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Merrimack College, "Summer 2003" (2003). *Merrimack Magazine*. 30.
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MERRIMACK

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MERRIMACK IS PUBLISHED FOR THE ALUMNI, PARENTS
AND FRIENDS OF MERRIMACK COLLEGE.

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— MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT —

Since Merrimack's beginning, many have worked tirelessly to provide an outstanding education for every student who joins the Merrimack community. Today, as a result of years of hard work and planning, we have reached a new pinnacle as more and more come to appreciate the academic reputation and quality of the student life experience that Merrimack offers.



For the first time in its history, Merrimack College had to deny access to more than 40% of those who applied this year. It is a historical milestone for Merrimack that speaks to the increasing quality of our applicant pool every year. Approximately 600 students will join us on campus as freshmen in the fall. A total of 21 valedictorians applied for admission to Merrimack this year, yet another indication of our growing academic reputation.

The progress we have made is substantiated by a number of external accrediting agencies that are providing positive feedback about Merrimack College, what we are doing and where we are going. In addition to earning a 10-year accreditation last year from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), our engineering programs earned accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), our master's degree program in education earned NEASC accreditation, and the Girard School of Business and International Commerce is currently in self-study for AACSB accreditation, a prestigious recognition of quality for business schools.

We have transformed while remaining true to our mission, focused on the goals of our strategic plan, and committed to educating our students in the Augustinian tradition. It has been the tremendous support and commitment from trustees, faculty, alumni, friends, and others that has made such progress possible.

Are we satisfied? Of course not. Do we have more work to do? Absolutely. We have said that we want to achieve preeminence and we will not waiver from that.

As we focus on the future of Merrimack College, we must continue to invest time, planning and financial resources to continue to offer new academic programs, attract the best faculty available and to enroll a diverse and academically talented student population. It is critical for us, with the continued academic strength of students seeking admission to Merrimack, that we focus our attention on improving the resources of the McQuade Library to reflect a college of our academic standing. It is also important to ensure that we have instructional technology that enhances teaching and learning.

You have been a major part of our achievements. I thank you for your continued commitment and enthusiasm for Merrimack College. There is more to come.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Santagati
President



— ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE —

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOSTER LIFETIME OF LEARNING

Last fall, when 175 freshman business majors realized they would have to devote a Sunday in September at an off-campus academic retreat, there were groans. Despite the grumpiness, however, many students came away with a new understanding of and appreciation for the skills needed to be successful in business.

The retreat is just one aspect of a new business prerequisite instituted by the Girard School of Business and International Commerce this year. It is the first in a number of new directions at Merrimack that seeks to develop and strengthen the skills that all Merrimack graduates are expected to demonstrate. According to the newly drafted Academic Strategic Plan, a key component of the college's strategic plan for 2004-2010, those skills are:

- Communication Skills
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Ethical Understanding Reasoning and Responsibility
- Adaptability
- Cultural Understanding and Respect for Diversity
- Reflective Thinking Skills

"Curriculum that builds these skills fosters a lifetime of learning. There is no end point to learning because our students will always be building on their skills, even long after they leave Merrimack College," explained Father Gary McCloskey, O.S.A., provost and dean of the college. "With this foundation, our students will be able to continually strengthen their skills by what they learn in the workplace - a cumulative lifelong learning."

Business Enterprise (BE101) brings together the expertise of many business faculty members, crossing the boundaries between traditional business disciplines to help students learn how businesses integrate and apply the various business disciplines in their organizations. The off-campus retreat is one way that Business Enterprise moves learning beyond the classroom, providing students with opportunities to experience

business in a larger context. In many respects, the retreat mirrors the business world.

During the day, students on ten-person teams designed a presentation (a play, skit, etc.) "The idea isn't so much the fun of the skits, but that students are able to learn how to work with a new team," said Gina Vega, associate professor and chair, Management-Organization Studies. "We wanted a method of working together as a team, learning a measure of

respect for one another and for diverse ideas, and a willingness to be more flexible and adaptable. That's the essence of a successful business."

Other activities that move beyond the traditional classroom include a new speaker series that offers students a perspective on the business world, and field trips to see how different kinds of firms operate to deliver their products and services. Students are asked to reflect on these speaking opportunities as part of their course work.

Student Jim Mariano, who participated in last year's business retreat, said, "Yes, I was awake on a Sunday morning, but I gained a piece of knowledge about groups that cannot be taught in the classroom. This retreat has taught me that I will be working in groups a substantial amount of time. . . . It's becoming clear that

group work will be a key aspect of my future job, so I try to take as much as I can from activities like this that may give me an advantage or provide an informed position."

Students in all divisions will soon see programs similar to Business Enterprise

that strive to provide an integrated education designed to graduate students with a high level of demonstrated skills.



Frank Girard (right) talked with students at the Business Enterprise speaker series.

*"With this foundation,
our students will be able
to continually strengthen
their skills by what they
learn in the workplace -
a cumulative lifelong
learning."*

COMMENCEMENT

MERRIMACK GRADUATES 555 STUDENTS

By Julie Jackson Flynn

At Merrimack College's 53rd Commencement on May 18, 555 students graduated and three honorary degrees were conferred, including one to Rabbi Robert Goldstein of Temple Emanuel in Andover, who delivered this year's Commencement address.

In his introduction of Rabbi Goldstein, Religious Studies Professor Padraic O'Hare commended the Rabbi's efforts to promote tolerance among Jews, Christians, and Muslims. In his address to nearly 5,500 students, faculty, trustees, family, and friends, Rabbi Goldstein reminded people to give faith a second chance, even a second chance. (See excerpts from Rabbi Goldstein's speech on page 3).

Rabbi Goldstein is recognized as one of the leading religious leaders in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts. He is the chairman of the Board of Directors of Merrimack's Center for Study of Jewish-Christian Relations. Two years ago he initiated a Muslim/Jewish dialogue which has become a model for other communities. In June 2001 Merrimack College presented him with the Tikkun Olam award in honor of his many interfaith efforts.

Honorary degrees were also conferred on Gladys Sakowich, a long-time supporter and benefactor of the college, and Rev. William A. McGuire, O.S.A. Mrs. Sakowich has served on Merrimack's Board of Trustees for the past ten years. The support of Mrs. Sakowich and her husband, Anthony, was instrumental in the construction and major renovation of the Gladys Sakowich Campus

Center, which was opened in 2001. She maintains her interest in Merrimack College and its students as a Trustee Emeritus on the Board of Trustees Student Life Committee.

Rev. William McGuire, O.S.A. served on the Merrimack College Board of Trustees from 1993 to 2001 and was recently reappointed. Fr. McGuire has a long career in higher education. He currently serves as senior vice president for administration at Villanova University, a position he has held since 1998. Previously, he was dean of enrollment management from 1990 to 1998. He was also assistant athletic director ('87-'89), assistant dean of liberal arts ('81-'87), and assistant dean of admissions ('79-'81).



Graduate Ly Nguyen (center with cap) was surrounded by her family and friends, some of whom traveled from Hanoi, Vietnam to congratulate her.



Celebrating a momentous day in their lives, Bill and Maura Burke congratulate their daughter Caitlin on her graduation from Merrimack College.



Laurie Marshall of West Boylston, Mass. enjoyed the reception following Commencement.



Honorary degree recipients were all smiles on the day of Commencement. Pictured are (left to right): President Richard J. Santagati with Rabbi Robert Goldstein, Gladys Sakowich and Rev. William McGuire, O.S.A.

It was also a big day, and some might say a miraculous one, for Joe Exter and his family. Exter, who was severely injured less than three months prior during a hockey game, received a standing ovation as President Santagati presented his diploma.

The President congratulated the Class of 2003 saying, "We have given you the finest educational experience, and we expect in return that you will live life creatively, live life serving humanity, live life fully and in the words of French novelist, Emile Zola, live life out loud."

Photos by David Spink

COMMENCEMENT

EXCERPTS FROM COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS DELIVERED BY RABBI ROBERT GOLDSTEIN

My message to you this afternoon is a simple one. Even with all the evil, abuse and injustice some suggest is done in the name of religion, maybe even because of it, don't give up on religion, don't lose your faith, whatever that faith may be.

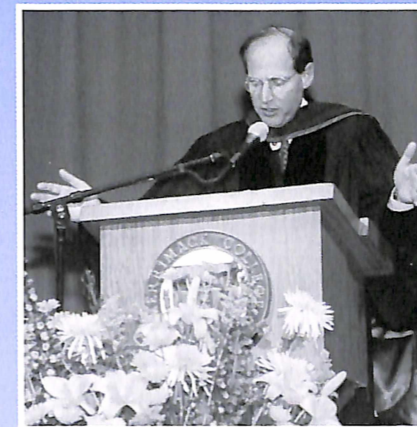
I say this because I believe a lot of good has been done in the name of religion, quietly, day in and day out.

Think of the music, the art, and the architecture inspired by religion. How ennobling, uplifting and exalting are these expressions of faith. And then there are the rites and rituals of faith. We are all born; many of us marry, one day each of us will die. These life cycle events, these passages are so much richer and more meaningful when observed in a community with a shared vision and a common destiny.

Perhaps even more importantly are the many righteous acts and heroic deeds carried out in the name of religion. Throughout history, good people whose unassuming faith forbids indifference in the face of suffering have performed brave acts and some mundane but no less heroic deeds without fanfare or fuss.

I think of the many students on this very campus who each spring opt for a week not in Cancun or Florida, but choose to volunteer at a soup kitchen, in orphanages or schools, helping children and adults. They choose community service rather than room service. Their work, inspired by the Christian spirit of compassion and kindness, brings honor to your college and the values for which Merrimack stands.

Because religion is a human language - after all, it is our earthly, often imperfect response to God's demands of us - we are bound to make mistakes. Sometimes we may misinterpret or misrepresent God's will, but it is only the



Photos by David Spink

cynics and the doubters who would have us believe religion is irrelevant, faith meaningless.

Think of how many children have been fed in the name of religion. How many hurting bodies and broken spirits have been mended - all in the name of one faith or another. Think of the symphonies written, the frescoes painted, the great intellectual debates - all in the name of religion.

It does not matter what road to salvation you choose, or in what language you hear God's voice. Whether you cover your head or leave it bare, whether your Sabbath is on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, whether you pray standing or sitting, or on your knees, just let the color and the passion, the majesty of religion, and its simple pure teachings of goodness and love enter your hearts.

A good religion, and most are, reminds us that the entire universe does not revolve around us. When we are apt to become self-indulgent, a good religion reminds us: help the poor. When we are looking inward, becoming too parochial, a good religion teaches: every one of God's creations embodies the divine spark.

This is a commencement address, so I am supposed to give you some advice. I know that some of us called to teach and preach have given you every reason to walk away from your faith. But don't! When you make choices for yourself and perhaps, someday for your children, give faith a chance, even a second chance.

You can argue about your faith, question it, struggle with it - just never ignore it or abandon it. I am certain that the rituals and the rites, the moral teachings and the eternal truths of whatever faith you choose will help to make your lives fuller, your relationships deeper, your joys heightened and whatever loss and despair you may encounter, that much easier to bear."

COMMENCEMENT

DR. LINDA FOOTE
NAMED PROFESSOR
OF THE YEAR

By Julie Jackson Flynn



Linda Foote, Ph.D. '78

Linda Foote, Ph.D.'78, associate professor of biology and allied health, was presented with the Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher Award at the college's 53rd Commencement. Nominated for the award by students as well as her colleagues, Foote is a standout recognized for her devotion to teaching excellence, care and concern for her students and a deep dedication to learning. Her expertise in cell biology, immunology, and autoimmune disease has earned her respect in her field.

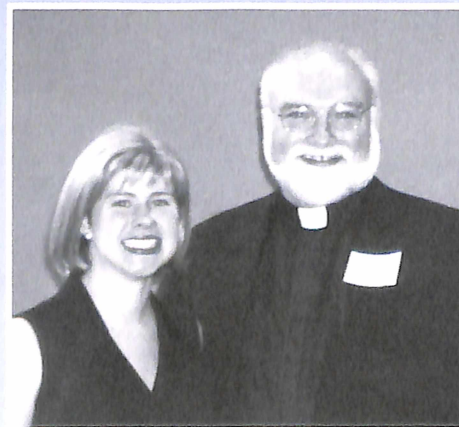
A member of the Merrimack faculty since 1997, she holds a Ph.D. in microbiology from Boston University School of Medicine, a master of arts from Harvard University, and a bachelor of science in medical technology from Merrimack College. A winner of many prestigious awards for her research and teaching, Dr. Foote is known for dedication to students and to their research. She is the author of numerous scientific articles in the field of immunology.

CEDAR

CONTINUING EDUCATION DIVISION ALUMNI REUNITED



Class of 2003 Department of Continuing Education students who attended the CEDAR reception in May included, (from left) Laurie Libby, Frank Powers, Laura Collins, George Mullins, Bonnie Wilkinson, Samantha Heggarty, Ann Byrne, Sheila Clark, Carmen Frometa and Elaine Paul.



Laura Collins was congratulated by Fr. Gary McCloskey, O.S.A., provost and dean of the college, on receiving the James J. St. Germain award. She graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts in communication studies. The award is presented to the first-ranked Division of Continuing Education senior pursuing graduate studies.



Heather Tittman of Haverhill, Mass. was awarded the Victor J. Mill Award this year. She graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science in business administration degree. The Victor J. Mill Award is awarded annually to the first-ranking student in the Division of Continuing Education. Pictured with Heather is Victor J. Mill, III, President of Lawrence Pumps.

GRIEF: HELPING CHILDREN HEAL

After eight-year-old Olivia's grandmother died, Olivia kept saying for months that she wanted Nana back. With each special event or change in season, she felt anew the pain of missing her grandmother. Understanding death and its ramifications was difficult for Olivia, as it is for so many children who experience such a loss in their lives.

"Death is complex and confusing for children to understand, especially when it is the loss of someone close," wrote Claire M. Thornton, CSC, associate professor and chair of the Education Department at Merrimack College, in her paper, "Using Children's Literature to Help the Grieving Child," delivered on April 10, 2003 at the CEC National Convention in Seattle, Washington.

Thornton began her research and interest in helping children cope with death as a teacher 30 years ago when a student in her third grade class lost a father to cancer. Since that time she has realized that teachers can help grieving children heal by listening to their feelings as well as memories of significant moments, and suggesting healthy ways to handle their emotions.

"It is important to realize that children understand death according to their cognitive development and that grief can have a wide array of reactions," notes Thornton. "Behavior is usually a mirror of the feelings. If you can ask the child how he or she is feeling, then you'll gain insight on the behavior."

In her paper, Thornton refers to Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development that explores children's thinking. A young child (ages four to six) doesn't have a developed sense

"It is important to realize that children understand death according to their cognitive development and that grief can have a wide array of reactions."

of time. He or she cannot perceive death as forever, irreversible, and a universal part of life. For a child at this age, it is important to use nature (butterflies, frogs, leaves) as a model of the life cycle to explain that death is a universal aspect of life.

Children from six to 12 years of age tend to personify and concretize death, thinking of it as a ghost, angel or hooded



Merrimack's Associate Professor and Chair of the Education Department Claire Thornton, C.S.C. has published and presented several papers on the subject of death and grieving children, as well as on other topics related to education. She has been a professor at Merrimack since 1996, having previously taught at Notre Dame College, Boston College and Providence College. Professor Thornton has a doctorate in philosophy from Boston College and a master's degree in education from Lesley College. Dr. Thornton has been in the field of education for 35 years.

figure. They believe that death catches people who are old, severely ill or not cautious. They believe that they can hide from "it," outsmart "it," or run from "it." According to Thornton's article, they are curious and inquisitive about what happens when someone dies. They may ask if the person gets hungry, cold, etc. As their direct questions are asked, adults may feel uncomfortable with how to answer them. Evasion, avoidance and the use of euphemisms are not helpful solutions. These approaches only instill confusion and greater anxiety. It is best to listen attentively to their questions and to respond in an open, honest and caring manner.

Children older than age 12 can think abstractly, reason and comprehend death as an adult does. However, they need to talk about how deeply they feel the loss. Their questions will center on cultural and religious beliefs.

Sometimes using children's and young adult literature can be a tool to open a conversation about the topic of death. As the book is read, the child can hear and feel how another has had

a similar life experience. Talking about the contents of the book can also engage the child in a meaningful dialogue. As Thornton states, "Expressing the feelings is the beginning of the healing process."

In addition, many of the fine arts can become a meaningful expression of the deep inner feelings. Writing a letter to the deceased, drawing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, sculpturing, clay modeling, painting, etc. are all possible means of releasing the emotional energy.

It is also helpful to remember the deceased in a meaningful way. This could be planting a garden, starting a scholarship fund, or donating to a favorite charity.

If parents and teachers desire to have the children of today become the emotionally healthy, holistic adults of tomorrow, then every aspect of life must be considered as a "teachable moment"; even the most difficult one, death. The loss of someone close is painful. The feelings of grief are profound. Grief is a process. There is no time line. "Utilizing children's literature as a medium to discuss death can assist significant adults in preparing children to become healthy adults of tomorrow," notes Thornton in her paper.

Note: A list of recommended children's literature, as well as Professor Thornton's entire paper, "Using Children's Literature to Help the Grieving Child," is available at <http://kahuna.merrimack.edu/cthorton/publications.htm>.

THE BIG AND SMALL QUESTIONS OF MEDICAL ETHICS

By David Rattigan

The concepts of modern medical ethics have been developing since the 1970s and have strengthened in recent years as a result of the Patients Rights movement and landmark legal decisions championing the rights of individuals. Today, medical ethics encompasses issues from embryonic research to physician-assisted suicide to distribution of scarce medical resources.

"In medical ethics, there are big questions and there are smaller questions," says Associate Professor of Philosophy Gerald Matross. "The big questions are about justice and our right to health care, about cloning and genetic engineering. These are big philosophical and moral questions.

"Then, there are also other kinds of questions which are more personal," he said. "These affect many people every day, mostly surrounding the issue of individual rights, informed consent, and the doctor-patient relationship."

In landmark legal cases such as that of Paul Brophy, the badly injured Massachusetts firefighter who won the right to end life support and be allowed to die, patients rights have been strengthened and clarified. "Not only has a consensus emerged on many ethical issues involving patient care, but this ethical consensus and the law are usually compatible. The law which has evolved is not usually the result of statutes passed by legislators, but rather the result of court decisions," says Matross.

"Some of the most famous court decisions (regarding medical ethics) come from Massachusetts courts. These decisions have had an influence on other courts throughout the country, in part because these courts have made their decisions on persuasive philosophical arguments and related legal precedents."

Matross has been interested in medical ethics since he began teaching at Merrimack College in the early 1970s when the concepts of modern medical ethics were just emerging. Since then, Matross has helped to establish and serves on several medical ethics committees at area hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities. They are interdisciplinary committees that usually include medical professionals, administrators, social workers, an ethicist, a clergy person, and a lawyer. An ethics committee should be a supportive forum that helps decision makers think through the ethical issue at hand. They also educate health care providers to recognize and to deal with ethical issues as they arise. This experience has informed Dr. Matross' teaching, as it has allowed him to see theory put into practice in real-life situations.

According to Matross, treatment decisions involve many different perspectives – the scientific and medical perspective, the sociological, the philosophical, the economic. "All these things mesh together," he notes.

Medical decisions always involve a 'value' component. Treatment decisions are not made simply by the physician considering the medical facts of the case. The importance of a patient's right to be involved in the decision making process is now recognized as an important component of treatment decisions by both American law and the ethical codes of most professional health care providers. They recognize that treatment decisions must involve the wishes, values, beliefs and concerns

of the patient. These situations can become weighty and complicated, shaped by many variables, including the patient's ethnicity and culture.

For example, while the United States heavily values the rights of the individual, some Hispanic cultures provide greater rights to the patients' family.

Consider the case of an elderly Russian woman, dying of cancer in a Massachusetts nursing home.

In the United States, it is now generally accepted that patients have the right to be informed if they have cancer or a terminal illness. Western culture, with its emphasis on the individual's self-determination, operates on the assumption that patients should know if their illness is terminal, so they can prepare for death. In the dying woman's ethnic background, however, it is believed that if a patient knows that they have cancer, they would die, the patient would lose her spirit to live.

"The nursing staff was very concerned that she did not know, and that they had to participate in the deception," Matross says.

The facility's ethics committee gathered, along with the family and medical staff, to discuss the situation. Suggestions were made, including one that the patient be asked whether she would like to know her medical condition. That, however, unearthed another complication. As Matross puts it, "Research and clinical experience shows that if you ask Russian patients whether they want to be informed, they'll say yes, but they only want to hear good news."

After a lengthy discussion by all present, her daughter decided to inform her mother. The day after she was told, the woman died.

"As this case illustrates, these kinds of cases are very complicated," says Matross.



Photo by Kevin Salemme

Associate Professor of Philosophy Gerald Matross traveled to Argentina in July 2003 to present two

papers at the Bioethics Institute of the Catholic University of Buenos Aires. He delivered talks on ethical issues at the end of life and hospital ethics committees. While there he also helped develop an exchange program for Merrimack and Argentinian students interested in various aspects of health care. Dr. Matross has extensive experience working in the academic and clinical areas of medical ethics. He is a member and consultant to ethics committees in a variety of hospitals and health care facilities, including Lawrence General Hospital (Lawrence, Mass.); Saints Memorial Medical Center (Lowell, Mass.); Mass. Department of Public Health's Lemuel Shattuck Hospital (Jamaica Plain, Mass.); the Mass. Department of Mental Retardation, Northeast region; and the Jewish Rehabilitation Center of the North Shore (Swampscott, Mass.). He has been a professor at Merrimack for 31 years.

MERRIMACK PROFESSOR AWARDED FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

By Julie Jackson Flynn

Dr. He Li, associate professor of political science at Merrimack, has been selected to receive a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to conduct two months of research in Taiwan during the summer of 2004. The Fulbright Award will assist Dr. Li in his research on Chinese relations with Latin America and its implication on Taiwan and the United States.

He joins several of his Merrimack colleagues who have also been awarded the Fulbright Scholarship. Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary potential in their fields.

Dr. Li's research project will analyze China's growing influence in Latin America and the Caribbean and its implications for the United States and Taiwan. Based on field research in Taiwan, Dr. Li will examine goals, strategies, and prospects of Beijing's quest in the region.

A political science professor for the past nine years at Merrimack College, Dr. Li has followed China's relationship with Latin America for many years. His first book, *Sino-Latin American Economic Relations* (Praeger 1991), was an interdisciplinary study of Chinese relations with Latin America from the 1950s to the 1980s.

"Latin America is of vital importance for Taiwan. The countries with formal diplomatic ties to Taiwan dwindled to 27 as of today, and 14 of these 27 states are in Central America and the Caribbean. Taipei and Beijing are now waging a desperate and costly competition in that region. Latin America contains products for the Taiwanese consumers and markets for Taiwan producers," said Dr. Li.

His research on Chinese foreign policy has been ongoing for many years. His articles have been published in the journal *Problems of Post-Communism*, and one of his book chapters on "China and Latin America in a Changing World" appeared in *Interpreting U.S.-China-Taiwan Relations: China in*



Dr. He Li

Photo by Kevin Salemme

FACULTY UPDATE

the Post-Cold War Era by Lanham, M.D., edited by In Xiaobing Li, Xiaobo Hu, and Yang Zhong.

The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational exchange activity, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Dr. Li is one of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad to some 140 countries for the 2003-2004 academic year through the Fulbright Scholar Program.

SWALLOW STEPS DOWN AS DEAN

By Julie Jackson Flynn

After serving for the past six years as dean of faculty, science and engineering, Dr. Kathleen C. Swallow stepped down and is embarking on an adventure that will take her to Eastern Europe during her sabbatical next year. She will return to teach at Merrimack in fall 2004.

During her sabbatical, Swallow, an environmental chemist, plans to become involved in a long-term professional collaboration in Eastern Europe. "The Communist system during the Cold War was hard on the infrastructure of the Eastern European countries. There are tremendous environmental problems there," said Swallow.

Swallow, who has traveled to the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania, became interested in Eastern Europe at the time of the fall of the Iron Curtain. "I never expected to see the Iron Curtain fall because it was so much a part of my childhood experience. I was in the generation with the Cold War and the Iron Curtain. We used to have to hide under our desk and put our hands over our heads for nuclear bomb drills. Nobody knew anything about what was east of the Iron Curtain," she said.

As an environmental chemist, Swallow has worked on many environmental problems in America. For 14 years she says she has been intrigued with the idea of doing some environmental work in Eastern Europe, and it seems next year will be the year.

A search is underway for a new dean of faculty of Science and Engineering.



Dr. K.C. Swallow

FINANCIAL AID

MERRIMACK LOAN DEFAULT RATE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE

With the average indebtedness of a graduating college senior around the \$20,000 mark, not including graduate or medical school, credit card or car loans, the default rate on student loans has the potential to be high. At Merrimack, however, the default rate is significantly lower than the national average and has been for more than 30 years.

According to Christine Mordach, director of financial aid, Merrimack has one of the lowest default rates in the country for student loan borrowing. Merrimack's rate of 2.9% is considerably lower than the national 5.9% default rate. It is part of a concerted effort on the part of Merrimack's financial aid team to outline for students the importance and ramifications of maintaining good credit.

"The majority of our students borrow money from a variety of student loan programs to finance their education," explains Mordach. "When a student completes his or her

degree or withdraws from the college, the loan enters repayment. The money that is repaid goes back into the loan fund so it can be lent to current students."

The Financial Aid team continues to work with students even after they graduate to assist them and work out a payment plan.

"We try to identify those individuals who seem to be having difficulty repaying their loans," says Mordach. "We work with them rather than send their account directly to a collection agency. We want our students to have a strong credit history if possible so that their future ability to obtain financing from a lender for a car or mortgage won't be jeopardized."

Because Merrimack's default rate is so low, the college continues to receive a high rating from the federal government which helps Merrimack receive additional funds from the Department of Education.

MERRIMACK OFFERS NEW FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

For many senior high school students deciding where to attend college, financial aid is a critical component of their decision. In recognition of the financial constraints that many students and families face, Merrimack has implemented several new financial assistance programs.

For the first time this year, Merrimack made a pledge to accepted students who enroll to increase their yearly scholarship award by the same percentage increase in tuition each year. For example, if Merrimack's tuition increases five percent each year, then those scholarships will also increase by five percent.

Also for the first time this year, Merrimack offered merit programs to recognize academic achievement of applicants. Incoming freshman students who meet specific requirements may be automatically awarded one of these new merit-based scholarships:

• *The Austin Scholarship* offers full tuition to students graduating first in their class. They are guaranteed for four years, provided the student maintains the required cumulative grade point average of 3.2.

• *McQuade Scholars* receive scholarships of \$15,000 and are chosen from incoming applicants on the basis of academic excellence, personal accomplishments and future potential.

They are guaranteed for four years, provided the recipient maintains a cumulative grade point average of 3.0.

• *Gildea Scholars* receive scholarships of \$12,000 and must maintain the required cumulative grade point average of 3.0.

• *The Virginia G. O'Neil Leadership Scholarships* are available to students who have distinguished achievements in an extracurricular field such as student government, arts, music, school newspaper, yearbook or volunteerism. Awards range from \$2,000 to \$13,000. Recipients must maintain the required 2.9 cumulative grade point average. These are also guaranteed for four years.

• *The Saint Genesius Theater Scholarship* is for entering students who have demonstrated ability in the performing arts/drama/theater. Recipients must maintain involvement in the Merrimack College On-Stagers theater organization in order for the scholarship to be renewed. They are guaranteed for four years provided the recipient maintains the required cumulative grade point average of 2.8.

Overall, these merit-based scholarship programs offer additional assistance to students and their families while also helping to enhance the caliber of the talented students who choose to pursue their higher education at Merrimack College.

AUGUSTINIAN CENTER CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS

In five short years since the creation of the Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy at Merrimack, the teachings, values and words of St. Augustine seem to permeate the campus and the community. As the center celebrates its fifth year anniversary, a reflection on its accomplishments reveals many new programs that have helped to strengthen the mission of the college.

"Since the creation of the center, our approach has always been to invite people to learn about St. Augustine and the Augustinian Order and then to reflect on how their work as a teacher, scholar and administrator can contribute to Merrimack's Augustinian tradition," said Joseph Kelley, director of the Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy, and vice president for mission effectiveness. "We have done this in a number of ways by inviting faculty to do research about and present papers on St. Augustine or Augustinian thought in ways that related to their discipline, be that philosophy, theology, psychology or science."

Programs that have been established in the past five years have ranged from book study groups of community members who read and discuss works of St. Augustine or other authors that relate to his ideas. Several yearly lectures have been established, including the City of God lecture which invites a visiting lecturer to the campus to address a topic of pastoral theology or social justice from an Augustinian perspective and the Cassiacium gathering, now in its second year, which brings faculty members together to share papers and research on a specific topic. The Thagaste Symposium, named after the birthplace of St. Augustine in North Africa, explores Augustinian topics and themes in a context that is interdisciplinary, interfaith and intercultural.

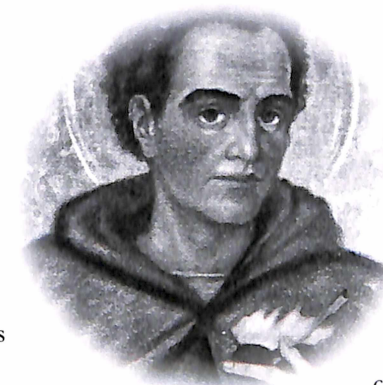
Pellegrinaggio, or pilgrimage, has enabled a total of 69 people (45 faculty members), to travel to Italy visiting the sites important to St. Augustine and his life. "The Pellegrinaggio has been a way of both informing people about Augustine and the Augustinians and of building a sense of community as they journey together. Some faculty have said that it has enriched their teaching, not so much the topics they teach, but the way that they go about teaching," said Kelley.

Hundreds of students have gained a deeper exposure to Augustinian teachings and values through the five courses that are offered each year, through the MORE retreat programs and through contacts with the Augustinian friars on campus.

In the coming year, the center is looking to conduct an evaluation and assessment of its programs and its contributions to

the college. "We have been very pleased at our first five years and at the number of people in our community who have stepped forward to participate and share in what they have learned," said Kelley.

PELLEGRINAGGIO: A PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



Today, more than 1,600 years after his legacy began and 750 years after the founding of the Augustinian Order, the life and writings of St. Augustine continue to enrich and impact the lives of many. Eighteen members of the Merrimack community headed to Italy in March of this year for the fourth annual Pellegrinaggio (pilgrimage) trip, sponsored by the Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy. One of the main purposes of the pilgrimage is to give people a deeper understanding of St. Augustine, his spirit, and the history, community, and spirituality of the Order.

PILGRIM CASEY COBURN OFFERS THESE INSIGHTS INTO THIS YEAR'S PELLEGRINAGGIO

Dr. Joseph Kelley and Father James Wenzel led this year's Pellegrinaggio to Italy to an amazing conclusion. Pilgrims learned they didn't need to be Catholic or even Christian to be an Augustinian. Augustinian tradition fosters a loving and extended family, all faces and flavors included.

The Pellegrinaggio, sponsored by Merrimack's Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy, traced Augustine's footsteps and his soul's journey (an outer and an inner odyssey) and led us to a deeper or new understanding of what Augustinian "community" means.

Pilgrims were faculty, administrators, alumni, a trustee and travelers' friends and spouses. We were Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, and those who espoused Eastern and Western spirituality. This group of mostly strangers became kindred spirits and friends. As Dr. Kurt Bruder, associate professor of communication studies, described our experience, "We shared a life experience - learning from each other and bursting our own boundaries and the familiar - leaking into each other."

Assistant Professor of Organization Studies and Management Dr. Deborah Litvin, in her first year at Merrimack, is Jewish and curious about Catholicism, particularly Augustinianism. She identified with Augustine, especially his

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writings on "memory," where she recognized herself. The trip made her feel "connected, supported. It was a gift."

"We formed a new community within the community," said Timothy Carey '96, who sought spiritual renewal from the trip. "As much traveling as we did, our minds have done more. I understand more about Augustine and what makes Merrimack so special."

Before the trip, most of us thought that we more or less understood Augustinian community, but now we really get it. As Patrick, Dr. Dana Rowland's husband, put it, "We know Augustinians better now because of the company they keep. For me they crystallized more than Augustine's writings what Merrimack is all about." That company included the hospitable friars at San Gimignano, the lively yet serene nuns in Lecceto, and the members of the St. Augustine Historical and Cultural Society in Cassago Brianza who keeps Augustine's flame alive in what is believed to be the ancient Cassiciacum where he wrote a number of tracts.

Every day was a "Wow!" said Barbara LaChance '73, McQuade Library director. The wows included visiting:

- Milan Cathedral, where Ambrose baptized Augustine
- Leonardo's "Last Supper"
- The Pavian church, where Augustine's bones lie (as do those of Boethius)
- The 13th century Augustinian foundation in San Gimignano in whose church are magnificent frescoes of Augustine's life by Benozzo Gozzoli
- St. Peter's excavations wherein lie St. Peter's bones
- Ostia Antica, where Augustine and his mother Monica shared a mystical experience and where she died, and
- Genazzano in the Alban Hills, where the village church houses an ancient shrine to Our Mother of Good Counsel and the tomb of Blessed Stephen Bellesini, O.S.A.

Motives for taking the trip ranged from faculty wanting to understand what it means to teach in an Augustinian school to plumbing Augustine's philosophy; from nourishing their souls to reconnecting to faiths shaken by recent scandals in the Church.

By the end, many found their inner journeys paralleled that of Augustine's. "Walking where Augustine and Monica walked was our faith journey together," said LaChance. Lorraine Keating, a friend of Associate Professor of Religious Studies Dr. Susanne Scholz, said



Members of Pellegrinaggio IV were: (back left to right) John Corriero '61, James Wilson '67, Barbara LaChance '73, Joanne Bibeau '78, Bernadine Casey Coburn, former director of public relations. Mid row: Tim Carey '96, Bob Tosi '90, Fr. James Wenzel, O.S.A., '52, Fr. Brian Lowery, O.S.A., (hon. 01). Missing from the photo are Dr. Kurt Bruder, Dorothy Consiglio, Lorraine Keating, Dr. Joseph Kelley, Gerald LaChance, Dr. Deborah Litvin, Dr. Dana Rowland, Patrick Rowland, and Dr. Susanne Scholz.

she'd "affirmed that spirituality is living a passionate life - a life of feeling, joy and reflection. Being in Augustinian communities, with God at the center, has opened my way of thinking how people experience joy. There's a grace - a blessing - to connect with people."

Trustee James Wilson '67 said he recognizes in his own inner journey he needs to distinguish between Church and faith - a faith recently eroded by scandal. "But I looked at Fathers Brian and Ian and Jim and Joe and the Lecceto nuns and realized they are not the out-of-touch bureaucrats I saw at home. The Augustinians have drawn me back to an intelligent balance."

Alumni said they learned more about Augustine than they had during college. Joanne Bibeau '78 said the trip exceeded her expectation; she especially

appreciated getting to know faculty to see Merrimack's present and future. John Corriero '61, reflecting on the trip in relation to the then-impending war with Iraq, said, "If we really want to end violence we have to develop our own spirituality. It doesn't have to be Catholic, but 'catholic' in the universal sense - the potential to embrace everyone - as the Augustinians do."

— Casey Coburn

JOIN US ON PELLEGRINAGGIO

The Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy extends an invitation to Merrimack alumni for Pellegrinaggio V, March 4 -13, 2004. The cost is \$2,700 per person, and covers airfare, ground transportation, lodging (two in a room), most meals, and entrance fees. If you are interested in making this once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage, please call the center at 978-837-5217 to learn more about the trip and to apply.

FRIENDS OF MERRIMACK COLLEGE HONOR TWO OUTSTANDING MEMBERS

By Julie Jackson Flynn

At their annual dinner in May, the Friends of Merrimack College presented the college with a check for nearly \$97,000 for scholarships and honored two of its outstanding members with the "Friends of Merrimack College" award. Nancy Norbedo and Carol Poor shared the award in recognition of their long-time commitment and support of the college. The award is given annually to the person(s) who best exemplifies the group's mission, social, cultural, and fundraising activities.

New officers of the Board of the Friends were also inducted at the annual dinner. New Board officers are Co-Presidents Joyce Daher-Belko and Bill Buck; Co-Vice Presidents Frank Ferrara and Diane Coletta; and Co-Recording Secretaries Mary D'Emanuele and Paul McDonald.

Carol Poor is the vice president of Flagship Press Inc. in North Andover. She is president of the Rose Cup, Inc., a charitable foundation formed to raise funds for underprivileged and abused women. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Merrimack College and a past president of both the Ladies of Merrimack and the Friends of Merrimack College. She is an executive board member of the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club and a member of the Board of Directors of Central Catholic High School in Lawrence.

Additionally, Poor is a member of both the Holy Family Hospital and Lawrence General Hospital Auxiliaries. She is a lifetime member of both the Friends of Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital. An avid golfer, she is active in many golf associations.

Nancy Norbedo is a realtor and manager of Burke Real Estate in

North Andover and a member of the Northeast Association of Realtors (NEAR). She has served on the Board of Directors of the Ladies of Merrimack and the Friends of Merrimack for 25 years. Norbedo has served on the scholarship, membership, speaker committees and as a golf tournament volunteer for the Friends of Merrimack. As a member of the Ladies of Merrimack, she chaired or co-chaired numerous fundraising events for Merrimack. Additionally, she serves on the Board of Directors of Northern Essex Community College and the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club. She is a trustee at the Holy Family Hospital Foundation and is a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Michael's Church. She has been recognized with community service awards for 2001 and 2002. She has also served as

member of the Board of Directors for the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lawrence Chapter of the New England Home for Little Wanderers.



The Friends of Merrimack College presented the college with \$96,980 to benefit student scholarships. President Santagati presented the check from Executive Director of the Friends of Merrimack Richard Reming (right).



Carol Poor (left) and Nancy Norbedo (right) are congratulated by President Richard J. Santagati at the annual dinner of the Friends of Merrimack College.



Outgoing presidents Maria Rosati and Frank Terranova (right), who were instrumental in growing the membership of the Friends of Merrimack to more than 550 during their two-year tenure, were also recognized for their outstanding contributions. Dick Reming thanked them for their service.

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"This award, chosen by the Board of Directors of the Friends of Merrimack College, could not go to two more deserving people," said Richard Reming, executive director of the Friends of Merrimack College. "They are both the first to volunteer for every event we run, and they work tirelessly toward the success of every event. They each symbolize what the Friends of Merrimack College is all about - commitment and hard work on behalf of deserving Merrimack students."

The Friends of Merrimack College, formed in 1995, supports student scholarships through membership, social, cultural and fundraising activities. Each member serves as an honorary alumnus of the college.

PRESIDENT'S CUP RAISES FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The 22nd annual President's Cup Golf Tournament held in June raised more than \$45,000 to support the scholarship fund. Two hundred thirty players enjoyed the sunny day of golf and friendship. The Cup winners were the foursome of Bill Sullivan, Brian Thompson, John Turonis and Paul Smith. Bob McGee had the straightest drive.

Thanks to all those Merrimack friends who make the President's Cup a success every year!

LAUGH WITH LORETTA LAROCHE

Laugh until you drop with Loretta LaRoche on Sunday, November 9, 2003 at the Rogers Center for the Arts. She will have you laughing with her irreverent and unconventional humor as she brings her one woman show to Merrimack College to help raise funds for student scholarships.

LaRoche is a stress management consultant, best-selling author and star of several critically acclaimed PBS specials. She is founder and president of The Humor Potential, Inc., a company that offers lectures and products to enhance the human potential through wisdom, wit and humor. She also works with the faculty of the Mind/Body Medical Institute, an affiliate of CareGroup and Harvard Medical School. She is the author of several books, including "Relax, You May Only Have a Few Minutes Left," and articles published in *USA Today*, *The Boston Globe* and *The Atlanta Monthly*.

The event is sponsored by the Rogers Family Foundation and the Friends of Merrimack College. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. For those who would like to meet Loretta LaRoche, a special reception will be held at 6 p.m. for individuals who purchase a \$100 ticket. Call the Friends of Merrimack College at 978-837-5121.

Tickets for the lecture only are \$30 and are available by calling the Rogers Center box office at 978-837-5355 or on-line at www.merrimack.edu/rogers.

BEQUESTS TO MERRIMACK SUPPORT THE COLLEGE'S MISSION

Merrimack College has been the fortunate recipient of some very special gifts this past year in the form of bequests.

Bequests are charitable gifts that are made through a written and executed will that enable donors to create a legacy or honor a loved one while reducing their estate taxes.

This year, the estate of Margaret Keohane made a partial distribution of \$200,000 for the college's general use. The estate of Edith Bain Walsh made a gift of \$25,000 to establish a Friends of Merrimack College endowed scholarship fund. The estate of Catherine Murphy, former English professor at Merrimack, made a gift to benefit the English department.

Bequests are the most easily understood form of deferred giving, and many donors find bequests suit their philanthropic intentions best. No matter what the size of the gift, bequests show faith in the future of Merrimack College, and they provide support for our important mission.

As you can see, these bequests reflect the personal values of the donors, while supporting Merrimack College's mission. And, it's as simple as adding the following paragraph to your will:

"I give and bequeath to the Trustees of Merrimack College of North Andover, Massachusetts, the sum of \$_____ (or, it's equivalent value) (or, _____% of my residuary estate), and I request that said funds be invested and the income therefrom to be used for the award of scholarships. This scholarship shall be known as the _____ Scholarship Fund."*

If you would like more information, please contact Elizabeth Magliozzi (978) 837-5136 or to: Elizabeth.magliozzi@merrimack.edu

*This is not meant to be legal advice. Always consult your attorney regarding your specific situation.

TIKKUN OLAM AWARD PRESENTED TO STEVE GROSSMAN

By Julie Jackson Flynn

The Seventh *Tikkun Olam* Award was presented to Massachusetts resident Steve Grossman by Merrimack College's Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations at a reception held in April at the Boston Park Plaza. The *Tikkun Olam* Award recognizes outstanding contributions in the realms of politics, religion, economics, culture and philanthropy. The term *Tikkun Olam* means "To Heal the World" in Hebrew.

Mr. Grossman is the President of MassEnvelopePlus, the first company in Massachusetts to provide employer-assisted housing through interest-free, forgivable loans.

"Steve Grossman's commitment to advance economic and social justice through public policy has led to broad political engagement," said Padraic O'Hare, director for the Center for Study of Jewish-Christian Relations.

Grossman has served as chairman of both the Massachusetts Democratic Party from 1991-1992 and the Democratic National Committee from 1997-1999. His work, promoting Jewish communal life, as well interreligious relations, has been honored by organizations such as Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Anti-Defamation League, and the National Conference for Community and Justice (formally the National Conference of Christians and Jews).

With his wife, Barbara, chair of the Department of Drama and Dance at Tufts University, Grossman has made signifi-



Steve Grossman (center) is presented with the Tikkun Olam Award by President Santagati (left) and Rabbi Robert Goldstein (right).

cant and lasting contributions to the cultural life of the greater Boston community and beyond, believing that art, drama, music, and dance have the capacity to enrich, enlarge, and enliven the community, particularly when artistic experiences are made available across ethnic, racial, cultural and socio-economic lines.

A cum laude graduate of Princeton University, Grossman earned an M.B.A. with distinction from Harvard Business School. He and his wife are affiliated with Temple Emanuel of Newton, Mass.

"In Steve Grossman, the college honors someone who brings the highest passion, the deepest commitment to justice, in politics, and at the work site, and to equality of opportunity and rich cultural life," said O'Hare.

Presenting the award to Grossman was Merrimack College President Richard J. Santagati and Chairman of the Board of the Center Rabbi Robert Goldstein. Remarks were made by Dr. Leonard Fein. Chairpersons and masters of the ceremony were Alan Solomont and Susan Lewis Solomont.

The Center for Study of Jewish-Christian Relations at Merrimack strives to teach the history of Jewish-Christian relations; to engage in study and conversation about the religious, ethical, and cultural richness of Judaism and Christianity; and to engage in study and conversation about common features of the moral inheritance of Jews and Christians.

SNAPSHOT OF MERRIMACK'S CLASS OF 2007

Once again, students who applied to Merrimack this year are increasingly talented and representative of 35 countries around the world. Reflective of Merrimack's growing academic reputation, 21 valedictorians applied for admission this year. More than forty percent of those who applied were denied admission.

- Approximately 3,400 applied with an acceptance rate of 59%.
- Approximately 90% will live on campus.
- The female to male ratio of students is approximately 57% to 43%.
- Approximately 48% will enter seeking a liberal arts major, 21% will seek a science and engineering major, and 31% will enter the Girard School of Business.
- Students come from 22 states and six countries, with enrollment doubling in Connecticut and New Hampshire.

NAMING OF NEW RESIDENCE BUILDING HONORS PRESIDENT

The new student residence soon to open at Merrimack College will be named Santagati Hall after current president, Richard J. Santagati. The announcement comes following the Board's approval at its recent meeting. President Santagati's name was put forward to the Merrimack Board of Trustees by a committee comprised of students and members of the Student Life and Resident Life departments. A Merrimack alumnus, Santagati was elected the fifth president of Merrimack College in June 1995, becoming the college's first lay president. He had served as interim president of the college since March of 1994, chairman of its board of trustees since 1991, and board member since 1988.

"The contributions that President Santagati has made during his nearly ten years of service have literally transformed Merrimack College," noted Chairman of Merrimack's Board of Trustees Francis Marchilena. "Santagati has been the college's most effective fundraiser, bringing in Merrimack's first seven



Santagati Hall is three stories featuring suite-style units that accommodate groups of four, six and eight students.

figure gifts and leading a capital campaign that raised \$42 million dollars, the largest ever raised in Merrimack's 56-year history. He has led the college during a remarkable building era — adding a 600-seat center for performing arts, a 130,000-square-foot campus center, and two new residences."

Also under Santagati's leadership, Merrimack College has transformed from a commuter school to primarily residential, and will reach 80% residency when Santagati Hall opens in August. Applications for admission have doubled during his presidency and the acceptance rate has decreased by more than 30%. The college recently received a 10-year accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and has been consistently named a top tier regional school in *U.S. News & World Report*.

The 210-bed Santagati Hall is the second residence to be built at Merrimack College in five years, reflecting the increasing demand from students to live on campus. Since 1996, residency requests have increased nearly 85%; in 2003, 96% of incoming

"President Santagati has been the college's most effective fundraiser, bringing in Merrimack's first seven figure gifts and leading a capital campaign that raised \$42 million dollars, the largest ever raised in Merrimack's 55-year history."

freshman requested housing. Just a decade ago, only 40% of Merrimack's students resided on campus.

The new 57,000-square-foot building is three stories featuring suite-style units that accommodate groups of four, six and eight students. All rooms are wired for the Internet and have phone and cable television hook-ups. The building includes seminar rooms, a small multi-purpose room, vending, laundry and more.

Prior to his appointment as president of Merrimack College, Santagati was chairman of the board, president, and chief executive officer of Artel Communications Corporation. He was a partner at Lighthouse Capital Management, Inc., and chief executive officer at Gaston & Snow. Santagati has also held the positions of president and chairman of NYNEX Business Information Systems and vice president of marketing at NYNEX Corporation.

Active in his local community, President Santagati serves on the board of the Lawrence Andover Regional Health System, the parent board of Lawrence General Hospital. He is also director on the corporate board of CTC Group, Inc. He is a director and member of the Executive Committee of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Executive Committee of the New England Colleges Foundation, and a court-appointed special advocate, representing the legal interests of children. Santagati was elected Chairman of the Board of Bellesini Academy in 2002, a private Catholic school for underserved/at risk boys. He was appointed to the Blue Ribbon Chelsea Oversight Panel in 1989, serving as a representative of the State Board of Education and the governor of Massachusetts. In June 1999, he was appointed as director of the Massachusetts Education Finance Authority by Governor A. Paul Celucci.

A dedication ceremony to mark the opening of Santagati Hall will be held on Friday, September 26, 2003.

MCQUADE LIBRARY CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

By Marie DeMarco '02

Thirty-five years ago, on April 26, 1968, a new library was dedicated on the campus of Merrimack College. The dedication welcomed His Eminence Richard Cardinal Cushing who presided and guest speakers, the Honorable John A. Volpe, then Governor of Massachusetts, and Walter Muir Whitehill, director and librarian of the Boston Athenaeum. The new library was another important piece of the puzzle to comprise the beautiful, growing New England campus.

Construction on the new library was completed in 1967 and, after several moves around campus, the library moved its then 45,000 volumes for the last time. The Board of Trustees named the new building after Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, the founder and first president of Merrimack College who served for 21 years.

Once in its new permanent home, McQuade Library saw great growth. In addition to an increasing number of books, computer technology became an important part of college operations. The card catalog was replaced by a computerized system in 1980 and CD-Rom database assisted in library research.

Today, alumna Barbara Lachance, the fifth and current director of McQuade Library, oversees the Guild Hall Library collection of 131,000 volumes, and more than 900 periodical subscriptions and 1,300 videos. Through its membership in North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE), the college has access to over 2 million titles.

As the college continues to grow, as do the demands on McQuade Library, the early planning stages for a major renovation have begun.



EXTER MAKES SAVE OF HIS LIFE

By Tom O'Brien

Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Information

There was nothing unusual about that playoff game night on March 7, 2003. Joe Exter was having another banner game in net, stopping 29 shots through 53 minutes to keep his team in its Hockey East playoff game against Boston College. His 18th save of the night set a Merrimack College record for saves in a season and added to the many accolades he had already garnered. An incredible year for this senior goaltender was coming to a close and he seemed to be going out in Exter-like fashion, with the combination of skill, determination, and leadership rarely found in one student-athlete.

Then...the unthinkable happened. A high-speed collision with an opposing player left Joe unconscious on the ice. From the moment of that collision, Joe's fight for a hockey win stopped - and the fight for his life began.

Lying in a coma, the days to come would be a frightening time. It was uncertain if Joe would wake up. The severity of the injury was uncertain. And it was uncertain if Joe would ever lead a normal life. The only thing certain was the strength of his support system, starting with his family and extending to the Merrimack community and beyond.

Joe had carried the hockey program on his back for the entire season, taking it to a level that nobody expected. Now it was time for the program he had brought together to show its sense of community. It did so in a manner worthy of Joe Exter and everything he has always represented as a player and a person.

Expression of support for Joe and his family began pouring in from everywhere. The Exter house in Cranston, Rhode Island and Merrimack College were flooded with cards, E-mails and phone calls carrying the message of hope in the days and weeks to come. Hundreds from around the world offered prayers and kind words. Blue and gold ribbons of support were worn on campus and at hockey arenas around the country.

To say that those close to him knew he would survive would not be accurate. There was fear and doubt in many minds as Joe battled for his life. But those who know Joe Exter knew that if anyone could come back from this, it would be him. And he did.

Nine days after the accident, Joe woke up was upgraded to fair condition. This great news warranted a sigh of relief. However, it was still uncertain if Joe would fully recover. The doctors were not



Joe Exter protects the net during a 2003 season game.

sure if he would regain his voice because of damage to his vocal cords. He was also having trouble swallowing and they were unsure if he would be able to eat on his own and return to a normal life. This is when Joe took over. Where the doctors may have had doubts, Joe did not.

"Early in the stages of my recovery, the doctors kept telling me things that I couldn't do, shouldn't do and wouldn't be able to do. This was not the stuff I felt I should be hearing," said Exter. He decided to take charge, suggesting a different

approach to his doctors. "If that's the way you guys think, we are never going to get through this," he told the doctors. "I need to trust you, and you need to believe in me. Then we can accomplish what we set out to do."

On March 27, Joe was moved from Boston's Beth Israel to Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital where the doctors predicted he would stay until at least the end of the summer. His voice improved rapidly, and he was soon able to eat on his own. Just eight days after entering the rehab hospital, Joe was discharged to continue his recovery from home. Joe was quickly shortening what was predicted to be a long road to recovery.

"The doctors said I would be in outpatient rehab for six months," Exter said proudly from his home in Cranston. "I finished in six days."

With that, Joe surprised yet another expert in the field of medicine, just a month after the frightening accident. The faith and love of his family and friends, the support of the Merrimack community and the will of Joe Exter allowed his story to have a happy ending.

"My family was my backbone. Their support, guidance and faith is what got me through this," added Exter. "They have always dealt with problems in life, big or small, with courage and have taught me to do the same. My family is the reason I am where I am today."

On April 11 he and his family attended the annual hockey banquet, where Joe proudly accepted his team Most Valuable Player award. Joe spoke eloquently and cheerfully, bringing laughter and tears of joy to those in attendance with his patented smile rarely leaving his face. He truly appreciates and will never forget the way the Merrimack community was there for him and his family through this difficult time.

"The Merrimack community is so strong and the way they pulled together with support and prayer was amazing. Knowing that everyone was pulling for me made me want to get back to campus and definitely helped me to do so."

Over the weeks to come, Joe returned to the Merrimack campus. He began working out again in the hopes of some day returning to the game of hockey. "It was fun returning to campus. I felt it is where I should be and where I wanted to be; as a part of the Merrimack family," he said.

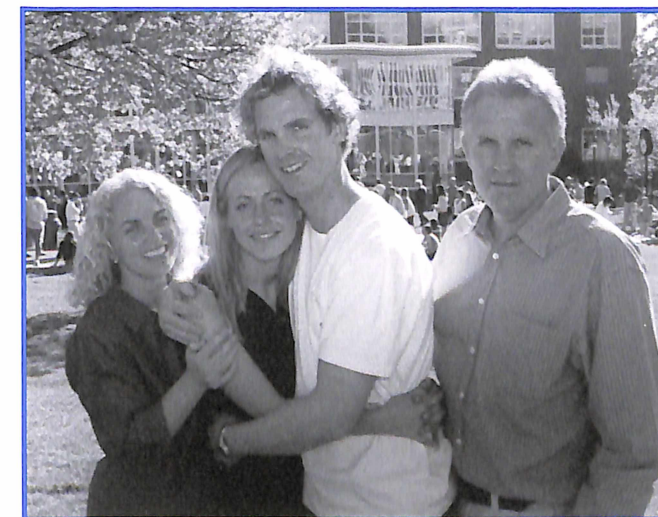
The media and public attention has been relentless since the accident. Joe's story has appeared in several national publications as well as on numerous television stations. He threw out the first pitch for the Lowell Spinners, a farm team for the Boston Red Sox. He has handled this attention without hesitation and with the grace and dignity of a seasoned veteran.

"I do not hesitate to do interviews because I know it could help someone going through a similar situation," said Exter. "I have been put in this position for a reason. If patients and families of those in similar situations see that I made it through this, they may start to believe that with faith and support, it can be done."

"One thing I learned from this is that when you see someone else suffering, you should not feel uncomfortable reaching out to help in any way possible," added Exter. "I know there were hundreds, maybe even thousands of people I did not know praying and pulling for me. Every one of those prayers helped."

Joe received many accolades for his play during his senior year. An All-Hockey East Second Team selection and co-winner of the annual three stars award, Joe was also named the league player of the month back in December. He was recognized as the national player of the week twice and was considered by many to be one of the top goaltenders in the country.

While his hockey abilities were recognized, there is not an award out there to acknowledge what Joe did for the Merrimack College hockey program. As team captain his final year, he set out to change the program. While every player wants to win a



Joe Exter, family and friends were all smiles on Commencement day. (Left to right) Mom Donna Exter, girlfriend Erin Van Bruggen of Wadena, Minnesota; Joe, and Dad Mark Exter.

Photo by David Sprink

championship, Joe humbly set more realistic goals for his team although goals that were just as difficult. He wanted this team to change the perception of the program and build a foundation for the future of Warrior hockey. Ask anyone associated with the program and they will tell you he did that and then some.

"Joe Exter is an even better person than he is a hockey player. And Joe is a great hockey player," said Merrimack head coach Chris Serino, Joe's coach for the past four years. "We are all proud of Joe's accomplishments. We're not just proud of

him as a hockey player, but for all the other things. If he did not get any awards this year, we'd still be proud of him for the way he pulled our program together."

Joe cherishes the education he earned and his overall experience at Merrimack. "Merrimack College gives you more than just an education. It prepares you for life. Merrimack provides opportunities to be a leader and a follower and to get involved in activities that will benefit you in so many ways in the long run," he said.

May 18, 2003 took on new meaning for the Exter family. "Having been through all this, graduation day was a moment in life I certainly appreciated more," said Exter.

And as Joe began his walk across the stage in the Volpe Center in his cap and gown and with a grin from ear to ear, a proverbial 'chill' spread across the 5,500 plus in attendance. As he received his diploma, the entire place stood with resounding applause, which by many accounts was one of the loudest ever heard in that building.

Joe had prompted many cheers with spectacular saves over the years in this same arena, but none bigger than this one.

Great save, Joey!

Author's note: Working in college athletics, I have the privilege of interacting with hundreds of college student-athletes every year. Joe Exter is the type of person you are lucky to come across just once in a lifetime. His passion for his family, his faith, his sport, his teammates, and his coaches is remarkable.

"One thing I learned from this is that when you see someone else suffering, you should not feel uncomfortable reaching out to help in any way possible," added Exter. "I know there were hundreds, maybe even thousands of people I did not know praying and pulling for me. Every one of those prayers helped."

ALUMNI COUNCIL CONTINUES TO GROW

By David Rattigan

It's not a major building project, but changes in another campus institution will reshape life on the Merrimack campus.

With new leadership, the Alumni Council is taking on more members and a broader range of responsibilities. The council has grown to 115 members, with the goal of increasing to 200. "We'd like two members from every class," says Liz Magliozzi, director of alumni relations. "We always appreciate input, and that would give us a good balance from all age groups."

The goal is to get more involvement from the council, which for more than 40 years has provided the college with support, advice and leadership from an alumni perspective. New subcommittees have been created and charged with re-energizing campus and alumni events.

Specifically, subcommittees will focus on topics including career networking, promoting the Augustinian mission of the college, revamping the Alumni Ambassador Program, diversity, and events and policies on campus. The cumulative result will be to keep alumni involved with the Merrimack community in a meaningful way.

"Overall, we're giving them more opportunities to reconnect with the life of the campus, which may mean working directly with Campus Ministry or working directly with professors and/or administration," Magliozzi says. "If alumni become more connected with our students and professors, it will create a greater sense of ownership and pride in the college. This is essential as the college continues to move forward. We'll be there to support the subcommittees every way we can."

Another charge for the council, with new president Diane Applegate '91, is to reach out to young alumni, and recruit more new graduates to alumni activities.

"Ideally, we'd like representation across the board, from every class year," Applegate says. Most people lose touch with their class just after graduation, when they're focused on their professional careers and their young families. "Ten years somehow seems to be the point where people start thinking about their alma mater again. Our goal is to keep them connected right after graduation," she says.

Part of recruiting young alums will be to make them aware of the benefits of staying connected, whether it be networking opportunities or the building of friendships. Equally important, from Magliozzi's point of view, will be to develop better, more compelling programs and events.

Alumni are welcome to join the Alumni Council. For more information, call the Alumni Office at 978-835-5000, ext. 4511.

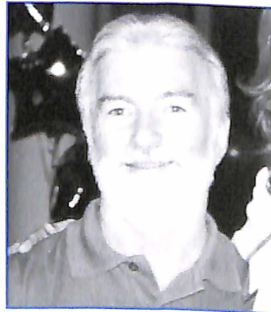
REUNION 2003

DONOVAN NAMED ALUMNUS-OF-THE-YEAR

The first Alumnus-of-the-Year award was presented at this year's Reunion to John Donovan '78. Nominated by alumni and staff, Donovan was praised for his extraordinary devotion to Merrimack and its future.

"Over the last year and a half, John Donovan spent countless hours reaching out to over 450 hockey alumni. He has traveled extensively on behalf of the school to meet with fellow alumni to educate and promote our hockey program and – in particular – our new hockey facility," noted Richard J. Santagati, president. "Due to his positive and unselfish example, he has successfully lead our campaign to name the new facility, the J. Thom Lawler Arena, at Merrimack College, with over \$1.2 million generated. Perhaps most importantly, our recipient has played a central role in our efforts to reestablish a winning tradition based on family, trust and team spirit."

John Donovan is vice president of operations at AmeriFee Corporation.



John Donovan was named the first Alumnus-of-the-Year for his outstanding contributions to Merrimack and its future.

REUNION 2003



Photo by Scott Proppski

The Class of 1953 presented the college with a contribution of \$52,000 in honor of their 50th year reunion. Presenting the check to President Richard J. Santagati (left) was (left to right) Emilie Collopy, Jane Teichert and Larry Marocco.



Photo by David Spink

Leslie and Todd Buttrick '98 visited the campus during Reunion with their children Benjamin, 8 months, and Riley, 2 1/2.

The Class of 1978 - celebrating their 25th reunion - had the highest attendance at this year's reunion. See any familiar faces?



Photo by Scott Proppski



Photo by David Spink

Returning alumni enjoyed a trolley ride through the campus during this year's Reunion.



Photo by David Spink

Brenda '82 and Bob Modrak '83 (far right) enjoyed Reunion weekend with their children (left to right) triplets age six Anthony, Stephanie and Brittany, and Chris, 11. Balloon artist Tod Neufeld (center back) entertained the children with balloon figures.

MEET THE NEW ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT

By David Rattigan

Diane Applegate '91, the new Alumni Council president, was put on a fast track even before her college graduation. The political science major's senior-year internship with former State Sen. Pat McGovern (D-Lawrence) led to a career with three state senators and in the Massachusetts governor's office with the Paul Cellucci and Jane Swift administrations. Her experience and accomplishments helped her transition to the private sector, as manager of public affairs and media relations in the northeast region for Exelon Power in Charlestown, Mass.

"When I was at Merrimack, professors and other people on campus took a real interest in me," says Applegate. In return, she has given back to the college as a long-time member of the Alumni Council.

"The Alumni Council has always been made up of a great group of people, who give their time, energy and talents to promote the college," she says. "I feel pleased to be asked to be part of that, and a sense of responsibility."

Applegate holds a marketing/public relations master's degree from Emerson College, and lives in Melrose, Mass. She loves to travel and plans to visit every continent (excluding Antarctica). She's also learning to golf, with the goal to one day play in the President's Cup Golf Tournament.

"I'm not there yet," she smiles. "Maybe next year I'll be good enough."



Photo by David Spink

Diane Applegate '91

"The Alumni Council has always been made up of a great group of people, who give their time, energy and talents to promote the college."

Dear Alumni,

I am delighted to be writing to you as your new Alumni Council president. Before taking on this role, I served on the Alumni Council Executive Board for several years. My involvement with Merrimack goes back even further than that – so, it feels only natural to step into this important alumni role. I accept this position with a great sense of pride and enthusiasm about the steps that alumni can take to help promote Merrimack.

As you may know, the Alumni Council assists the Alumni Relations Department in enhancing communications and programming for you. We want to re-acquaint you with the campus, continue to develop a more connected alumni network, and provide social and/or skill-building events that will be valuable and enjoyable for you. The magazine will provide information on events, but the monthly E-newsletter will be the main source of up-to-date information, along with individual mailings. So please read the Merrimack College information that is sent to your E-mail and regular mailboxes.

Meanwhile, I want you to feel free to contact me or the Alumni Relations Department any time. My E-mail address is dapplegate@yahoo.com and Alumni Relations is alumnirelations@merrimack.edu. Your comments/suggestions are essential as we move ahead with our programming.

I look forward to hearing from you. With your help, we can make a real difference for current and future Merrimack students, alumni and the entire Merrimack community.

Best wishes,

Diane Applegate '91
Alumni Council President

— SPORTS ROUND UP —

MERRIMACK COACH REACHES MILESTONE

by Marie DeMarco '02

Head Softball Coach Michele Myslinski reached her 400th career win in ten seasons at Merrimack College with a two game sweep over Southern Connecticut on April 29. Myslinski enjoys an impressive overall record of 401-109.

During her tenure at Merrimack, Myslinski has led the Warriors to seven NE-10 regular season championships in ten years and six Northeast Region Championships. Her teams made five trips



Photo by Len Rubenstein

Coach Myslinski with her team.

to the NCAA Division II National Championships, taking the National title in 1994. She began the 2003 season ranked

fifth among all active Division II coaches.

Myslinski is a Merrimack College alumna who played four years as second baseman and pitcher for Merrimack and captained her team in both her junior and senior seasons. She has also been inducted into the Lynn Classical High School Hall of Fame.

Despite her busy schedule, Myslinski also serves as Assistant Athletic Director.

This article was written in collaboration with Tom O'Brien, sports information director and Devin Bigoness, assistant sports information director.

SPRING SPORTS ROUND-UP

BASEBALL

Home run king Rocco Mastrangelo established a new school record with 32 home runs over his four-year career and was named to the Northeast-10 All-Conference Team for a second straight year. Coach Barry Rosen, in his 11th season at Merrimack, reached a career milestone on April 17, 2003, earning the 200th victory of his career. Merrimack finished the 2003 season with an overall record of 10-28. The Warriors placed fourth in the six-team Pepin Division of the Northeast-10 Conference with a league mark of 9-17.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Three seniors closed out their careers while several young players were impressive in their first seasons with first year coach Rose Smith. The Warriors went 4-10 overall and were 2-7 in Northeast-10 Conference play.

MEN'S LACROSSE

A trio of juniors combined for 67 points to lead the Merrimack men's lacrosse scoring attack in 2003. The Warriors went 3-9 overall and finished eighth in the powerful Northeast-10 with a 3-7 conference mark.

MEN'S TENNIS

Omar Brahim was named to the Northeast-10 All-Conference Third Team as the Merrimack men's tennis program finished 3-8 under first year coach Scott Wilkins. Brahim went 5-3 at No. 5 singles and teamed for three wins in doubles. Merrimack picked up Northeast-10 wins over Southern New Hampshire, American International and St. Michael's.

SOFTBALL

The Merrimack softball team had another solid season in 2003. With just one senior on the team, the Warriors went 23-16 overall and 17-9 in Northeast-10 Conference play. Two players, including one freshman, were named to the All-Conference Third Team. Coach Michele Myslinski reached the 400-win mark for her 11-season career the last week of the season.

WOMEN'S SOCCER STANDOUT RECEIVES HIGH ACADEMIC HONORS

Merrimack College women's standout Patricia Cronin has been named the 2002-2003 Northeast 10-Conference Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year, as selected by the 15 Northeast-10 faculty athletic representatives. Cronin, a native of Norfolk, Mass., was a six-time Dean's List student and graduated magna cum laude this year with a 3.602 GPA. She majored in mathematics and minored in business.

TWO YEARS RUNNING, TOP HOCKEY SCHOLAR-ATHLETE IS MERRIMACK STUDENT

Merrimack College freshman David Breen of North Andover, Mass. was named Hockey East's Top Scholar-Athlete, an award given annually to the player who achieves the highest grade point average (GPA) over the course of the season. Breen, a forward, finished with an impressive 3.91 GPA for the 2002-2003 school year. He edged teammate Lucas Smith who won the award last year. This marks the sixth time a Warrior has led the league in GPA - a Hockey East record.

Smith, a senior from Milton, Mass., was also one of four players in the league to earn the Distinguished Scholar Award, given to players who earn a 3.0 GPA in each semester of his career. Smith is Merrimack's tenth Distinguished Scholar, which is also a league record. Freshman Casey Guenther from Boissevain, MAN, joined Breen and Smith on the Hockey East All-Academic Team.

Merrimack has had a total of 94 student-athletes named to the honor roll since its inception in 1989, including a record 13 in 1996.

CLASS NOTES

M66

Robert Keating O'Neill, director of Boston College's John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections, has recently published his fourth book, "Irish Libraries: Archives, Museums and Genealogical Centers." The book is described as "a scholarly guide to existing resources that will help researchers and others know where to look for specific material."

M68

Kathy Brown Ramshaw retired from AT&T after 32 years and has accepted a position with Convergys Corporation. Convergys provides global outsourced employee and customer care services to a number of Fortune 500 companies. Her title is Senior Principle for Staffing & Recruiting. She has moved from New Jersey to Jacksonville, Florida.

Bill Howard, is president of the Beverly Co-operative Bank.

M71

Jim Greeley, director of Career Services and Cooperative Education at Merrimack, has been quoted in several print articles and television news segments, including Boston's WCVB-TV Channel 5 on the tough job market for graduates, and in the Elmira, NY Sunday *Star-Gazette* regarding the growing market for federal government jobs.

M73

Catherine (Maccarone) Lally has been appointed as a tenured assistant professor at Brevard Community College in Cocoa, Florida. She is a member of the English Department.

M74

Stephen Garrity is a captain in the U.S. Coast Guard. He's commanding officer of the CG Marine Safety office in Morgan City, LA. His duties as Captain of the Port (COTP) Morgan City are overseeing safety and security of many of the very important energy assets in the Gulf of Mexico.

M75

Tom Splittle is president and CEO of Roy Splittle Associates, the largest electric contracting business on Cape Ann. He has moved his company to a new state-of-the-art facility in Blackburn Industrial Park, Gloucester, Mass.

M77

David Savastano was named the vice president of commercial lending at the Lowell-(Mass.) based Enterprise Bank.

M78

Mary (McAdam) Feury received a master of arts degree in special education from Teachers College, Columbia University, N.Y. in October 2002. She is recently employed by the Churchill School and Center in New York.

M79

Sallyanne Marie O'Donnell and her family have recently moved to the Berkshires. Her husband, Chris, directs corporate logistics for K.B. Toys, Inc., the largest toy retailer in the United States. Sally, Chris and Christopher reside in Lenox, Mass. with their two yellow labradors, Justin and Brock.

M80

Richard Tatarczuk was promoted to vice president of finance at Watertown (Mass.) Savings Bank.

Thomas M. Powers joined the Codman Co., in Boston, Mass. He has over fifteen years of industrial and office brokerage experience.

M85

Mike Boudreau was promoted to vice president, planning and analysis, at Private Healthcare Systems in Waltham, Mass.

Steve Bremis was ranked as the top residential real estate professional in Somerville, Mass. during 2002.

Fred Forman is an attorney with the firm of Forman, Corcoran, and Torr, P.A. They have offices in N.H., Maine and Mass.

M86

Bill Nawn, vice president of operations for Access Cardiosystems (Concord, Mass.), ran a double Boston Marathon to raise funds for the Lown Cardiovascular Center. This is the third time he has run the Boston Marathon course twice in one day.

M89

Joseph Woodbury is the pastor of the Portland Street Baptist Church in Haverhill, Mass.

M91

James Koloski is the director of client relations for Design Management in Natick, Mass.

M93

Katrina Hantzis Borges has joined Century 21 North Shore in Mass.

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI IN ACTION

COAST GUARD CAREER FOR GARRITY BEGINS WITH MERRIMACK ELECTIVE BIOLOGY COURSE

by Julie Jackson Flynn



Captain Steven Garrity '74

When disaster strikes on the high seas, Captain Steven Garrity '74 of the United States Coast Guard is there. Whether cleaning up oil spills or keeping waterways safe, Garrity's career has focused on marine safety and environmental protection.

A 25-year veteran of the Coast Guard, today Garrity serves as the Commanding Officer of CG Marine Safety Office in Morgan City, Louisiana, a post he's held since August 2001. Since that time, he has been involved in the Coast Guard homeland defense activities, responsible for an area that extends from southern Louisiana to Intracoastal City, including much of the Gulf of Mexico. He is the commanding officer of 120 and their role is to keep the maritime industry that services the Gulf of Mexico operating and safe. "Tankers, probosats, barges and other vessels carry products from hazardous chemicals to oil, gasoline and other petroleum products, as well as vessels carrying non-hazardous materials," he explains.

An English major at Merrimack, Garrity was introduced to his eventual career field through biology classes for liberal arts majors that focused on the environment. After receiving his degree, Garrity taught high school English, before joining the Coast Guard in 1978. Garrity earned an M.A. in English from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia in 1981 and complete his Coast Guard port safety industry training in Boston in 1988.

Since then, the Coast Guard has provided a living geography lesson, emphasizing the very diverse and

very different regions of our nation. In 1992, he was assigned to the Inward Rivers mission in West Virginia, a project designed to connect the Gulf of Mexico and the inland waterways. "They are just a tremendous resource for our country and moving everything for international shipment, which is also the lifeblood and synergy for our nation."

Garrity returned to Boston from 1992-1998 as head of Marine Environmental Response for the First Coast Guard District, which extends from the Canadian border to the port of New York. His service coincided

with the visit of the Tall Ships to Boston harbor and the construction of the third harbor tunnel.

"I have a great appreciation for the nation's marine transportation system and recognize how important it is to our nation's health and well being. This critical infrastructure supports our energy supply. It is very important to our national well-being, especially in light of the situation in Iraq and the terrorist threat here at home."

In the post September 11 world, the Coast Guard's emphasis has shifted to security concerns. As of March 2003, the Coast Guard, traditionally headed by the Department of Transportation, officially became part of the Department of Homeland Security as the lead federal agency for Maritime Homeland Security.

Garrity credits Merrimack with developing his problem-solving skills, and for stressing the importance of critical thinking as well as the ability to articulate and to write well. "Those have been the most important skills I learned at Merrimack that really carried with me and enabled me to succeed in the Coast Guard," he says.

Garrity feels fortunate that the Coast Guard's ethos lines up well with the Christian values he learned at Merrimack. "Doing good deeds is the focus of the Coast Guard's mission. I can't think of a job that would be more satisfying than the one I have," Garrity says.

CLASS NOTES

Andreas E. Wildmer is president & CEO of otF Group, a Watertown, Mass., based competitiveness consulting and software firm that helps developing companies and countries created prosperity through proprietary methodologies and technology. He and his wife live in Charlestown, Mass.

M98

Derek Scialdone has been named manager of the Beverly (Mass.) branch of Eastern Bank.

M99

Cara Correnti lives in Texas and works for KVII-TV (the ABC affiliate) as an anchor for the station's morning show "Daybreak."



Photo by Susan A. Wojtas '79

Merrimack alumni, parents and friends enjoyed a week in sunny Spain this spring. Shown enjoying tapas at the Plaza Mayor in Madrid are: Leo and Jean (McNally) Hart '56, Chris Liebke '79 and Tracey Wakeman. Next year's spring adventure will again be led by Terry Monahan '66, owner of the Houses of Travel. The trip will be to the French and Italian Riviera departing April 24 and returning May 1, 2004. Contact Lisa Marie at 1-800-222-8283 or lcollins@hottravel.com for more information.



Photo by Kathleen Franzese

A shoe sale the likes of which not many have seen yielded a donation of \$3,325 to the Friends of Merrimack College, pushing the group's total contribution this year to the college's scholarship fund over the \$100,000 mark. The annual Daher's Shoe (Andover and Methuen, Mass.) Warehouse Sale, featuring more than 15,000 pairs of shoes, is operated by Friends of Merrimack College President Joyce Daher-Belko (right) and her family. Every year, they donate the proceeds of the preview date entrance fee of \$3 each, and this year they donated to the scholarship fund. Pictured here with Joyce is Executive Director of the Friends of Merrimack College Richard Reming.

Karyn Coulon ran the Boston Marathon for the first time this year in 5:43.44. She ran unofficially, but raised over \$3,200 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in memory of her grandmother.

Amy Skoglund was recently promoted to manager of internal controls at Fresenius Medical Care North America based in Lexington, Mass.

M00

Rick Breslin started a Web design and development firm to focus on small business Web consulting. Most recently, he opened a satellite office in Tucson, AZ, and his firm is called Drive Thru Designs, Inc.

Christine A. Caetano is employed by Philips Medical Systems as an associate planner in Andover, Mass. She was recently engaged to Vincent McGrath '02 and a December 2004 wedding is planned. She is currently earning her master's degree in business management with a

concentration in organizational behavior from Suffolk University, Boston, Mass.

Eric H. Lawler was recently promoted to the chief financial officer position at Guilford Transportation Industries in Portsmouth, N.H.

M01

Allison Jones graduated with a degree in environmental science. After graduation, she spent two years in Philadelphia, serving with the Americorps for one of those years. She also started her own landscaping company for a year and is now living in Manhattan, NY.

M03

Paul "Paulie" O'Shea Jr. went abroad for his company, Decathlon Sports, to help open a new store in Sheffield, England. One of only two candidates to go from the Massachusetts area, Paul will be in England for one year.

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI IN ACTION

DAW'S MARKETING CAREER TAKES HER AROUND THE WORLD

by Kathleen Franzese '83



Ann (Giragosian) Daw '76 has always been enthusiastic about experiencing as much as she possibly can. Her years at Merrimack College were spent in the science club, the tutoring club, as president of the math club, and also helping to initiate women's sports programs on campus.

Not surprising then that Ann Daw would continue to pursue unique experiences - many of them while living abroad. After Merrimack, Daw earned an M.B.A. in marketing from Boston University and went to work for General Foods as an assistant brand manager.

For the last 25 years, Daw has preserved and nurtured many well-known brands of General Foods (later to be merged and known as Kraft Foods) and Philip Morris, both part of Altria Corp.

As vice president for marketing for Philip Morris Asia LTD, Ann lived in Hong Kong from 1998-2001. According to Ann, there wasn't "a country I didn't see (in Asia)."

While visiting countries - Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, and Australia - to name a few, Ann says she came to realize that although people have various cultures and rituals that are very different from American culture, "underneath it all, people have the same values. They feel the same things. They care about the same things. I think there are more similarities than differences among people."

With the globalization of business increasing, "glocalization" is a very important concept as it requires not only taking products across borders, but also understanding local cultures (hence the combination

of "global" and "local" in the word). Consumers will accept an American or European product only if it is relevant to their local sensibilities. It's not about selling "America", as consumers are very proud of their local heritage.

Sensitivity is also important in working with people from diverse cultures. Daw cites the experience of living and working in Hong Kong with folks who came from many different backgrounds and had different ways of doing things. "Americans tend to be very forthright. We set a goal and go and get it done. Well, that doesn't necessarily

work in a lot of different cultures," she said.

Today Ann manages six departments at the Kraft Food international headquarters in Rye Brook, New York: Marketing Services, Consumer Insights (also known as market research), Business Development of Growth Areas, Marketing Training, E-business, and Compliance. She works with such brands as Maxwell House coffee, Oreo, Crystal Light, Capri Sun, Philadelphia Cream Cheese, and many other brands that people in the U.S. would not necessarily be familiar with, such as Carte Noir coffee, Milka, Cote D'or and Freia chocolates, Trakinas cookies and Club Social crackers to name just a few.

"I really believe that consumers buy brands and have an affinity and a relationship with a brand," she says. "As marketers, we have to continue to nurture this relationship because that is what builds trust. Preserving and nurturing a brand is extraordinarily critical because it becomes an enormous asset of the company from a value standpoint, including not only income, but also good will."

Daw balances working for the biggest company in the United States with family time spent with her husband, Tom, and eight-year-old daughter, Adrena.

"I thank Merrimack for the great foundation," she says.

CLASS NOTES

Marriages

MARK MICHAEL MARTIN '74 and Donna Marie Flanders
at Harris' Pelham Inn, Pelham, N.H., October 20, 2002.

JOHN MATTHEW MASTRO '95 and Joan Louise Norton at Saint
Athanasius Church, Reading, Mass., October 5, 2002.

WILLIAM "ANGEL" CONNELL, JR. '80 and Maryanne Craddock
at The Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul, Providence, R.I.,
October 12, 2002.

SALVATORE TAVERNESE '96 and Karen Alukonis
at Sacred Heart Church, Lynn, Mass.

ALLAN DELARIA '90 and Jennifer Hill
at St. Timothy's Church, Norwood, Mass.

ANGELA MONGIELLO '97 and STEVEN RIEHL '97
at Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, Merrimack College,
November 3, 2001. Members of the wedding party included
DANIEL DONOVAN '97, MICHAEL JACOBS '97,
and TIMOTHY GARDNER '96.

MICHAEL P. DILLON '93 and Dr. Denise Barajas
at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church,
Perth Amboy, N. J., July 13, 2002.

EDWARD COLBERT, III '98 and Christine Fure
at St. John the Baptist Church, Peabody, Mass., August 24, 2002.

KEARA ANN FUNCK '93 and Michael Joseph Troncetti
at Resurrection Church, Rye, N.Y., October 25, 2002.

APRIL DUNHAM '98 and Greg Lemire
at Saint Jean D'Arc Church in Tyngsboro, Mass., October 12, 2002.
Alumni attending included KERRY CONLIN '99,
ADRIENNE FAY '99, ALEXANDER GREGSON '99
and JEN (ROY) SMITH '97.

DENISE TISEI '93 and Greg LeGrow
at The Commons, Topsfield, Mass., October 6, 2001.

KATHLEEN COUGHLIN '94 and Eric Marshall
at Sacred Hearts Church, Bradford, Mass., November 2, 2002.

MICHAEL F. JUSCZAK '00 and Rhonda Preble,
at the Granite Rose in Hampstead, N.H.

SARAH MURPHY '94 and Robert Fiero
at the Andover Country Club, Andover, Mass.,
October 5, 2002.

MICHAEL A. CONWAY '00 and Marilyn D. Casal,
at Holy Rosary Church, Lawrence, Mass.

JENNIFER FARR '95 and Aaron Kuhn
at St. Stanislaus Basilica, Chicopee, Mass.

REBECCA LEE GORDON '01 and Mark Peter Girouard at the
Kay Chapel, Newport, R.I., September 27, 2002.

Deaths

Mary Jane (DORSEY) BOWLEY '58, of East Kingston N.H., died March 25, 2003. She taught English in New York and Haverhill (Mass.) for 10 years. In 1994, she began librarian work for Holland, Donovan and Beckett Law Firm and was active until her death.

hunter, he recently traveled to the Everglades of Florida to hunt with his friends. He was a member of the Boston Flycasters, Ducks Unlimited, Martha's Vineyard Rod and Gun Club, the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association and Haverhill Country Club.

Robert James KELLY '65, of West Newbury, Mass., died April 3, 2003. He founded and owned New England Precast Corp. in Amesbury, Mass., until his retirement in 1999. An avid fisherman and

Jean B. (MULLEN) IRZYK '79, of Lynn, Mass., died March 31, 2003. She was a fashion model at John Robert Powers Agency. She taught self improvement for women at local college and women's

organizations. She was a member of the MSPCA.

Herbert J. O'BRIEN '82, of Methuen, Mass., died Friday March 21, 2003. He had worked as a systems analyst and computer consultant at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Mass. More recently, he had been employed as an airport logistics manager. He had served two tours of duty in Vietnam as a sergeant with the U.S. Army.

CLASS NOTES

New Arrivals

PATRICIA (KLECKER) BURBANK '86 and husband Brett, a son,
Steven Lincoln, January 5, 2003.

LAURIE (TRENHOLM) PARKER '91 and husband Paul,
a daughter, Lauren Ashley, May 30, 2002.
She joins brother Matthew.

JACQUELINE (BURKE) CURTIN '88
and husband Robert, a daughter, Hannah, October 24, 2002.
She joins sister Alexandra and brother Samuel.

ANN (ABEL) JACOBSMEIER '92 and husband Steve,
a son, Garrett Steven, February 26, 2002.

SUSAN (BURNS) HOLLAND '88 and husband Dennis,
a son, Brendan Paul, April 6, 2003.
He joins sisters Lauren and Olivia.

TAMMY (MACAULAY) '92 and ROBERT JONES '93,
a son, Coleman Robert, May 30, 2002.

KAREN (SMITH) REBLIN '88 and husband Scott,
a daughter, Sarah Anne, March 27, 2003.
She joins brother Daniel and sister Abigail.

JEANNE (SARNO) MCANDREWS '92 and husband Paul,
a son, Thomas Paul, February 17, 2003.

MICHAEL BARTLETT '90 and wife Catharine,
a daughter, Audrey Germaine, September 30, 2002.

JODY (CART) YOUNG '92 and husband Mark,
a daughter, Alexandria Noel, December 14, 2002.
She joins brother Devon.

JAMES MCALEER '90 and wife Stacy,
a son, Justin James, April 4, 2003.

KRISTEN (MENARY) DESANTO '93 and husband John,
twins, Jack Conway and Lola Rose, March 29, 2003.

DONNA (LAZZARO) RUST '90 and husband Scott,
a son, Jake Anthony, May 28, 2002.
He joins brother Noah.

LISA (MOREY) ABBOTT '94 and husband Thomas,
a son, Zachary Thomas, January 9, 2003.
He joins sister Taylor and late brother Thomas "Tripp" Abbott III.

PABLO SOBRADO '97 and wife Alejandra Sobrado,
a daughter, Sopha A. Sobrado, April 20, 2002.

DEBRA-LEE (VASQUES) '94 and
MARK HAGOPIAN '94,
a daughter, Lily Paris, July 2002.

PHILIP SWINTAK '90 and wife Brenda,
a daughter, Emily, August 22, 2002.
She joins sister Kaley.

YVETTE (LALIBERTE) MINUTI '95 and husband Sean,
a son, Darren Joseph, September 20, 2002.

MARGARET (GRADEL) DE SANTIS '91 and husband Jim,
a daughter, Kimberly Ann, December 18, 2002.
She joins sisters Alexandra and Jillian and brother Jimmy.

SARAH (DAVIS) '97 and husband
CHRISTOPHER CUMMINGS '96,
a son David Alexander, March 15, 2003.
He joins brother Joseph Michael.

NANCI (MURRAY) DESANTIS '91 and husband John,
a daughter, Eva, March 31, 2003. She joins brother John.

JENNIFER (RIGAS) '96 and MICHAEL KANE '96,
a son, Travis William, April 1, 2003.

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 . . . taken an exotic vacation . . .
or have other news to share, contact us.

E-mail: alumnirelations@merrimack.edu.
Mail: Merrimack magazine, Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike Street, Box A-8, North Andover, MA 01845;
FAX 978-837-5225.

Due to space limitations, however, we are unable to accept photos.

COMING ATTRACTIONS – FALL 2003

*Check out the entire campus happenings by visiting
www.merrimack.edu.*

AUGUST

30-31 New Student Orientation

SEPTEMBER

2 Classes Begin
17 Convocation 10 a.m.
18 Judy Collins in Concert, 7:30 p.m., Rogers Center
21 Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra Pops Concert, 2:30 p.m., Rogers Center

OCTOBER

1 Thagaste Symposium
1 Dalton's "History of Music", 3 p.m., Rogers Center
2 "Paddy on the Road: The Times and Life of Christy Moore," 7:30 p.m., Rogers Center.
3 "Paddy on the Road: The Times and Life of Christy Moore," 7:30 p.m., Rogers Center
11, 12 Homecoming/Family Weekend
16-19 Alumni Trip, Quebec City, Canada. Call 978-837-5000, ext. 4511 for information.
18 "A Song for Ireland", 7:30 p.m., Rogers Center
22 Dalton's "History of Music", 3 p.m., Rogers Center
24 Dancing on Common Ground, 7:30 p.m., Rogers Center
25 Family Program - Red Grammer, 2 p.m., Rogers Center

NOVEMBER

1 Treble Chorus of New England Patron Salute, 7 p.m. For tickets, call 978-837-5462.
9 Loretta LaRoche, "Life is Short, Wear Your Party Pants!" 7 p.m., Rogers Center. To benefit scholarships at Merrimack College. Sponsored by The Rogers Family Foundation along with the Friends of Merrimack College. See page 12 for details.
11-15 Merrimack College On-Stagers performance. Evening and matinee performances, Rogers Center
20-29 Pentucket Players performance of "Scrooge". Evening and matinee performances, Rogers Center.
27-30 Thanksgiving recess.
30 New England Ringers, 2:30 p.m., Rogers Center

DECEMBER

4 Alumni Christmas Party, Bay Tower Room, Boston.
7 Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra, 2:30 p.m. Rogers Center.
11 Friends of Merrimack College Holiday Party, Cascia Hall, 6 p.m.
12 - 14 New England Civic Ballet presents "Nutcracker." Evening and matinee performances. For tickets, call: 978-975-0289.
24-Jan 1 Christmas recess (college closed).

*For ticket information on programs at the Rogers Center,
please call the Rogers Center Box Office at 978-837-5355.
We hope you can join us this season !*

Tickets now available on-line at www.merrimack.edu/rogers.



CALLING ALL GRADUATES OF THE LAST TEN YEARS (1993-2003)

Your alma mater needs you! We are seeking your input in the creation and development of Young Alumni programs geared toward your interests. You can be an important part of this process by:

Staying connected.

When you move or change jobs, we want to know.

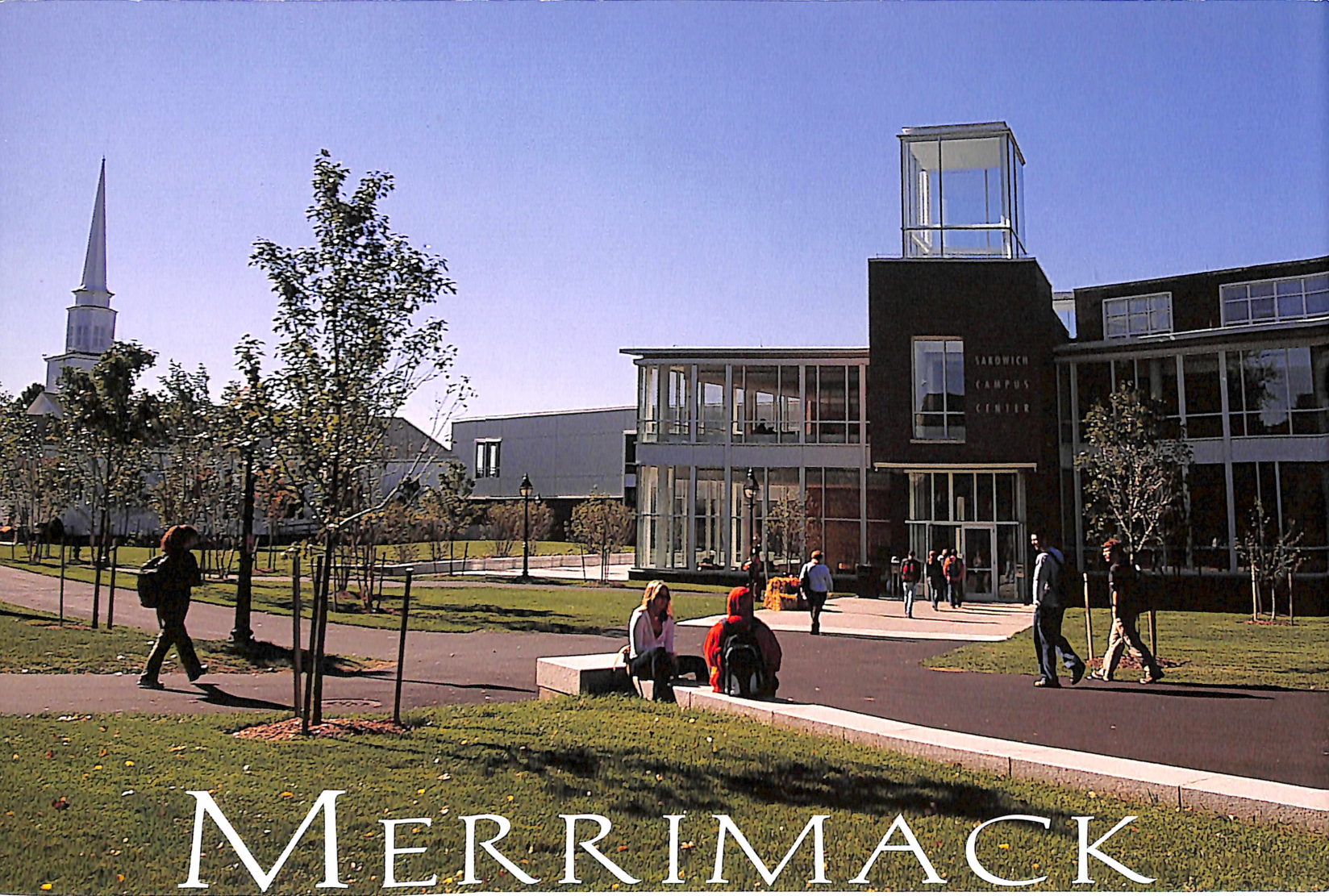
E-mail us at alumnirelations@merrimack.edu, call us at 978-837-5000 ext. 4511, or send your updated information to us c/o Alumni Relations - A8, Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845. Send us your E-mail so we can send you our monthly E-newsletter.

You're invited to participate in alumni events. In the coming months, much is being planned. Check our website [@merrimack.edu](http://www.merrimack.edu) and click on to our Alumni and Friends page. Here you'll find an extensive slate of events from Red Sox games to regional gatherings. Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of this. Contact Kathy Marshall at kathleen.marshall@merrimack.edu for more information.

Volunteer opportunities abound ranging from membership on the Alumni Council to assisting with an alumni event. To learn more, contact Kathy Marshall via E-mail at kathleen.marshall@merrimack.edu.

Participate through an annual gift to the college. Your support increases the value of your degree and has an immediate impact on Merrimack. We value your participation at all levels.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!



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