. The feedback he has received has been surprise at learning that many of these mathematicians were so young and a realization that there was more to math than they imagined.

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College Work Experiences Help Prepare Students for Job Market

By Julie Jackson Flynn

Today's students are acutely aware of the need to gain professional experience prior to graduation. Some of the most valuable learning experiences a student can have are internships and co-operative education. With the help of the Office of Career Services, students can gain professional experience and exposure to a business environment, develop a network of contacts that could carry them through their senior year, and possibly land them their "dream job" upon graduation.

During 2003 the Co-op office placed hundreds of students in career-related work experiences.

This number predictably increases during the second semester through co-op and summer job workshops in tandem with students' impending need to secure a summer job.

In addition, the college actively encourages students to seek out internships in all academic divisions because the benefits are enormous. According to Dr. Edward Popper, dean of the Girard School of Business, the best way for students to learn is to actually see how the concepts they're learning in the classroom are practiced in the workplace and apply them.

"An internship allows students to see how the knowledge and skills they're acquiring can be applied in a real world setting," Popper said.

Obtaining hands-on work experience during college gives students a chance to develop a relationship with an employer before entering the job market. "We encourage internships



Senior Andrea Rheaume, a political science major, is working this semester at the Moakley U.S. Courthouse in Boston.

because it's probably as effective a job search medium as there is," added Popper.

Dr. Gary Spring, assistant dean of civil engineering, concurred, "It allows students to make contacts with people in the industry. We've got several students on co-op now who have

Businesses and organizations interested in offering co-operative education experience or internships to Merrimack students may contact the Co-operative Education office at 978-837-5481.

made contacts that will lead to permanent jobs."

Civil engineering major Patrick Cole '04, who has spent the past semester working with McBrie Engineers, said, "Co-op is important for any student. If I hadn't done co-op I definitely would have been unsure how to look for jobs and go through the interview process. You get really good practice. Now I have a resume with structural experience and McBrie is sending it out. Your resume can spread like wildfire, and that's the best thing possible."

Equally important in the business setting is students learning how to interact with people in a professional environment. Cole added, "It's easy to be book smart, but to be able to deal with people is a different kind of intelligence."

Twelve students are enrolled in the communication studies internship program. All students put in 20-hour weeks, Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 9-5 p.m., and receive a three-credit grade at the end of the semester. Students

work with mentors in a range of professional environments including Lock Monsters, Fox Sports Net New England, Headstart, Mullen Public Relations and KISS 108FM.

Internships also give students an opportunity to try a job to see if it's a career path they wish to pursue.

Communication Studies major Jillian Brackett '04 has spent the fall semester mentoring adolescent females in the Department of Social Services in Mass. "I chose to work in the Children in Need of Service, Abuse and Neglect Ward, because I've worked with kids my entire life.

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Work Experiences...

➤ "An internship allows students to see how the knowledge and skills they're acquiring can be applied in a real world setting."

One day during my internship I came home from work after sitting in court all day watching a mother get sent off to jail. Because of this experience, I've decided that instead of becoming a social worker, I'm going to get a master's in school counseling and become a guidance counselor. So the experience has benefited me in where I want to go and what I want to do."

Ciejek Fellowship Announced

President Richard J. Santagati recently announced the renewal of the prestigious Ciejek Fellowship for Humanistic Research in the Liberal Arts. Dan '70 and Linda '71 Ciejek have made a \$20,000 gift to continue their longstanding support for excellence in faculty scholarship. Linda Ciejek is a Merrimack trustee and chair of the President's Council.

"We are extraordinarily grateful to Dan and Linda for their vision and philanthropy," said President Santagati. "They both have a deep affection for their alma mater and its remarkable faculty."

Two \$10,000 Ciejek Fellowships will be awarded for 2004-2005 to full-time faculty in the humanities and social sciences whose scholarly projects promise to make a significant contribution to their fields of expertise and, thus, to enhance teaching and learning at Merrimack.

YAS Faculty Fellowship Award Winners Present to Colleagues

By Julie Jackson Flynn

Two Merrimack College faculty members, Dr. Holly Berkovits, Chemistry, and Dr. Kerry Johnson, English, recently presented their research to more than 75 of their colleagues. The two were among several faculty members who were named recipients of the YAS Corporation Faculty Fellowship Award Program.

The program, funded by Mr. Rouzbeh Yassini, founder and CEO of YAS Broadband Ventures, LLC, seeks to promote theoretical,

President Richard J. Santagati thanked Mr. Yassini for his support saying, "Because of your commitment and generosity, more than 125 students have had the opportunity to be recognized in their work. Mr. Yassini understands how important it is to develop new products that benefit society. His generosity has expanded the scope of thought and research for both our faculty and our students. Many individuals understand the intrinsic value of that, but don't put themselves behind it."



Photo by Julie Jackson Flynn

President Richard J. Santagati, Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Josephine Modica-Napolitano, Associate Professor of English Dr. Kerry Johnson, Assistant Professor of Chemistry Dr. Holly Berkovits, Associate Professor of Accounting and Finance Dr. Jane Morton, Associate Professor of Management Patricia Sendall, Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. He Li, and Mr. Rouzbeh Yassini.

applied, or creative work of the highest caliber in the humanities and social sciences, in mathematics, the natural sciences, engineering, and in business and commerce by providing support to Merrimack College faculty members engaged in projects which have promise to significantly contribute to their fields of expertise. Mr. Yassini has also supported senior student research for several years.

Dr. Johnson's research specializes in transcultural modernist literatures and Anglophone Caribbean literature. Johnson presented her research, "Vulnerable Figures: Landscape, Gender and Nation in Modernist Fiction." She focuses on four writers who use the representation of colonial landscape as female body to subvert dominant, violent notions of the nation to establish a new post-

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YAS Fellowship...

colonial alternative to the idea of the nation.

"I feel fortunate to have received the Yassini Fellowship as it allowed me to complete my manuscript and submit it to a publisher. I simply could not have made the kind of progress I did without the fellowship, and I greatly appreciate Mr. Yassini's support," said Johnson.

Dr. Berkovits also presented her research findings which focus on elucidating the structure-function relationship of a particular class of protein referred to as the MyT1/NZF-1 class.

"The Yassini Fellowship was a real honor and a tremendous help. It has enabled me to establish a new research project that I have high hopes for. Mr. Yassini's generosity toward the students and faculty of Merrimack College is truly remarkable," said Berkovits.

Other YAS Faculty Fellowship Award winners who will present their research at a future date include:

Dr. Jane Morton, associate professor of accounting and finance, for her work on decision-making and ethics; **Patricia Sendall**, associate professor/chair of management, for "Communities of Interest: The Next Phase in the Development of the E-Commerce Institute's Body of Knowledge;" **Dr. Josephine Modica-Napolitano**, associate professor of biology, for "Investigating a Novel Mitochondrial Target for Cancer Therapeutics;" and **Dr. He Li**, associate professor of political science, for "China's Path of Reforms."

Celebrating Merrimack's Authors

When Gina Vega, associate professor of management, started writing her book on teleworking, she considered it ironic since she had once resisted computers. Joseph Kelley, vice president of mission effectiveness, received six rejection letters from publishers before he had a positive response to publish his book. Susanne Scholtz, associate professor of religious studies, never planned to write her book – it grew out of materials she pulled together to teach a course. Professor of

Economics Jack Ameriglio's book represents 15 years of work, and Kevin Salemme, director of media center, says that this book will probably be the last he writes since the next one will have many more photographs than words.

Those are the stories behind five of Merrimack's many authors

who were recently celebrated for the 2003 publication of their books at a special gathering in the McQuade Library. The reception also honored the many faculty who have published journal articles in 2003.

"Our coming together in this way to recognize the good work and scholarship of our community reflects the

strength of the commitment to learning that our community has," said President Richard J. Santagati.

Provost and Dean of the College Rev. Gary McCloskey, O.S.A. echoed his sentiment saying, "The celebration of the accomplishments of Merrimack's many authors is not just a celebration of past works, but rather an invitation of our faculty's willingness to share their learning with others. It is a call to show that we put our thoughts out there and look for others to share with us. In that sharing, our faculty demonstrate to our students that they are doers of the word."

Many of the more than 50 authors in the Merrimack community, including several alumni, also attended and signed their books displayed at the event. The books and journal articles will remain in a special collection of



Photo by Kathleen Franzese

The five authors who published this year are (left to right) Dr. Susanne Scholz, "Biblical Studies Alternatively;" Dr. Jack Amariglio, "Postmodern Moments in Modern Economics;" Dr. Joseph Kelley, "Faith in Exile: Seeking Hope in Times of Doubt;" Dr. Gina Vega, "Managing Teleworkers and Telecommuting Strategies;" and Kevin Salemme, "American Photographic Aesthetics in the Twentieth Century."

publications by Merrimack authors past, present and future that will be housed in the reference room of McQuade Library.

The event will be held annually. Alumni who have published books are asked to contact Barbara Lachance '73, director of McQuade Library.

Students Bridging the Cultural Divide *By Julie Jackson Flynn*

Helping others move outside the self to consider the needs of others has always been at the core of Merrimack's Augustinian mission. Taking that to heart, a group of nine students and three advisors, under the leadership of Rev. Rick Piatt, O.S.A., interim director of Campus Ministry, volunteered their time in the Dominican Republic for the second annual Alternative Winter Break.

"The world has become a global village, and many of our students and neighbors in Lawrence (Mass.) hail from the Dominican Republic," said Fr. Piatt. "We are providing opportunities and venues from which our students can make global connections. They can then take these experiences and incorporate them into their persona, spiritual and career choices."

Recognizing that they are reaping the benefits of helping others on a global level and getting a fuller, more enriching education, students don't need much convincing.

Some of their projects included repairing damaged homes, service

projects with students from the Universidad Catolica and the Pontifical University of Santo Domingo, experiences with the physically-challenged and preparing gifts for impoverished children on the Rio Ozama, one of the poorest sections of the country. During their visit, the travelers were often jarred by the sights they encountered.

➤ **"There were times when it was heart-wrenching. I came away with a sense that maybe in the future we can work out programs and can continually go down to help these people who have no voice."**

Fr. Piatt described passing a large cruise ship on the river with people waving to the Merrimack group in their boat, while not more than 200 yards up the river they saw homes that were so tightly packed together that a bicycle couldn't fit between them. The sight of the impoverished children wading in filthy brown water amidst floating trash filled them with outrage and horror.

"We want to take our experience and help Merrimack become more aware of what's going on elsewhere in the world," said Fr. Piatt.

"There were times when it was heart-wrenching. I came away with a sense that maybe in the future we can work out programs and can continually go down to help these people who have no voice," said Keith Garafola '06.

The group hopes to establish connections with the church in the Dominican Republic, take future break trips, and establish potential study-abroad programs at the Pontifical University of Santo Domingo.

and University of Maine. They will travel to the national final competition in May.

Held annually, the Steel Bridge Competition challenges civil engineering students to design, fabricate and build a steel bridge. Students are provided with site conditions, spans, member sizes, weight limitations and design loads representative of a real bridge. The exercise of building a bridge requires design skills which students will need when they enter the profession as practicing civil engineers. The competition helps students to solve real-life design and construction problems.

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Engineering Students Win N.E. Steel Bridge Competition

Civil engineering students at Merrimack College are headed to the National Steel Bridge Competition in Colorado this May after beating out eight other college teams to win the regional competition. They won the majority of categories and number one overall in the New England Regional Steel Bridge Competition. Merrimack prevailed over Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Tufts University, Roger Williams, UConn., UMass. Amherst, Northeastern, University of Vermont,

➤ **"The lightest bridge with the least deflection, the fastest construction time, and the least number of construction workers wins the competition."**

continued from page 8 Steel Bridge



Photo by Melody Kol, Eagle-Tribune

Students and faculty celebrate their win in the N.E. Steel Bridge Competition. Front left to right: Patrick Cole (Co-captain), Jesse Blanchette (Co-captain), Christopher Cole (Co-captain), Justin LaFlemme; Back left to right: Technician Doug Therrien, Professor Anthony DeLuzio, Richard Maloney, Jose Fragachan, Meghan Miller, Jessica Goodell, Jeff DeInnocentis, Paul Greco, John Klipfel; Matt Gillis. Missing from the photo are Elizabeth Corcoran, Jeff Hutton, Joe Tierney, and Professor David Westerling.

The criteria for winning include: weight of a bridge, aesthetics, stiffness (how much a bridge bends when loaded with a 2,500-pound weight), efficiency (the product of weight of bridge and deflection), speed (with which the bridge is constructed), and economy (cost for materials and fabrication of bridge elements).

"The goal of the competition was to construct a bridge, which is about 30 feet long, as quickly as possible. There are a rigorous set of rules, which must be followed. The lightest bridge with the least deflection, the fastest construction time, and the least number of construction workers wins the competition," said civil engineering major Patrick Cole '04, one of the three co-captains of Merrimack's team.

The team's winning time was seven minutes, 50 seconds. Many hours outside the classroom went into constructing the bridge. This year, the students found professional fabricators, Bob Wright and Duane Masson from WSC Corp., who supplied the steel at cost and shaped it

to the sophisticated design.

The winning team consisted of co-captains: Jesse Blanchette '04, Pat Cole '04, and Chris Cole '04. Other teammates included: Jeff DeInnocentis '05, Jose Fragachan '06, Matt Gillis '06, Jessica Goodell '04, Paul Greco '06, John Klipfel '06, Justin Laflamme '04, Rich Maloney '04, and Meghan Miller '05.

Professor Anthony Deluzio, who teaches structural engineering, helped students design the bridge. "Despite the stiffening competition, Merrimack has had considerable success over the past twenty years. They're an outstanding group. They're all excited and happy with their achievement," he said.

Merrimack's team is looking forward to the National Steel Bridge Competition in Golden, Colorado over Memorial Day weekend. The two-and-a-half day event is sponsored by the American Institute of Steel Construction. Merrimack is one of 40 schools participating, with two schools from each regional competition attending.

Technology Expands Learning Beyond Classroom

Three years ago when business management major Russell Hubby '04 was a first-year student, he took notes on a pad of paper. Not any more for incoming first-years. Today at Merrimack, many students bring laptops to class and are connected to the Blackboard management system that Hubby believes has no equivalent to the old pad of paper.

According to Patricia Sendall, associate professor of information systems, Blackboard is a 24/7, Web-based tool. First introduced at Merrimack in the Girard School of Business in fall 2002 along with the laptop initiative for business students, the program has expanded and been embraced by many faculty members and students.

"My students are the MTV generation and while they are academically on par with students from previous times, they have different learning styles," said John Power, adjunct professor of communications.

Several classrooms, in Cushing Hall and Mendel Center, have recently been renovated and outfitted as smart classrooms in addition to those in O'Reilly Hall.

Evidence of the enormous benefits of combining this Web-based tool with traditional teaching methods for both students and professor is demonstrable. All course materials, such as course schedule, assignments, and handouts, are posted and accessible to students from their dorm-room or off-campus.

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Technology

Other features actually expand the learning process beyond the classroom. According to business major Pamela Zurakowski '04, "I like having both the on-line and in-classroom components. Professors can post articles they think we should read. We can cover topics that we might not cover in class. You can go on-line at 2:00 a.m. and post a question on the message board. You don't have to rely exclusively on your professor for your answer. You can get it from your classmates."

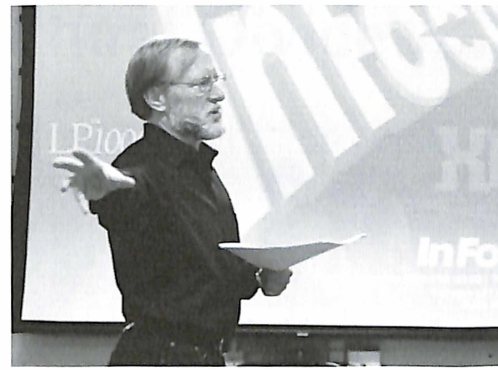
Students can post a question they may have and the professor is able to answer it once because all students can read the response.

Russell Hubby likes the ability to interact with students on the message board. "You hear other people's view

on issues, which can impact your views. You can access class notes, Powerpoint, and all that extra stuff that you wouldn't normally think about using," said Hubby.

"English students use electronically-mediated discussion, like a chat room or discussion board, only in real-time," said Dean of Faculty for Liberal Arts Dr. Michael Rossi. "We find that more students participate in class because of the higher comfort level."

In Sendall's class, participation both in and out of class counts as part of the final grade. "Blackboard



Technology in the classroom combines traditional teaching methods with 24/7 accessibility.

enables me to track the number of hits a student has as he or she visits areas of the Blackboard environment, including the discussion board," she said.

Sendall recognizes the fact that the college

doesn't want to lose the essence of Merrimack College. "One of our distinctive competences is the small classroom and intimacy that we provide our students," said Sendall. "It's important to maintain that while incorporating technology into the classroom."

Polling Enhances Classroom Learning By Julie Jackson Flynn

Four times a year Merrimack students will hit the phones as Merrimack's Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR) goes into the field with its quarterly omnibus survey. Although the results are intriguing to the media and help bring Merrimack's name to a wider audience, one of the most important benefits of the CPOR is the educational experience that it provides for many students. Students are able to apply in the field what they've learned firsthand in the classroom.

Students are trained on proper interviewing technique, specifically how to remain as neutral as possible when they ask the questions and at the same time build up a rapport with the person they are interviewing. The training sessions are held specifically to familiarize the student with the content of each survey the center conducts. Students are paid by the



Stephanie Bramlett '05 is one of a team of students who conduct the Bay State Poll at Merrimack's Center for Public Opinion Research.

hour.

Two seniors hitting the phones this winter were Sean O'Grady, former president of the Student Government Association, and political science major Andrea Rheume. Both agree

photo by Julie Jackson Flynn

that the training process has been a powerful educational tool.

"I've improved my public speaking skills. As I call, it becomes more comfortable and familiar," said Sean.

Andrea concurred, "After a while you get comfortable. It takes a lot of people skills and working together as a team. There was a competition amongst us, too, to see who could complete the most number of surveys, which kept us motivated."

"One of the things that really impressed me about our student interviewers was their ability to take what they were doing at the center and bring it back to their classes. They clearly saw the connection between what they were doing at the center and what they were doing in their courses," said Dr. Russell Mayer, director of the Center for Public Opinion Research.

See latest poll results on page 14.

Of Will and Grace (beyond the sitcom)

The following is the Academic Convocation speech delivered by Dr. Joseph Kelley, vice president for mission effectiveness and director of the Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy.

September 17, 2003

My friends. . . . I would like to discuss "Will and Grace." Not to your regret, or perhaps relief—the popular Thursday night sitcom on NBC. Rather the less popular, but to my mind, more compelling understanding of will and grace found in the Augustinian school of thought.

From the thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries a long, successful run by any production standards, the Augustinian friars and scholars who taught at European universities distinguished themselves and their teaching by the emphasis they put on will and grace. From the middle ages, throughout the renaissance and into the reformation Augustinianism developed and refined these two principles.

Will is our capacity to choose, to consider alternatives and make decisions. The Augustinians argued that will is superior to intellect, in that knowledge naturally seeks its fulfillment in love and service. What we learn and know is completed and deepened by the choices we make for our own well-being and the good of others. Grace, they maintained, is the gift of always leaving room in our thought and our choices for the unexpected, the unearned, the unpredicted; a gentle reluctance to foreclose intellectual endeavor or valued relationships to as yet unimagined possibilities. Such expectant openness, in Augustinian thought, arises out of God's infinite openness to each of us.

Will and grace. These two principles distinguished the Augustinian school of old. If you will, and by your grace, I would like to show how those two principles continue to

enrich and distinguish an Augustinian college like Merrimack today.

At the beginning of each academic year, my thoughts often turn to students of previous years. One in particular stands out in my memory. Giles Moffet arrived on Merrimack's campus in September 1975 from Montreal, Canada. He spoke English haltingly. He had traveled by bus from Montreal to Boston, and somehow arrived at Merrimack. I can still see him climbing up the front steps of Ash Centre with his duffel bag and what looked like a World War II vintage valise.

Giles played hockey for Merrimack from 1975 to 1979. He was the starting goalie for our 1978 National Championship team making 12 saves in the title game. He graduated with records for best career goals against average, and best season goals against average.

He was also a hard working, successful and intriguing student. He would often stop in my room in Ash Center where I lived as a campus minister at the time. He loved to discuss philosophy and religion. In fact, he had himself worked out his own philosophy, a practical philosophy for playing hockey. Being a goalie in a highly competitive league was very stressful. Giles' philosophy emphasized relaxing and enjoying his talent. He would work exceptionally hard throughout long daily practices, constantly improving his skills as a goalie.

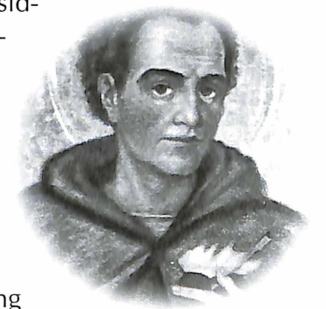
Come game day, however, he would quiet himself down and start to meditate a few hours before competition. He wanted to relax during the game and simply enjoy the exercise

of his considerable athletic skill. He would not concentrate on winning, but on enjoying the game. It was like dancing, he used to say, "Comme un ballet"—like a ballet. His applied philosophy obviously worked. In 1991 Giles Moffet was inducted into the Merrimack Hall of Fame.

This remarkable young man used this Zen of hockey in his studies as well. He had the extra challenge of English as his second language. He studied hard each day, constantly improving his language, asking for help, attending as carefully to his courses as to his game.

Then, he would enjoy the fruits of his studying. He would invite me and others to read his papers, proud of his growing command of the language and his unique Franco-American flourish. He delighted in a growing ability to read the classics of English literature and wanted to discuss them. Without ever boasting, he shared his success in math and science by helping his classmates and teammates with their homework and lab assignments. His academic achievement, like his prowess on the ice, was less the result of fierce competitiveness, or a desire to beat others and win honor for himself. It was rather the fruit of hard work, of the mutual support among his teammates and classmates, and of the sheer enjoyment he took in learning. Learning for Giles was like dancing. "Comme un ballet."

What had prepared this young man to do so well in college? Where did he get such quiet confidence at so



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Of Will and Grace...

young an age? How had he come to be a practicing philosopher of life and learning? From my many conversations with him over the years, I slowly realized that he had been loved into being who he was. I am not speaking of romantic love, nor the silly sentimentalism of sit-coms or soaps. As a boy and teenager, Giles had parents, teachers and coaches who saw his promise. By their many loving choices to challenge and encourage him, they slowly helped him develop his gifts and realize his potential.

They loved him, that is, they affirmed and valued him and the promise he held. So he, in turn, began to see and affirm in himself what all his mentors had seen and affirmed in him. This is real love in action, educating and transforming a young boy into a thoughtful and altruistic young man. Giles was the beneficiary of their will, of the many parental and pedagogical choices that loved him into being who he became.

Another Giles, not from Montreal, but from Europe also had a practical philosophy of life and learning. He was known as Giles of Rome, an Augustinian friar and teacher in Rome, and also an early Master at the University of Paris in the thirteenth century. This Giles founded the medieval Augustinian school of thought. He was the first to argue for the primacy of will and grace during his years at Paris.

Giles of Rome would have enjoyed conversing with Giles of Montreal, listening to the young Canadian's practical philosophy of sport and study. He would have smiled approvingly upon hearing how Giles of Montreal had been loved into excellence. He would have pointed out how the intentional formation and education afforded the young Giles was a matter of many,

loving choices made by his parents, teachers, coaches and mentors.

Merrimack College is heir to the Augustinian school of thought. Our intellectual and pedagogical traditions emerge from the works of Giles of Rome and his many successors throughout the centuries. Our educational legacy reaches even further back to the fourth and fifth century North African Bishop, Augustine of Hippo. For it was Augustine's own emphasis on human will and divine grace that provided the medieval Augustinians with the foundation for their school.

How do we today, in the twenty-first century, continue this Augustinian attention to will and grace? What does will have to do with the academy, or grace with education? Is not

➤ Grace means that our scholarship, though serious, should never be so set as to consider any theory, or doctrine, or conclusion to be complete or closed. There is always room for improvement in expression, for deeper understanding, for a more inclusive hypothesis, for a new angle.

our mission about knowledge and research, method and information? Are not will and grace categories of morality and religion, most useful and best kept there?

The education of Giles of Montreal might help us understand how Merrimack receives and in turn develops Augustinian values. Giles Moffet loved Merrimack College and his years here, because we continued the kind of education and formation he had known as a boy and adolescent. Merrimack then and now secures the jewel of your education in the setting of an academic community that affirms and challenges you to excellence and achievement. Your teachers here, your mentors, your coaches love you again, not the limiting, sentimental notions of love from

popular culture. Rather, the exacting, challenging and repeated affirmations of your potential. Academic tough love, if you will.

Each day the members of our faculty exercise their considerable intellectual achievement and impressive academic credentials for your good, in your service. What they know from study, research, writing and experience they, by their daily choice, share with you for your well-being. In their chosen vocation as teachers, their knowledge naturally tends toward fulfillment in love and service. Intellectual achievement shines all the brighter in an Augustinian college or university because its brilliant hues accent choice, deepen affirmation, and reflect commitment.

This Augustinian notion of will

also calls you as students to the exercise of your will. As you learn the facts and figures of your discipline, as you discover the methods and means of your major, we will ask you to consider how your knowledge might be applied in the worlds of business, of education, of research, of art, of medicine, of social work. What difference to society will your learning make? Will your knowledge grow into wisdom as you put it at the service of others? Will your expertise help make people better stewards of the resources of our planet? Will your intelligence afford others opportunities they might never have except for having met you? How will you exercise your will in the world: this is the question the Augustinian Master Giles of Rome would ask you today.

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What of grace? This word has resonance and meaning in many religions. For St. Augustine grace meant our free and loving relationship with God, a God who constantly opens our minds and our hearts to unearned, unexpected, unimagined possibilities for our lives. Yet what is its application to study and learning?

Perhaps this: our scholarship, though serious, should never be so set as to consider any theory, or doctrine, or conclusion to be complete or closed. There is always room for improvement in expression, for deeper understanding, for a more inclusive hypothesis, for a new angle. Graceful scholarship remains open to, even expectant of the questions, the debates, the challenges that our colleagues, our students, our classmates may raise. In the Academy, grace can mean a graceful openness to one another, a reluctance to foreclose any subject, a willingness always to entertain new, refreshing and unexpected perspectives.

Every college and university has its own culture. Each is about the work of higher education, and so we share many things in common, campus to campus. Yet each campus is its own world, with its own local color, its own ways of understanding

education, of practicing pedagogy, of being an academic community.

No doubt as you toured many campuses before you made your choice of a college at which to study—or to teach, you experienced these cultural differences from campus to campus. Merrimack's Augustinian heritage invites us to consider how these understandings of will and grace distinguish and enrich our academic culture.

Will and Grace - I'm speaking now about those mismatched roommates on NBC's Thursday night - this Will and this Grace struggle each week with their choices, with their decisions about relationships, and with remaining open to the possibility of happiness in a relationship with the right person. The sitcom's story-lines, however, continually undermine that possibility. Jealousy, suspicion, disappointment week by week fuel the comic plots and undermine the characters' quest for perfect love. Will and Grace, like us, live in a less-than-perfect world.

Our academic community will never completely achieve its Augustinian ideal. Overbearing competition will sometimes erase mutual respect. American pragmatism and career anxiety will sometimes fore-

Merrimack College joins the celebration of the Augustinian Jubilee centered upon three important events to be commemorated over the next three years:

- The year 2004 is the 1650th anniversary of the birth of St. Augustine, on the 13th of November, 354.
- The year 2005 is the 700th anniversary of the death of St. Nicholas of Tolentine, the first Augustinian saint who was canonized; September 10, 1305.
- The year 2006 will be the 750th anniversary of the Grand Union of the Order, April 9, 1256.

close our openness to new learning or to each other. Social ascendancy will sometimes overwhelm better choices made for the common good. We will get frustrated if we strive to create a "perfect academic community", just as Will and Grace are frustrated each week in their personal pursuits.

Comic plots and quixotic quests so often bedevil any campus. The Augustinian will and grace can help us get through and past such things. These principles distinguish our school. They mark our academic community as one of commitment, service and openness. Like the Augustinians friars of previous ages, who were deeply involved in the renaissance and the reformation, the Augustinian teachings of will and grace can ensure a continual renaissance and a constant reformation of our academic community. That way many future generations of students like Giles Moffet will arrive here and find in Merrimack the best of schools for learning.

**All MerrimAction/Alternative Spring Break alumni!
Campus Ministry is planning a 40th year
celebration in the fall of 2004.**

**In order to get information to you about the
celebration, we ask all former participants to send
your E-mail address or mailing address to:**

**Charline.Henry@merrimack.edu or
Campus Ministry, Merrimack College,
315 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845,**

Come celebrate 40 years of service with us!

President Names New Dean, Science and Engineering



Russell F. Pinizzotto,
Ph.D.

Russell F. Pinizzotto, Ph.D. was recently named Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering by President Richard J. Santagati. He also joins

Merrimack as professor of physics. His major teaching responsibilities include materials science, astronomy and musical acoustics. His research areas include nanoparticle/DNA interactions, portable x-ray diffractometry, and semiconductor materials analysis.

Previously, from 1999 to 2003, he was founding dean of the Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri. During his tenure he established a two-year, state-wide residential program for academically talented junior and senior year high school students. From 1986 to 1999 he was professor of materials science and physics at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton, Texas, and was the founding chair of the Department of Materials Science. He was also the first multidisciplinary research director of UNT's College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Pinizzotto earned a B.S. in physical chemistry from the California Institute of Technology, and an Engineer's Degree and Ph.D. in materials science from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Currently 19% of Merrimack's day students are science and engineering majors. The science and engineering division has 44 faculty members.

Second Bay State Poll results released

The Bay State Poll, a quarterly survey of Massachusetts residents, was the second conducted by the Center for Public Opinion Research at Merrimack College since its launch in fall 2003. Five hundred and one (501) randomly selected state residents over the age of eighteen were interviewed by telephone between January 28 and February 5, 2004. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 4.5%.

POLL OVERVIEW:

- more than half (54%) polled felt it was not worth going to war with Iraq
- more than half (62%) polled do not want to see George W. Bush re-elected to another term
- nearly half (46%) polled are very concerned about the size of the federal budget deficit
- more than half (61%) polled would reduce the deficit, even if it means eliminating some of the tax cuts

Additional detailed results and methodological information are available at www.merrimack.edu/polling.

VIEWS ON PRESIDENT BUSH REMAIN STEADY

Would you like to see George W. Bush reelected to another term or not?

	Nov. 2003	Feb. 2004
Yes	28%	30%
No	60%	62%
Don't Know	12%	7%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

	Nov. 2003	Feb. 2004
Approve	38%	39%
Disapprove	54%	54%
Don't Know	8%	7%

THE WAR IN IRAQ

All in all, do you think it was worth going to war with Iraq or not?

Worth It	39%
Not Worth It	54%
Don't Know	7%

How would you say things are going for the US in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq?

Very Well	3%
Somewhat Well	35%
Somewhat Badly	38%
Very Badly	21%
Neither/Don't Know	4%

In thinking about the war in Iraq are you more likely to focus on our success in capturing Saddam Hussein and liberating the Iraqi people, or doubts about the Bush administration's reasons for going to war in the first place?

Success	38%
Doubts	54%
Neither/Both/ Other/Don't Know	8%

TAX CUTS AND THE BUDGET DEFICIT

Do you think the recently passed federal tax cuts have...

27%	Helped the economy
32%	Had no effect
29%	Hurt the economy
12%	Don't Know

How concerned are you about the size of the federal budget deficit?

46%	Very concerned
41%	Somewhat concerned
7%	Not very concerned
5%	Not concerned at all
2%	Don't Know

Which of these ideas comes closest to your own position on this issue?

61%	Reduce the deficit, even if it means eliminating some of the tax cuts
27%	Keep the tax cuts, even if it means increasing the budget deficit
12%	Other/Don't Know

STATE ISSUES

At the state level on, one important issue facing Massachusetts is the legal status of homosexual couples. Which of the following proposals comes closest to your own position on this issue?

	Nov. 2003	Feb. 2004
The state should not legally recognize the union of homosexual couples in any way	21%	18%
The state should legally recognize the civil union of homosexual couples, giving them similar rights to married couples, but not calling these civil unions marriages	38%	43%
The state should legally recognize the marriage of homosexual couples	37%	33%
Don't Know	5%	6%

New Trustees Join College's Board

President Richard J. Santagati, on behalf of the college's Board of Trustees, has announced the appointment of four new trustees.

Rev. Paul W. Galetto, O.S.A., S.T.B. is president of St. Augustine Preparatory School in Richland, N.J. which he joined in 1996 as director of development and recruitment. Prior to that he taught languages and religion at St. Augustine Preparatory School from 1982 to 1986 and served as assistant administrator from 1988-1991. He served as secretary of the Board of Directors from 1988-1996. In addition, from 1994-1996 he was adjunct professor at Villanova University and from 1996-1997 he was adjunct professor at Catholic University of America. Also, he served as prior and associate pastor at St. Mary Parish from 1986-1988.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the Galetto Foundation since 1990 and for Malvern Prep since 2000. He was the regional representative for NCEA Northeast USA in Secondary Education from 1999-2002. He is author of a chapter in a book on Catholic education, several articles on the certification of religion teachers, and is author of the book, *Building the Foundations of Faith*. (NCEA, 1996). Additionally, he has been an adjunct professor at Seton Hall.

Rev. Galetto holds a B.A. in English from Villanova University and attended Bucknell University. He received a bachelor of Sacred Theology degree from The Gregorian University in Rome; an M.A. (Ed Ad) from Villanova University; and a Ph.D. (Ed Ad) from Catholic University.

Timothy Donovan '88 serves as the chief financial officer of The Beacon Companies and president of Beacon Residential Management. With more than 18 years of experience in real estate finance, financial reporting and financial management, Donovan is responsible for formulating and implementing financial strategies for The Beacon Companies. In addition, he is the president of the property management company and leads the day-to-day operations of the company's portfolio of 7,500+ apartment units located throughout the northeastern United States.

Prior to joining Beacon, Donovan served as vice president of finance from 1994 to 1998 with The Gatehouse Group, Inc. of Boston. From 1991 to 1994, he served as corporate controller at the Congress Realty Group of Companies. He is also a co-chairman of the St. Mary's Junior Senior High School Facilities

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New Trustees

Committee in Lynn, Mass. which will oversee the planning and construction of a new \$8,000,000 library/media center at the school. Donovan earned his bachelor of science in accounting from Merrimack in 1988.

John D. Harris II serves as vice president of contracts for Raytheon Company. With more than 20 years experience in contracts, Harris is responsible for managing the performance of contracts and the Contracts organization.

In June 2003, he was elected a vice president of Raytheon Company. Most recently, Harris was vice president of contracts for Raytheon's government and defense businesses from September 2002 to June 2003. Prior to that, he was vice president of operations and contracts for the former Electric Systems business.

Harris joined Raytheon in 1983 as a contracts administrator for the Patriot, Sidewinder, Sparrow, and AMRAAM (Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile) missile programs. Throughout his 20-year career, he has held positions of increasing responsibility including deputy division manager of contracts for Raytheon Electronics Systems, vice president of contracts for Raytheon Technical Services Company and staff executive to the Leadership Team.

Harris received a bachelor's degree in business administration with concentration in finance and operations from Boston University. He is also a graduate of Raytheon's Contract Management Development Program and Raytheon's Advanced Management Program. Additionally, Harris is a qualified Raytheon Six Sigma Specialist.

Robert F. McCusker '68 spent his entire career of 30 years with The Gillette Company, the first 13 years of which were in various financial management, sales and marketing positions in Massachusetts. His last 17 years with Gillette were spent overseas in Australia, and in various General Manager positions in Asia and Europe. His last position was based in London as area vice president for Oral-B businesses in Eastern Europe, Middle East, Africa, and West Asia.

He is a member of the Algonquin Club of Boston and Woods Hole Golf Club on Cape Cod. He is a member of the World Affairs Council in Boston. Additionally, he is president of Saconesset Hills Association in West Falmouth, Mass. and vice president of Town Manor Club in Naples, Fla. He is a member of The Paulist Center in Boston, Ste. Elizabeth Seton in Falmouth, Mass., and St. Ann Parish in Naples, Fla.

He earned a B.S. in business administration/finance from Merrimack College and received an M.B.A. with high distinction from Babson College.

Merrimack College Board of Trustees

The name of Mr. Francis Girard '62 was inadvertently omitted in the Board listing contained in the President's Report/Honor Roll of Donors 2003. We regret that omission and provide below the listing of the Merrimack College Board of Trustees as of March 1, 2004.

Chair of the Board

Francis S. Marchilena

Vice Chair and Secretary

Cynthia P. Danaher H'97

Treasurer

James X. Wilson '67

President

Richard J. Santagati '65 H'88

Recording Secretary

Linda Murphy

Members

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Joseph X. Bruno '80

Linda F. Ciejek '71

Catherine M. de Lacy '80

Laurence M. Demers '60

Timothy M. Donovan '88

Clifford E. Elias H'01

Rev. Augustine M. Esposito, O.S.A.

Rev. Paul W. Galetto, O.S.A.

Francis E. Girard '62

John D. Harris II

Eileen Leonardi, CFA

Robert F. McCusker '68

Rev. William A. McGuire, O.S.A. H'03

Michael Ohanian '61

Lynn C. Potoff '76

Very Rev. Donald F. Reilly, O.S.A.

Daniel J. Shine, Jr. '65

Thomas C. Siekman, J.D. '63

Rev. John P. Stack, O.S.A.

The Hon. Michael T. Stella, Jr. '65

Brother Robert Thornton, O.S.A.

Jane C. Walsh '75

Trustee Emeritus

J. Richard Murphy

Kevin J. Roche '62

Gladys Sakowich H'03

Parents Active at Merrimack

By David Rattigan

An active and enthusiastic group of parents is taking a larger role in the Merrimack community. The Parents' Council, whose more than 100 members include parents of former and current students, has become a sounding board and voice for that constituency as it has raised its on-campus profile, and taken a more active role in career

development and institutional advancement.

"They are very enthusiastic about the Merrimack education," said Rev. George Morgan, O.S.A., '61 who works with the council.



Bill Gibelli



Tony Fragala '54

"In the Augustinian tradition, the Merrimack education develops the whole person. It's about reason and passion, about intelligence and social responsibility. It's about learning in community, and working with others, not against others. Parents find that very exciting, and find every way they can to promote that concept and to be of assistance."

One way they do that is by participating at campus events such as Family Weekend or student orientation, and by making themselves available year-round to listen to the questions or concerns other parents may have about their children. Another is by supporting the Parents' Fund through gifts or by volunteering their time at the annual Phone-a-thon. (The number of parents, including parents of graduates, supporting the college with a personal annual gift is increas-

ing dramatically.) A third is by assisting the Career Development Office at events such as the informational Career Resource Night held in March (co-sponsored with the Alumni Office), or by making themselves available for informational interviews, career panels or other career networking activities.

"The parents have a lot of good experience to lend to both the administration and the students," said Bill Gibelli (father of William Jr. '00), who co-chairs the council with Tony Fragala '54.

Gibelli and Fragala are following the active tenures of both Bill and Maura Burke, and Jack and Hilda Moynihan. Like their predecessors, they are excited to contribute to the college, because they support its mission. Father to Jim '86 and Julie (Fragala) Marsh '92, Fragala has a long history with the college and is looking forward to his 50th reunion in June. In a recent letter to members of the Merrimack community, he shared observations from his own school days, when study took place in a cinder block building, and activities and church services in a quonset hut.

"It wasn't about how it looked back then," he wrote. "It was very definitely about the quality of the education... It is still about the quality."

For more about the Parents' Council, contact Fr. Morgan at (978) 837-5316 or George.Morgan@Merrimack.edu.

The following names were inadvertently omitted from the 2003 Honor Roll of Donors distributed in December 2003. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Friends of Merrimack Charter Club
Anne Ziaja

Charter Club
Josephine Fisichella '59
Adele Keohan '85

Al Roker to Visit Merrimack College



Six-time Emmy winner and beloved weatherman for the *Today Show* Al Roker will visit Merrimack College on

Sunday, October 29 to help raise scholarship funds for the college's students. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Merrimack College and the Rogers Foundation.

Roker will bring his unparalleled ability to improvise and dish his legendary one-liners to inspire the achievement of excellence and to encourage individuals to operate to the best of their human potential. His candor, personal stories from his family life, and travels as America's most famous weatherman will captivate those in attendance.

Roker conducts celebrity interviews, cooking segments, technology updates and has developed a continuing series for *Today* called "Today's Dad" featuring parenting tips for fathers. He is the host of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, The Rose Bowl Parade and the Christmas tree lighting at Rockefeller Center. He has also hosted his own show on CNBC and was the host of MSNBC's information quiz show, *Remember This?* He is a committed community member and has been honored by numerous civic and charitable organizations. He is involved with a number of organizations including the Children's Defense Fund and Read Across America. He is on the board of several organizations.

Tickets may be purchased through the Rogers Center for the Arts at 978-837-5355.

Congratulations, Warriors!

Women's Basketball Claims Two Titles

For the first time in Merrimack's history, the women's basketball team played in the Elite Eight of the NCAA Division II Championship. They headed into the tournament with a 30-3 record and a national ranking of No. 5. The Warriors claimed the Northeast Region title by defeating Bryant College, and claimed their first Northeast-10 Conference Tournament title by beating Bentley College for the third time in the season. The team won the Northeast-10 regular season championship and set a school record for wins this year. The Warriors hosted the eight-team, 2004 NCAA Northeast Regional Tournament in early March.

The Warriors were led by sophomore guard Joelle Martin who averaged a team-leading 14.5 points per game and was named to the Northeast-10 All-Conference First Team. Joining Martin in the backcourt was junior guard Jenny Smith, who earned All-Conference Second Team honors. Junior center Eileen Brosnihan was named the Most Outstanding Player in the



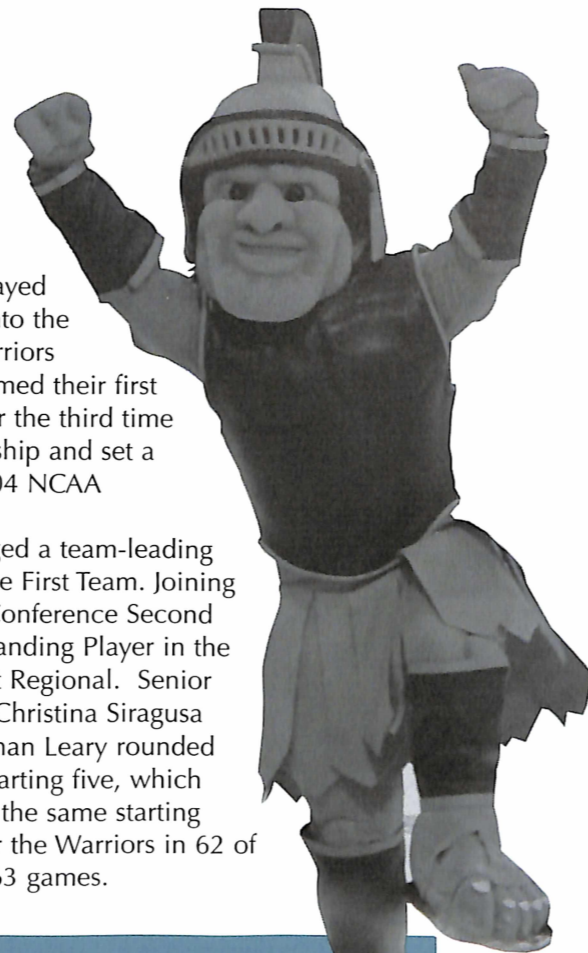
This year's tremendous season full of outstanding accomplishments was truly a team effort from start to finish.

Northeast Regional. Senior captains Christina Siragusa and Meghan Leary rounded out the starting five, which has been the same starting lineup for the Warriors in 62 of the past 63 games.

NCAA TOURNAMENT UPDATE

The Merrimack women's basketball team advanced to the NCAA Division II Final Four in St. Joseph, Mo. The Warriors fell to California (PA) on March 25 in the NCAA Division II Championship Semi-Finals to finish the season with a 31-4 record.

Thank you, Warriors, for a tremendous season!



Coach Ann McInerney

McInerney Earns Top Honors from Northeast-10

Ann McInerney, in her fifth year as Merrimack's women's basketball coach, was named the Northeast-10 Coach of the Year. She was also named the Region I (Northeast) Division II Coach of the Year by Russell Athletics and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

McInerney is the fifth coach in the 30-year history of the Warriors' program. In her first year at Merrimack, McInerney

led the Warriors to the finals of the Northeast-10 tournament marking the first playoff win for a Merrimack women's basketball team. Since that time, the Warriors have appeared every year in the playoffs and won their first ever Northeast-10 title this year.

For more information about Coach McInerney, visit www.merrimack.edu/generator.php?id=301

Hall of Fame Inducts Ducharme and Vesey

Former softball player Kim (Page) Ducharme '94 and former hockey player Jim Vesey '88 were recently inducted into the Merrimack Athletic Hall of Fame, marking the first inductions since seven were installed in 1993.

As a senior, Ducharme was the starting pitcher for the 1994 softball team that captured the NCAA National Championship, one of two softball titles won in the history of the Merrimack athletic program. A two-time All-America, Ducharme is the school's all-time career leader in wins (77), ERA (0.87) and strikeouts (566) and ranks second in innings pitched (642). She finished an



Kim (Page) Ducharme '94 (center) and Jim Vesey '88 with President Richard J. Santagati.

incredible career with a 77-15 record including a 22-1 mark in her senior year. Also tabbed a three-time Academic All-America, Ducharme graduated magna cum laude in 1994 with a degree in English. Today Ducharme coaches softball for Central Catholic High School in

Lawrence, Mass., is married and has a one-year-old son.

Vesey is the all-time leading scorer in the storied history of the Merrimack hockey program. A three-time All-America, he finished a brilliant career in 1987-88. He captured the 1988 Hobey Baker/College Division award after leading the nation in scoring with 95 points on 40 goals and 55 assists. That total remains a Merrimack record, as does his 244-point total over four years, which includes 110 goals and 134 assists. A 1984 draft pick of the St. Louis Blues, Vesey led the state in scoring as a senior in high school in guiding Christopher Columbus to the state championship. Vesey is married with three children.

The Merrimack Athletic Hall of Fame currently has 34 members.

SPORTS ROUND UP

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men's basketball season was a series of peaks and valleys. After starting off 2-3, the Warriors then won 12-out-of-14 games which included an 84-81 win over then 21st ranked Saint Rose. The Warriors made post season play for the 18th time in 20 seasons under Head Coach Bert Hammel, winning a first round game versus Pace before losing to UMass Lowell in the quarterfinals and ending the season with a 17-12 mark.

CROSS COUNTRY

On the men's side, sophomore Adam Johnson highlighted the season by winning the Bryant College Invitational in a time of 28:07. The Warriors had four runners in the top 15 to also take the team title. Johnson also had top ten finishes at the MIT Harrier Classic (Fourth), Northeast-10 Championship (Seventh) and the Hayseed Classic (Ninth). Merrimack ended the season with a pair of fifth place finishes at the Northeast-10 Championships and the NCAA New England Regionals.

Freshman Linsey Cohen was the Warriors' leading runner all season for the women's cross country team. She had a season-best seventh place finish at the Bryant Invitational and a pair of 12th place finishes at the Hayseed Classic and the Northeast-10 Championship.

Merrimack as a team has a pair of top ten finishes this season, as the Warriors placed fifth at the Bryant Invitational and sixth at the Hayseed Classic.

FIELD HOCKEY

The field hockey team had a very competitive season despite its 6-13 mark. The Warriors opened the season with a 2-1 overtime win against Franklin Pierce and throughout the season were in every game they played. They had 11 games which were decided by one goal.

FOOTBALL

The football team had its most successful season in the history of the program as it posted a school record six wins in a row and set numerous individual records. Sophomore Terrance Kent set not only a school record, but a Northeast-10 Conference mark for punt return yards in a game. Senior Tom Ruswick set school records in passing this season, while fellow senior Tom Principe and junior Aaron Clark put their names in the record books for receiving.

MEN'S SOCCER

Head coach Tony Martone's squad began the season undefeated at 2-0-2 in its first

four contests. Martone collected his 200th career win on the bench for Merrimack.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's soccer team had another very successful season as the Warriors posted a 19-3-1 record, while making their third straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament and reached the program's highest ever ranking at No.2 in the country. Merrimack began the season with a 13-game winning streak that included a 1-0 win over Franklin Pierce, the first win over the Ravens since the 1991 season. Coach Mejail was named the Northeast-10 Coach of the Year, as well as the NSCAA New England Region Coach of the Year.

VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball squad ended the 2003 regular season winning its last five-out-of-eight matches to earn the seventh seed in the Northeast-10 Tournament. The Warriors proceeded to upset second-seeded UMass Lowell and the next day defeated American International, 3-1 to make it to the program's first ever tournament final against Bryant. The Warriors run ended in the finals versus the Bulldogs.

Reunion 2004 – Join Us!

Honoring the classes of '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89 and '99. All classes are invited to celebrate together.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

50th Golden Diploma Ceremony

Santagati Hall, 6 p.m.
All family and friends of our Golden Warriors are welcome to this very special event.

Welcome Back Party

Main Dining Hall,
8 - 11:00 p.m.
\$15 per person

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

Campus Trolley Tours

12:30, 1:15, 2 p.m.
Complimentary

Diversity Education Center Reception

Diversity Education Center, Sakowich Campus Center, 2nd floor,
1 - 3:00 p.m. Join us for complimentary refreshments and appetizers and learn about our new Diversity Education Center.

Family BBQ

Outside of the Rogers Center lobby, noon, rain or shine
\$10 for adults, \$5 for kids under age six

Trout Fishing in America Performance

Rogers Center, 2 p.m.
For more than two decades, this group has performed its witty, intelligent and original brand of folk-pop and children's music to audiences across the U.S. Purchase tickets directly from the Rogers Center at 978-837-5355 or on-line at www.merrimack.edu/rogers. \$10 each/ \$35 for four.

Mass

St. Claire Courtyard, 5 p.m.

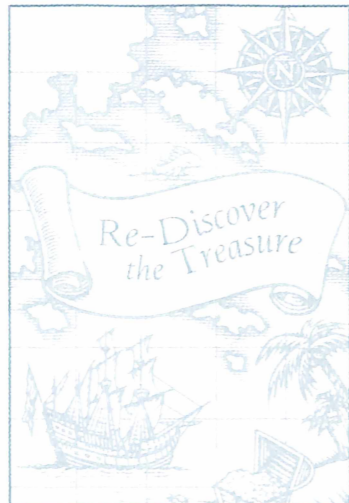
Cocktail Reception

Main Dining Hall, Sakowich Campus Center, 6 p.m.
All class pictures will be taken at this time. See the invitation for times of individual class photos.

Dinner/Dance

Multi Purpose Room, Sakowich Campus Center, 8 p.m.
President Santagati will present the winner of the "Alumnus of the Year" award. The Golden Warrior Reunion Class Gift will also be presented.

Prices, times and locations are subject to change



Merrimack College Reunion 2004 - June 4th - 5th

Message from the Alumni Council President

March 2004

Dear Alumni:

I am pleased to update you on the activities of the Merrimack College Alumni Council.

Our Alumni Council volunteers should be very proud. Members of the Alumni Council are vital messengers who help share information about the many positive changes that are taking place throughout the Merrimack College community. Thanks to their efforts, other alumni and friends will hear about the tremendous progress Merrimack is making. This group has accomplished a lot over the last year, including re-energized sub-committees, increased alumni participation at college-sponsored events, and getting recent graduates involved - just to name a few! While I know that you join me in applauding these achievements, you should also recognize that we still have more to accomplish.

One of my goals for the Alumni Council, and the entire alumni association, is to increase participation. Participation can take many forms: from attending alumni events, to mentoring students, joining the Alumni Council and one of its sub-committees, to making a financial gift to the annual fund. This kind of support is crucial as Merrimack continues to move towards being the pre-eminent Catholic college in the Northeast.

If you have comments or suggestions on how to create a more involved alumni association, I can be reached at diapplegate@yahoo.com, or you may send your thoughts to the Alumni Relations Department at alumnirelations@merrimack.edu.

Sincerely,

Diane Applegate '91
Alumni Council President



ALUMNI UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

ALUMNI BUSINESS BREAKFAST

The Alumni Business Breakfast will feature Paul Healey '82, national director of sales for Bauer Nike. Paul will discuss his time spent at Merrimack College and how it prepared him for "the real world." Paul will share his insight into the world of sales for a very successful, fast-paced company. Don't miss this chance to network!

The event will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Murray Lounge, 2nd floor of the Sakowich Campus Center. The charge is \$15.00 per person. Please E-mail kathleen.marshall@merrimack.edu or call (978) 837-5107 to reserve your space.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

Young Alumni Night at The Rack

Join other young alumni at The Rack and see what everyone is up to! Details to follow. Please E-mail kathleen.marshall@merrimack.edu or call (978) 837-5107 for more information.

THURSDAY, MAY 20

Washington, D.C. Alumni Event

Please join President Santagati and members of the Merrimack College community at an Alumni Reception at the home of Trustee Thomas C. Siekman '63 in Washington, D.C. This will be a great opportunity to learn about what is new at Merrimack and to meet your local alumni. The reception will be from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by May 6, 2004 via E-mail to kathleen.marshall@merrimack.edu or call 978-837-5107. Directions and details will be provided.

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

Please join us at a Lowell Spinners game! LeLacheur Park, 450 Aiken Street, Lowell, Mass.

This is an event for the entire family! Join us at the Gator Pit before the game for picnic style eating. Hot dogs, ribs, corn on the cob, sausages, chicken, salad, dessert and beverages will be served. Come to the Pit at 3:30 to eat, then watch the game at 5:00 p.m.. The ticket price of \$22.00 per person includes entrance to the Gator Pit and box seating. If you wish to purchase just a ticket to the game, the cost per ticket is \$6.50. The first 1,000 children to enter the park will receive copies of an Arthur children's book.

Children may run the bases after the game. They can also enjoy the children's play area during the game!

Please RSVP to kathleen.marshall@merrimack.edu or call 978-837-5107 to reserve your space. Deadline to make your reservation is May 26th. Your tickets will be mailed to you.

REUNION 2004, JUNE 4 and 5 - Save the date!

For more information, E-mail elizabeth.magliozzi@merrimack.edu or call her at 978-837-5136.

Recognize these faces?

Many alumni enjoyed getting together at the Bay Tower Room in Boston to celebrate the holidays, the Red Sox game and The Rack.



Don't miss out on these great events!



M60

Dr. Laurence M. Demers is a distinguished Professor of Pathology and Medicine at The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Hershey, Penn. The University's Board of Trustees recently approved and announced the establishment of an endowed Professorship in his name entitled "Laurence M. Demers Career Development Professorship in Pathology and Medicine."

M61

John Correiro is the former Fall River School Superintendent, Fall River, Mass. Most recently, The Henry Lord Middle School in Fall River dedicated its auditorium in John's honor and to thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the Fall River community. In addition, he is recognized nationally as having implemented the nation's first voluntary school-choice program for linguistic minorities, providing equal access to school facilities and balancing the school population so that students are not linguistically or racially isolated because of where they happen to live.

M65

Dennis C. Hunt is president of Marlborough City Council in Marlborough, Mass. He is involved with numerous organizations including Citizens Scholarship Foundation, Boys & Girls Club and the Marlborough High School Boosters Club.

M66

Dr. David W. Manning, D.M.D. has been a dentist in Ludlow, Mass. for 30 years. He has spent these last 30 years advancing his dentistry career by attending dental education programs and seminars. He has two grown children and he currently resides in Wilbraham, Mass. with his wife Gail.

M71

Frances (Curran) Harrow has been hired as a psychologist for the Amherst School District, Amherst, N.H.

M72

Francis ("Jay") Dinneen has been promoted to senior vice president and team leader of Fleet's Massachusetts Municipal Banking unit. He is responsible for managing the municipal banking team that provides banking, cash management, investment and credit services to cities and towns in Massachusetts. He also continues to manage a select group of municipalities.

M74

Steven Angelo is the town manager of Winsted, Conn.

Phillip Gonet has been appointed the next president of the Illinois Coal Association. He was the former general manager of City Water, Light & Power in Springfield, Mass.

Brian Mitchell has been named president of Bucknell University, a liberal arts school in Lewisburg, Penn. Prior to this, he was president of Washington and Jefferson College.

M78

Murray Scudder is a vice president for Hy-Line Cruises, Hyannis, Mass., and shares responsibility for operations with his brother David.

M79

Mark Doran is the general manager of Boch Mitsubishi in Norwood, Mass., which is the #1 Mitsubishi dealership in New England, and the 12th largest in the country. Mark and his wife, Beth, live in Newton, Mass., and have two children, Kate, 6 and Daniel, 15 months.

Mary Ann (Connolly) Quinn has been selected to manage Century 21 North Shore in Reading, Mass. She and her husband Bob have two children, Emily and Michael, and a 7-year-old rescued Greyhound, Becky. They are long time Reading residents and are active in the community.

M80

Kara (Kosmes) Conlin is an executive director of business and fiscal management for the Haverhill School system,

Haverhill, Mass. She oversees a \$47 million budget for education, most of which is allocated for teaching staff and personnel. Another \$10 million comes from grants and other funding sources.

M82

Timothy F. Sullivan has been named Associate Justice of the Worcester Housing Court and is Governor Mitt Romney's first judicial appointment. He and his wife, Julie Cahill '83, live in Topsfield, Mass., with their son Francis and twin daughters Julia and Anna.

M84

Joe Uniejewski is the chief technology officer at RSA Security, Bedford, Mass. With over 11,000 customers around the globe, RSA Security provides interoperable solutions for establishing online identities, access rights and privileges for people, applications and devices.

M86

Philip McGovern has joined the Mirick O'Connell firm as an associate in its Worcester, Mass. office. He concentrates his practice on commercial litigation on behalf of business clients.

Steve Palladino is a manager of Franchise Audit Services for Cendant Corporation, a national company. Steve works from New Jersey and handles the New England territory.

M88

Matthew Boyle has joined the CPA firm MFA- Moody, Famiglietti, and Andronico - as the director of marketing. MFA is located in North Andover, less than one mile from Merrimack. Matthew is happy to be working with alumnus **Michelle Kupka '93**, who is a senior audit manager. MFA currently employs 40 professionals and Matthew hopes to influence more Merrimack alumni to join the firm.

M89

Christine Raymond and Lance Riek founded Sensory Labs, a machine vision integration company, in Bozeman, Montana where they live with their two daughters, Anna and Maria.

M90

Donna (Hollis) DeSimone is an independent resume writer in Burlington, Mass. Her correct E-mail is resumewriter@rcn.com .

M92

Dorothy (Hitchmoth) Adams, O.D. received the American Optometric Association's (AOA) 2003 Young Optometrist of the Year Award at the 106th Annual AOA Congress & 33rd Annual AOSA Conference: Optometry Meeting in San Diego. The award recognizes an individual doctor of optometry who has been in active practice less than ten years and shows remarkable leadership skills when serving his/her profession, patients, and community.

Anne-Marie Kilmartin has joined "Doctors without Borders" and is working as a nurse in Yenagoa, Nigeria. "Doctors without Borders" was founded in 1971 by a group of French doctors who believe that all people have the right to medical care, regardless of race, religion, creed, or political affiliation. It is an international network with branches in 18 countries that provides much-needed medical assistance for people in great need and gains a wealth of useful experiences.

M93

Justin M. Cook has been named president of the Curtin Insurance Agency, a family-owned business in Montville, Conn. since 1904.

Kevin F. Coughlin is a major with the U.S. Marine Corps and assists servicemen in transition back to civilian life.

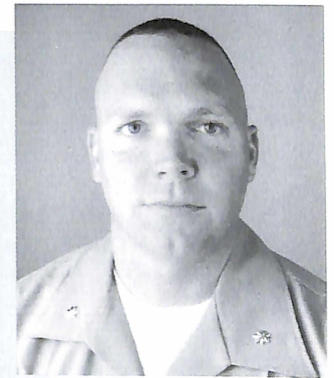
M94

Stephanie Panos works with her husband, Chuck Simmons, at her family's restaurant, Avon Old Farms Inn, in Greenwich Village, Conn., where they first met and fell in love.

Laurie (Faria) Stolarz published her first young adult novel, "Blue Is For Nightmares," the first in a trilogy (Llewellyn Publications). "White is for Magic," the sequel, is slated for publication in May 2004.

ALUMNI IN ACTION

➤ **One Marine Helping Another** by Julie Jackson Flynn



Kevin Coughlin '93

Helping others help themselves best describes Major Kevin F. Coughlin's work. Whether helping an honorably discharged Marine find a mortgage lender or a prospective employer, he's always there to lend a helping hand. Now in the Marine Reserves, and a Massachusetts state trooper, Coughlin oversees the Massachusetts branch of the "Marine for Life" initiative, a national program which annually assists over 27,000 Marines to find employment and improve their transition to civilian life. Coughlin is hoping to enlist Merrimack College alumni in his efforts.

Coughlin set his sights on the Marines early on in his career and credits Merrimack College with providing him the foundation and giving him the discipline for the Marines. After receiving a B.S. in finance from Merrimack, Coughlin talked with a friend, a Haverhill police officer, who was in the Marine Corps Reserves at the time. "I approached him and wanted to see if I could live up to the challenge and meet the standards of the Marines," said Coughlin.

By the fall of 1993, Coughlin was hooked and he never looked back. He reported to active duty as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia. From there he attended military police school, and from 1994 to the summer of 1999 he served as a military policeman and Aide-De-Camp at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Cherry Point, North Carolina.

Coughlin's passion is to translate the "Once a Marine, Always a Marine" ethos into a reality for the hundreds of former Marines who return to the Bay State every year looking for work and transitional assistance.

"The transition from leaving a very structured military environment and returning to civilian life, where there might not be as much structure, can be very difficult." Some Marines have invested over a decade of their life into the military and once they return home, everything's changed, not only their environment, but also they themselves, as well as those they've left behind," said Coughlin.

His discipline and determination have served him well. While on active duty in North Carolina, he earned an M.B.A. at Boston University's satellite office, and upon returning home in 1999 he received a master's degree in criminal justice from Curry College in Milton, Mass.

His enthusiasm for the program, networking skills, and myriad of employment resources help point our Bay State Marines in the right direction. "It's a first-of-a-kind program where we're starting to take care of our own, once they've left active duty, so they're not forgotten," he added. Since July, Coughlin has helped over 60 Marines and connected 80 resources to the program.

Coughlin hopes to continue to build the Marine for Life Program and is appreciative of Merrimack alumni Jamie Strout of Reading Lumber and Nancy Potter of North East Waste Services who are helping Marines re-enter the workforce. He would like to hear from other Merrimack grads who are willing to offer advice, serve as a mentor or notify him about job openings. Coughlin can be reached at 978-360-5064 or Boston@MarineForLife.net.

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M95

Anthony Gates has been promoted to senior manager at Forman Conklin Doherty & Farrar P.C. He specializes in corporate and personal taxation and is pursuing his accreditation as a certified financial planner.

Michael Loiacano is vice president of The Jacobson Group, Chicago, IL, a 30-year old preferred provider of recruitment and consulting needs for the insurance and healthcare industry.

M97

Steve Adams, owner of Netspace Cape Cod, an Internet consulting firm serving the Cape and Islands, has been elected to the Hyannis Area Chamber of Commerce's board of directors. He will also chair the technology committee and continue to advise the chamber on using technology including the Internet.

Jennifer M. DiPrizio has passed the certified public accountant's (CPA) examination. She is employed by Sullivan Bille, P.C., a regional accounting firm with offices in Tewksbury, Mass.; Boston, Mass.; and Salem, N.H. Jennifer has worked for the company for six years as a member of its audit staff.

Jennifer Smith is a primary special needs teacher (self contained) at Orlo Avenue School in East Providence, R.I.

Robyn Vallarelli has been coaching and teaching on the island of St. Thomas. She also recently took a year off to travel around Europe, UK, Central and South America as well as the islands. She trained and ran the Kona, a Hawaii marathon also known as an iron man triathlon course. The marathon covered 28 miles and she raised \$5,000 in funding to benefit the American Stroke Association. She has also experienced hiking the Wymea canyon and snorkeling on the Napali coast in Hawaii.

M98

Larry Medolo is planning to pursue a career in massage therapy in the town of Wakefield, Mass.

M00

Michael Aquino is a financial analyst at Mintz Levine, Boston, Mass.

Deborah (West) Church has spent the past 16 years conducting raffles for Gazette Santa through the Haverhill School System, Haverhill, Mass. She raises about \$2,000 annually through her raffles.

Lee-Ann Martelle is the program director at Lowell DYS Day Reporting Center, Lowell, Mass., and is employed by the Robert F. Kennedy Children Action Corporation.

M03

Joe Exter, former hockey goalie at Merrimack, overcame his severe injury from March 2002 to recently celebrate his first win in goal for Wheeling Nailers (W. Va.), a minor league league NHL team for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Justin Soucy is a track and field coach for Pelham (N.H.) High School where students are enjoying a brand new track.

Christopher Taylor is the new evening circulation supervisor of the McQuade Library at Merrimack College.

MARRIAGES

DAVID O'BRIEN '86 and Julie Barrett on the beach in Fairfield, Conn., June 14, 2003.

DAVID LAHME '87 and Susan Block at York Harbor, Maine, September 13, 2003.

BELINDA ANNE BRADY '90 and Luis Javier Hernandez at Chase House, Meredith, N.H., September 13, 2003.

SUSAN SCOTT '90 and Brian Frick at St. Patrick's Church, Watertown, Mass., September 13, 2003. Alumni attending included: **MOLLY BURNS '90, MARIA (MISTRETTA) GAL '90, MARY (MOOSSA) JUREK '90, LYNN (MONAGHAN) PARR '90, HEIDI SMITH-PETROSINO '90, ELLEN POIRIER '90, and DAWN (STOLFI) STALENHOEF '90.**

EDWARD P. FLYNN III '90 and Terri L. Raymond at Atkinson Country Club, Atkinson, N.H.

NANCY A. ORLANDO '91 and Gary M. O'Neil at The Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, N.H., October 19, 2003.

PATRICIA WICKS '91 and Steven R. Siegel, October 19, 2003.

MARK LAMSON '94 and Jill Kraszewski at St. Joseph's Chapel at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., September 27, 2003.

MICHAEL SHINNICK '94 and Bethany Toscano at St. Margaret Mary's Church in Keene, N.H., May 31, 2003.

KAREN I. YANUS '94 and John J. Greene at Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, Merrimack College, September 20, 2003.

SHAWNA CURRIER '95 and Jim Steuterman at St. Matthew's Church in Windham, N.H., July 5, 2003.

MICHAEL ROTONDO '95 and Sherry Turner in Spencer, Mass., October 25, 2003.

KARA EUSTACE '96 and Michael Prifti on Lido Beach, Sarasota, Florida, November 7, 2003. Alumni attending included:

KRISTA (MAURER) ALANTZAS '96, ALESANDRA GUIGGIO '96, CINDY (HILL) FORD '96, DYMPHNA (KEENEY) HURLEY '96, MONICA CATALDO '96, COLLEEN DILES '96, STACY WHITE '96, NIKKI (PERRY) KIRKPATRICK '96, KEVEN KIRKPATRICK '94, INGER (REINHARDSEN) ARNOTT '96 and RICK ARNOTT '97.

DINA G. MAROIS '97 and Edward J. Cauley at Holy Cross Church, Holyoke, Mass.

MARK BAILEY '98 and Valerie Poppleton at Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, Merrimack College, September 14, 2003. Alumni attending included **PETER DANNIBLE '98.**

MELISSA A. BALDINO '98 and **BRIAN P. ROTONDO '99** at Our Lady of the Angels Church, Worcester, Mass.

STEPHEN CICCARELLI '98 and Ann Pati Caterino at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Church, Waltham, Mass.

MALINDA D. PAYETTE '98 and Jeffrey R. McDermott at St. Gregory the Great, Warwick, Rhode Island, July 12, 2003.

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ALUMNI IN ACTION

Strength & Faith Prevail in Face of Extraordinary Challenges

by Kathleen Franzese

Captain Jim Mulligan '55 survived for 2,522 days as a prisoner of war (POW) in North Vietnam from 1966 to 1973. Of those days, he writes in his book, *The Hanoi Commitment*,

In one way I had been a loser for all of those days, yet in another way I had much to be thankful about. For out of the miseries had come strength; out of the suffering, compassion; out of hate, love. If nothing else, I would come home a better man than when I entered there. Life would be more meaningful in every aspect from now on. Freedom, integrity, moral character had new and stronger meanings for me. I knew that I could face the future with faith and hope. I had learned firsthand that in life's darkest hours in Hanoi, God's grace had shone down upon me. In my heart I knew that during my captivity I had lost all the battles, but had won the war because I had done my best. I had paid the price. I had day by day put myself on the line for what I believed in."



Capt. Jim Mulligan '55

Capt. James Mulligan is living proof that our values are shaped, or perhaps strengthened, by our experiences. His is an extraordinary life of commitment, hard work, sacrifice and faith. It began long before he got to Merrimack in 1949 when the college was just beginning to educate hearts and minds, and long before he would face his life's greatest challenge – that of being a POW.

Mulligan was a man for whom Merrimack was built more than 57 years ago. He was a military man who had served his country and enrolled in Merrimack with many World War II veterans. But duty would soon call again, this time in Korea, and Capt. Mulligan would once again put off pursuit of his degree to serve his country. He returned to Merrimack following his Korean assignment. Unlike many of his fellow students, he had a wife and three sons to support at that time. By mid 1955, he had a wife, four sons and had earned his degree, serving as valedictorian speaker for his class. His family would eventually grow to include six sons.

Mulligan still believes today that the Judeo-Christian principles that were fostered while he was a Merrimack student were "a real contributing factor to me later on . . . particularly when I was a prisoner of war."

His book, *The Hanoi Commitment*, written several years after his return to the United States, details his experiences in Vietnam, during his capture, release and the events surrounding his return home. Self-published by Mulligan and his wife, the book, which took three years to write, has gone through seven editions and won the Freedom Foundation from Valley Forge award as the best military book of the year for 1982. It is the only self-published book that has been so honored.

"I wrote every word myself and didn't want anything to be flavored, shaped or slanted in any way," Mulligan explained. "I waited some years (to write it) so that I could get over some of my biases and think it out. Every word in that book is mine, and if you read that book, you find out what Merrimack meant to me."

Although his experiences as a POW are heart-wrenching to read, Mulligan said that while "it was an unpleasant experience, I wouldn't give it up for anything. It was a growth experience for me. The sad part of it was the hurt that it did to my children and family. They paid a terrible price for my incarceration." He consistently credits his wife, Louise, for raising six children during those years, and, as his book points out, advocating for Jim and other POWs during the war.

When Mulligan returned to the U.S. following his captivity, his oldest four sons were already in college. Although one of his sons, Mark, followed in his footsteps and attended Merrimack College, none of his sons followed him into the military.

Today, Capt. Mulligan does some public speaking, mainly, he says, about the role of living in a country based on responsibilities as well as freedoms.

"You have to realize that you have to pay a price for what you believe in. You better ask, "What are you doing to make things better?" You have to know who you are and what you believe in," he said when asked about advice he would offer to current Merrimack students. "You have to understand your religion, your country, the real values in life. Understand your goals and what is going to make you happy. Contribute. Vote. Don't try to eat the frosting and forget the cake."

MARRIAGES

ELAINE PATSOURAKOS '99 and George P. La Rosa at the Transfiguration Church of Lowell, Mass., August 24, 2003.

SHELLEY A. TERRIS '99 and Tony DeGrechie at St. William Church, Tewksbury, Mass., July 12, 2003.

MATTHEW BOUCHARD '00 and Melanie Burke at the Nahant Country Club, Nahant, Mass., June 21, 2003.

BRIAN E. GLAVIN '00 and Amy S. Beaulieu at Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, Merrimack College, August 2, 2003.

TARA THORNTON '00 and Stephen Herlihy at the Immaculate Conception Church, Lowell, Mass., August 2, 2003.

JONATHAN T. ALLARD '01 and Diane M. Kabaniuk at St. Mary's Church, Ware, Mass.

KELLY L. SHEPHERD '01 and Jason P. Delgado at the First Congregational Church, Sutton, Mass.

KEVIN CYR '02 and Lisa Fortino at St. Eulalia's Church, Winchester, Mass., October 12, 2003.

DAVID KIRICOPLES '02 and Celeste Nickas at the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church, Ipswich, Mass., May 10, 2003.

JENNIFER MILLER '03 and Ryan Curtin at St. John Baptist Church in Haverhill, Mass.

NEW ARRIVALS

FRAN MORELLO '80 and wife Michelle, a son, Francis Creedon, April 30, 2003. He joins sister Cecelia. He is also the nephew and godson of **DR. ANN MORELLO '71**.

MARK HEFFERNAN '81 and wife Judy, a daughter, Samantha "Sam", December 18, 2003. She joins brothers Mark, Mitch, and Ryan.

RAY JOYCE '82 and wife Michele, a daughter, Sarah Michele, September 23, 2003. She joins brother Henry.

KELLY (ASHTON) CARLSON '86 and husband Mark, a son, Tyler Kenneth, February 13, 2003. He joins sister Ashton.

CHRISTOPHER VALCOURT '86 and wife Shannon, a daughter, Olivia Claire, May 1, 2003.

MAURA (ORDWAY) CHAMPI '88 and husband Michael, a daughter, Michelle Lynn, December 10, 2003. She joins brother Matthew.

KAREN (CROSS) GUSTAFSON '89 and husband Robert, a daughter, Sarah Anne, May 11, 2003.

CHRISTINE (RAYMOND) RIEK '89 and husband Lance, a daughter, Maria Evelyn, February 23, 2003. She joins sister Anna.

MICHELLE (COSTANZA) KANE '91 and husband Brian, a son, Hayden Timothy, May 3, 2003.

BARBARA KENNY '91 and **BRENDAN CRANNA '92**, twin boys, Austin Timothy and Liam Kenny, December 30, 2002. They join brothers Ryan and Sean.

THOMAS McDERMOTT '92 and wife Mary, a son, Brendan Thomas, August 13, 2003. He joins sister Carolyn.

KRISTEN (D'ERAMO) GERETY '93 and husband Todd, a son, Christopher Todd, December 13, 2003. He joins brother Andrew and sister Marie.

RACHEL (REYNOLDS) LEBIEDZINSKI '93 and husband Michael, a daughter, Madison Elizabeth, August 1, 2003.

JULIE (STRUZZIERY) GORDON and husband Jason, a son, John Joseph, July 4, 2003.

DEATHS

Joseph P. Farris '51, of Chelmsford, Mass., died October 5, 2003. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, and was assigned to the 455th Air Service Group. He was in the campaign for Northern France and Central Europe and received several medals. Before his retirement, Joseph was an engineering manager for 15 years at Digital Equipment Corp. in Maynard, Mass., which is now part of Hewlett Packard Co.

Ed Powers '51 died October 31, 2003.

Henry A. Whiting '53, of Yarmouth Port, Mass., died December 6, 2003. A veteran of World War II, he served the Navy during the Pacific invasions and was awarded a Purple Heart. He was retired as an office manager. He worked for Western Electric and Raytheon. He moved to Cape Cod in 1977 from Haverhill, Mass.

Leo J. Galeazzi '56 of Concord, N.H., died November 19, 2003. He was a 2nd lieutenant in the army during World War II. He was a cost accountant for Western Electric for 30 years. Before attending college, he worked for the Lawrence (Mass.) Post Office, and the North Andover police and fire departments.

Sheila (Sullivan) Gilmore '57, of Haverhill, Mass., died October 28, 2003. She taught grammar school in Pittsfield, Plaistow, N.H. and at the John Greenleaf Whittier and Caleb Dustin Hunking Middle Schools in Haverhill, Mass. for many years. She leaves her husband Richard F. Gilmore '57 and six children, including Merrimack graduates Maura Gilmore '91 and Douglas Gilmore '98.

William B. Linehan '60, of Lynn, Mass., died December 15, 2003. He was a Navy veteran of WWII. He was employed for the Commonwealth of Mass. Civil Defense Agency for more than 22 years, retiring in 1984.

Robert Wadlegger, Jr. '62 of Concord, N.H., died November 20, 2003. He worked as an educator most of his life. He taught chemistry and science at Chelmsford High School, Chelmsford, Mass., for 17 years and was a laboratory assistant at St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H., at the time for his death.

Sandra (Caponetto) Yelle '62, of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, died October 11, 2003. She was a teacher for 20 years, and most recently taught science at the Caleb Hunking Middle School in Haverhill, Mass.

Gerald A. Morin '63, of Lowell, Mass., died September 23, 2003. He worked for Union Carbide in Cleveland, Philadelphia; and Nairobi, Kenya, and for Fastfax in Nashua, N.H. He was the founder and president of Spindle Office Products in Lowell, Mass. and then worked in hotel operations management at the Radisson in Chelmsford, Mass. and the Colonial Inn in Concord, N.H. He was also a long-time employee with Plaza Limousine in Tewksbury, Mass.

Kenneth J. Higgins '65, of Midlothian, Va., died December 23, 2003. He was employed by General Electric. In 1968, he moved to Schenectady, N.Y., and continued with the company through 1985, when he left GE Medical Systems in Milwaukee. From 1985 through 1990, he was employed by PMI of Dallas, TX. In 1990, he and his family moved to the Richmond area, where he worked as a consultant for Robertshaw Controls of Richmond, Cadmus Communications and the Eaton Corp. An independent financial consultant at the time of his death, Kenneth was working for Eagle Picher Auto Mfg. of Detroit.

Stephen A. Dias '73, of Pawtucket, R.I., died December 8, 2003. He was a retired engineer for Textron Corp. of Wilmington, Mass., and a U.S. Army veteran.

Arthur F. Watkins Jr. '73, of Danvers, Mass., died November 6, 2003. He was employed for 45 years as a master electrician for the A.C. Lawrence Leather Co. in Peabody, Mass., until he retired in 1976.

Frances M. (Kurpaska) Socha '78, of Pelham, N.H., died January 12, 2004. Prior to retiring several years ago, she was a tax accountant with Digital Equipment (now Hewlett Packard) in Maynard, Mass. for many years.

Lillian M. Buckley '86 died February 23, 2004. She was the executive director of the Burlington (Mass.) Housing Authority for 10 years, retiring in 1999. A 1958 Malden (Mass.) High School graduate, she graduated summa cum laude from Merrimack. She was a member of the Merrimack College Alumni Council. Among her survivors is her daughter Patricia (Buckley) Piletti '87.

Edward P. Shabowich '90, of Danvers, Mass., died November 23, 2003. He was employed at Danvers (Mass.) Savings Bank as an assistant treasurer. Prior to that, he worked for EBSCO Publishing in Ipswich, Mass.

Raymond "R.J." Joseph Negro '95, of Avon, Conn., died October 10, 2003. He worked for GMAC in Rocky Hill, Conn., and SNET in Avon, and was pursuing his electrician's license.

Stephan R. Bordon '97, of Andover, Mass., died October 17, 2003. He was awarded the Victor J. Mill Medal for ranking as the top student in continuing education upon his graduation.

Merrimack Family Death Notices

Walter E. Maxey, Ph.D. died on June 10, 2003 in Marietta, Ohio. Dr. Maxey was a well-respected professor of mathematics and computer science from 1977 to 1999. During his tenure, he served as chair of Mathematics/Computer Science Dept.; chair of the Appointment Rank and Tenure Committee; president of Faculty Senate; and co-founder of the computer science major. Dr. Maxey returned to Ohio in 1999. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Frank Maxey, and sister Catherine Maxey, both of Akron, Ohio. Individuals interested in donating to a Merrimack College memorial fund in his honor may contact: Prof. Mary Noonan, Computer Science Department, Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA, 01845.

Wladyslaw "Walter" Socha died on November 22, 2003. He was a beloved professor of education and psychology at Merrimack for 32 years. He served as chair of the joint departments of Psychology and Education. He had honorably served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Fluent in Polish and grounded in his roots of family and friends, he spent extended time in Poland.

Emile G. Moured, resident hall supervisor in Deegan East, died on December 3, 2003. Mr. Moured served in the U.S. Army during World War with the 1st Battalion 26th Infantry Regiment and the "Big Red One" and was a guard at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial. He also served during the Korean War. He is survived by his wife Carole Ann and family.

Catherine Giangrande died on January 19, 2004. Mrs. Giangrande was the department secretary in Electrical Engineering from 1985 to 2000. She often traveled with Merrimack alumni groups. She is survived by her husband Thomas, son Thomas, Jr. '89, daughter Patrice and family.

Col. Earl V. Brown died on January 22, 2004. Col. Brown served Merrimack College from 1968 to 1992 in many capacities including: director of government relations and coordinator of sponsored research; assistant to the president; vice president for administration; and general counsel. Prior to that, he was a retired U.S. Army Trial Judge, having served as legal advisor in the Korean peace negotiations, and also served as dean of Columbia Law School. He is survived by his wife Marion and family.

Dr. John J. Wholey died on February 11, 2004. Dr. Wholey served as college physician and director of Health Services from 1969 to 1981. He practiced medicine in Andover from 1951 until his retirement. He served in the National Guard and retired as a full colonel. He is survived by daughters Jane and Anne, daughter-in-law Maureen, and family.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT YOU...

If you've received an award or promotion . . . Been married or had a baby . . . Earned a graduate degree . . . Moved . . . Obtained a new job . . . Celebrated a special anniversary . . . Or have other news to share with your fellow alumni, contact us at 978-837-5000 ext. 4511 or at alumnirelations@merrimack.edu.

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"We give to Merrimack College because we believe that it continues to offer its students personal attention, academic excellence, a good moral base, and the lifelong career connections needed to excel. As graduates and parents of a current Merrimack student, we have seen the direct impact giving can have on students lives."

As members of the St. Augustine Society, we join other benefactors in sustaining and advancing the work of the college through general or specific support.

In providing scholarship support, in endowing *The City of God* lecture series within the Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy, and with gifts to the Merrimack Fund, we have been able to help support Merrimack's mission of providing a values-based education. Recent additions and improvements to the campus and academic programs have enhanced the Merrimack experience. Much more needs to be done for Merrimack to sustain its academic excellence and maintain its competitiveness. We hope you will join us in helping to build on Merrimack's success."
 – **Joseph and Rose (Kelley) Lorusso '79, '79**

The St. Augustine Society recognizes those alumni, parents and friends of Merrimack College who have demonstrated the greatest support to the college. The society augments

Merrimack College's existing educational, administrative, and promotional resources in a way that encourages greater participation. In addition to their strong financial commitment, and in order to create a closer partnership between the faculty, students, administration and society members, the society's members are given the opportunity to be active participants in various educational, administrative, and social activities. Society members make a minimum annual gift of \$5,000.

For more information, please contact Susan Wojtas '79, director of major gifts, at 978-837-5455, susan.wojtas@merrimack.edu, or Susan Ferris, executive director of constituent relations, at 978-837-5385, susan.ferris@merrimack.edu.



Photo by Susan Wojtas '79

COMING ATTRACTIONS - Spring 2004

Check out the entire campus happenings at www.merrimack.edu

APRIL

- 17 The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra with band leader Buddy Morrow at 7:30 p.m. (Rogers Center)
- 20 Honors Convocation at 4 p.m. (Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher)
- 20 Passover Seder at 2 p.m. (Murray Lounge) sponsored by Center for Study of Jewish Christian Relations.
- 28 Leonard Bernstein's MASS performed by the Boston Conservatory at 7 p.m. (Rogers Center)
- 30 Natalie MacMaster, Cape Breton fiddler, at 7:30 p.m. (Rogers Center)

MAY

- 1 4th Annual Tambakos Video Competition screening 2 - 6 p.m.; awards at 7 p.m. (Rogers Center)
- 7 4th Annual Merrimack College YAS Corporation Senior Honors Project Award Program at 11:30 a.m. (Cascia Hall)
- 12 Bellesini Academy Awareness Evening, 6:30-8:00 p.m. View student work and learn about student performance, cocktails.

- 15 Baccalaureate Mass at 3:30 p.m. (Austin Plaza)
- 16 Commencement at 2 p.m. (Volpe Athletic Center)
- 20 Washington, DC Alumni Reception from 6 to 9 p.m. (home of trustee Thomas Siekman '63)
- 27 Annual Friends of Merrimack Dinner at 7 p.m. (Andover Country Club)

JUNE

- 4, 5 Reunion Weekend for classes ending with a 4 or a 9. See page 20.
- 5 Trout Fishing in America at 2 p.m. (Rogers Center)
- 7 President's Cup Golf Tournament (Indian Ridge Country Club), morning and afternoon times are available. Call 978-837-5117.

For a complete list of alumni events, please also see page 21.

Ticket information for Rogers Center events is available at 978-837-5355 or at www.merrimack.edu/rogers.

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