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# Merrimack College Record

Merrimack College

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MERRIMACK COLLEGE

# RECORD

## A Holy and Happy Christmas to End a Wonderful 2018

Colleagues,

Advent is upon us, and Christmas a few short days away. As we conclude this semester and finish 2018 — a year of great accomplishment for the Merrimack College community — I wish you all the joy of this season as we prepare to celebrate with loved ones the birth of Jesus Christ.



St. Augustine, our patron, urged us to be festive at Christmas. In one of his surviving holiday sermons, he tells his congregation, “With yearly ceremony, therefore, we celebrate this day, which saw the fulfillment of the prophecy: ‘Truth is sprung out of the earth, and justice hath looked down from heaven.’”

I hope you will take time to reflect on the tremendous achievements we have made as a community during 2018,

including:

- Being named a top-50 and “Most Innovative” institution by U.S. News, and one of the 10 “Most Transformative” schools in the country by Money.
- Enrolling more than 1,110 first-year students, our largest class ever.
- Winning the Division II National Championship in men’s lacrosse.
- Opening the Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center.
- The first outdoor commencement in our new Duane Stadium.
- Accepting an invitation to join the Northeast Conference of NCAA Division I.
- Being designated an Apple Distinguished institution.
- Exceeding the goal of our Together for Good capital campaign — with a year left to go.

We all should be so proud of the work our faculty, staff, trustees, alumni and friends have done to create a culture of success for all of our students, who trust us to shape their minds and hearts and help them build the foundations of lives of humanity and accomplishment.

Please remember in your prayers those in our community for whom 2018 brought challenges — especially in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, still recovering from the explosions and fires of September — in the hope that we will all share a brighter, more joyful 2019.

I wish you peace, joy and a restful time with loved ones this holiday season, and hope to see each of you at the many events we hold on campus to mark the birth of our Savior and celebrate the strength of our community. A very merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy New Year.

God bless,

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.  
President

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## College Celebrates Anniversary of Fr Ray's Vows, Ordination



**Father Raymond Dlugos celebrates his anniversary Mass in the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher.**

Merrimack College honored Rev. Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., vice president of mission and ministry, this week for reaching 40 years as an Augustinian Friar and 35 years as a priest, including a decade serving the college and the wider community.

The celebration for Father Ray began with Mass at the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher followed by a lunch attended by more than 300 faculty, students, trustees, administrators and friends. Speaker after speaker described Father Ray as someone they could turn to in good times and bad.

President Christopher Hopey noted that when there's a crisis involving students or families, he reaches out first to Father Ray.

"There is not a better human being in the world when things are tough than Father Ray," said President Christopher Hopey. "All I have to say is 'Ray, I need you,'" and the friar is at his side, the president said.

"You have spent 40 years as an Augustinian, 35 years as a priest and 10 years as my friend," he said.

In his roles as vice president, prior of St. Ambrose Friary and priest at Merrimack, Father Ray is involved with many students. Harrison McClellan, a sophomore in the college's Austin Scholars living-learning community, recalled receiving guidance from Father Ray during "a pretty rough patch."

"When many people had lost faith in me and I had lost faith in myself, Father Ray was there and willing to talk to me — but he did not pull any punches when he disagreed with something I was doing," McClellan recounted. "He is a very kind and generous human being."

In a lighter moment, women's field hockey captain and All-American Mary McNeil and her teammates presented the honored guest with the NCAA field hockey rulebook. As team chaplain, Father Ray says he plans to cheer loud enough to be ejected from a game and wants to know exactly how, she explained. The audience at the Sak erupted in laughter.

"He is at our games rain or shine," said McNeil.

Father Ray spoke last, thanking the attendees and organizers. He ended by assuring students they are valued no matter how explicitly religious they may seem to themselves. "See if you can believe," he urged. "Believe in yourself and believe in each other."

Honored as well for his work creating Hands to Help, a Lawrence community service program at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Father Ray also assists with weekend Masses at St. Michael Church in North Andover and St. Augustine Church in Andover.

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## **Karen Ryan Named Dean of School of Liberal Arts**

Karen L. Ryan will join Merrimack College as the dean of its School of Liberal Arts. She begins July 1.

"After a nationwide, inclusive and collaborative search process, Merrimack College has chosen Karen Ryan to shepherd our School of Liberal Arts into what promises to be a very bright future," said Provost Allan Weatherwax. "Her record of program development, experience in building relationships within and across schools, and fierce devotion to liberal arts education will serve Merrimack extraordinarily well."

Ryan, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Stetson University, is a professor of Slavic languages and literature. She holds a Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Michigan and a B.A. from Cornell University, and before Stetson, taught at the University of Virginia, Iowa State University and Williams College.



President Christopher Hopey said Ryan will continue to build Merrimack's record of momentum and success. "Dr. Ryan has the brilliance, creativity and perseverance to create boundless opportunities for our students and faculty in the liberal arts, and we are pleased she has chosen to join us on our trajectory."

As dean at Stetson, Ryan oversaw recruitment of 50 faculty members over five years and created several graduate and undergraduate programs, ultimately overseeing 19 departments and six interdisciplinary programs. She created and stewarded external partnerships for experiential education placements, and championed cross-college relationships with her

counterparts in business and music.

"I'm delighted to join the Merrimack College community at this pivotal moment, as the college is building on its strong foundation of excellence and planning growth and innovation," she said. "I look forward to supporting and leading the School of Liberal Arts and collaborating with my new colleagues at Merrimack."

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## Preparing for Winter Break

Before you depart for the Christmas break, we ask you make sure all doors and windows are closed and locked, for safety as well as cold. The cold can freeze and crack water lines, causing major damage.

Also, please remember to turn off computers, space heaters and other appliances.

Dunkin' Donuts closes Friday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. and reopens at 6 a.m. Jan. 3. The Warrior's Den closes at noon Friday, and reopens Jan. 7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., switching to 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Jan. 15.

All dining locations, including Sparky's Place, will open for regular hours starting Jan. 16.

The bookstore will be closed Dec. 22-26, reopening Dec. 27 at 8 a.m. It will be open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday until Jan. 14 when it resumes normal operations.

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## Coming up

**Dec. 21 — Faculty and staff Christmas celebration**

- 12:30 p.m. Mass, Chapel of Our Mother of Good Counsel
- 1 p.m. Party, Sparky's Place

**Dec. 21 — College closes for holidays**  
• 5 p.m.

**Jan. 3 — Online winter classes begin**

**Jan. 7 — College offices reopen**

**Jan. 16 — Classes resume**

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## Handbook Updated

Merrimack College has updated its Employee Handbook. It is maintained on the Human Resources MyMack page. This will go into effect on Jan. 1.

All Merrimack College employees are expected to review and comply with the handbook.

If you have questions, please contact the Office of Human Resources.

Merrimack Record

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