Together for Good: The Campaign that Will Position Merrimack College for the Future

Merrimack College

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TOGETHER FOR GOOD, THE CAMPAIGN THAT WILL POSITION MERRIMACK COLLEGE FOR THE FUTURE
Friends,

This is an important moment in the history of Merrimack College.

For the first time in the 21st century, we have embarked on construction of a new academic building: the North Campus Academic Pavilion, in our new North Campus quadrant. The pavilion will adjoin our two newest residence halls—one of them home to our Honors Commons, the other featuring the Sanctuary coffeehouse.

More than 1,000 new students joined us in fall 2016, a record number of freshmen at Merrimack. We have added 31 full-time faculty members this fall, expanded our graduate offerings, and modernized classrooms and laboratories across campus.

We still talk about all that we will be. But we are justifiably proud of what we are. We are proud—but we are never satisfied. The Together for Good Campaign will help us continue to fulfill the promise that is Merrimack College, raising funds for student support, athletic facilities, mission-centric service projects, and building the North Campus Academic Pavilion and two more North Campus academic buildings to come.

In these pages you will read about where Merrimack College is today and where we are going. You will learn all we’ve done and all we intend to do, with the support of our extremely close-knit community. I’m proud to be part of this community and proud to share these wonderful stories with you.

Go Warriors,

Dr. Christopher E. Hopey
President
American higher education has reached a critical period in its long and storied history. A globalized economy is seeking an educated, nimble, compassionate and highly ethical workforce that is comfortable with change and diversity, even as families are increasingly scrutinizing the value of both undergraduate and graduate education.

Merrimack College—founded specifically with workforce education in mind—has stayed ahead of the curve on these critical points even while holding fast to its founding principles. Guided by the 10-year strategic plan, the Agenda for Distinction developed early in President Christopher E. Hopey’s administration, Merrimack has strategically invested in those priorities that have not merely kept the college a leader in higher education but have prepared Merrimack students to take on the world that greets them post-graduation.

“Over the years we have transformed this campus physically,” said Hopey during the September groundbreaking of the North Campus Academic Pavilion, which will house cutting-edge classrooms and the Girard School of Business when it opens in fall 2017. However, he said, “What shapes us is not our physical development but our development of men and women... We work to ensure that every single student can be successful.”

Merrimack College, the president said, is “a promise made, and a promise fulfilled.” Since its founding, he said, the college has kept its promise to “add value to the degrees of our alums and to make a difference for all of humanity.”

THE AGENDA FOR DISTINCTION

In 2011, during President Hopey’s early tenure as president, Merrimack developed its Agenda for Distinction, a 10-year strategic plan for the college, as it foresaw rapid changes in “the demographics, economics and globalization of higher education.” A series of deeply collaborative community conversations resulted in the Agenda, which, Hopey wrote at the time, “is rooted in our Augustinian tradition and embodies our mission to actively engage the passion and emotion of our hearts with the discipline provided by intellect and reason.”

That broad vision was broken into five strategic priorities, each of them with a set of specific tactics and goals to move the college forward:

• Create a modern academic enterprise grounded in innovative teaching, learning and scholarship
• Develop a contemporary Catholic mission
• Create an intellectually vibrant, socially engaged, entrepreneurial student experience
• Inspire and engage our people, culture and community
• Strengthen our value proposition and competitive position

All were grounded in what the college calls its five “core values”: leadership, community, awareness, scholarship and service—speaking precisely to what Merrimack College adds to the higher education landscape.

Now well into the second phase of the Agenda for Distinction, the college celebrates the progress it has made to date. Just as the Together for Good Campaign builds on the Agenda for Distinction, so too will Merrimack’s future victories be built on the solid and broad foundation of achievements to date.

“These successes still not even dreamed of,” Hopey said in September. “We know full well that we at Merrimack College can climb mountains.”
Becoming a more academically respected and intellectually vibrant institution has heightened the college’s appeal to prospective students and future employers, and added value to alumni degrees.

This year, the Carnegie Foundation Classification of Institutions of Higher Education recognized the college’s growth by moving Merrimack into the master’s/medium category. U.S. News adapted the change; Merrimack debuted at 57 out of 187 among Best Regional Universities/North, after several consecutive years as a top-10 Regional College/North.

Investment in academic resources—both human and capital—has been at the forefront of the college’s growth trajectory. Along with the approximately 50,000-square-foot North Campus Academic Pavilion, which will open in fall 2017, the college has expanded and re-visualized over 350,000 square feet of space including the Library’s Crowe Family Commons, the Innovation Center, health sciences labs, classrooms and offices, Volpe Innovation Center, Fitness Center, Merrimack Club, Compass space, and the Physics Studio.

A Contemporary Catholic Mission

Merrimack is an institution that embraces the intellectual traditions, spiritual wisdom and social values of Catholicism and provides an environment where all voices can be heard without loss of our Catholic identity.

In 2015, Merrimack, in partnership with St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Lawrence, Mass., established Hands to Help/Manos para Ayudar, a neighborhood community resource center. The center offers services such as financial literacy classes, after-school tutoring, college application tutorials and even a basketball court. Overseen by Director of Community Outreach Aloisha Beppucci ’12, the center has become a focal point for community service projects by Merrimack students and faculty.

- Participation in student service trips grew by 80 percent
- Mack Gives Back and Mass of the Holy Spirit became campus traditions
- Quadrupled the college’s religious and theological studies minor programs
- Three-quarters of freshmen agreed that ethical and spiritual development is an important part of Merrimack’s mission
- 37 members of the Merrimack community, including 22 students, traveled to Italy to follow in the footsteps of St. Augustine

Student Experience

Merrimack’s distinctive out-of-classroom learning opportunities give students an added perspective about themselves, their interests and the global community.

Within the past year, Merrimack has created five new affinity housing options that allow students to choose an intentional community guided by shared values, goals and activities. The Honors, STEM, Global Living, Unity and Austin Scholars housing options support lifestyles and activities that split the residential experience of each student.

In addition to being a living and learning institution, Merrimack’s interdisciplinary blend of academics, cooperative education, internships, study abroad and service learning provides students with an experience that builds knowledge, confidence and valuable leadership skills.

- Increased the number of students living in College housing by 66 percent
- 90+ percent of seniors rated their educational experience as good or excellent
- Built and renovated more than 350,000 square feet of space including the Library’s Crowe Family Commons, new residence halls, Merrimack Athletic Complex, health sciences labs, classrooms and offices, Volpe Innovation Center, Fitness Center, Merrimack Club, Compass space, and the Physics Studio
- Opened new student life spaces including Augie’s Pub and The 47 Lounge
- First Year Experience enrolled 1,006 students, a 20 percent increase from fall 2014

Expanded study abroad programs and increased athletic participation are only a few examples of how Merrimack’s students become immersed in the process of intellectual inquiry and discovery.

Merrimack is inspiring alumni from across the globe to reconnect with the institution that encouraged them to develop their abilities and talents. In fiscal 2015, more than 7,800 alumni and friends attended signature events, a 14 percent increase from fiscal 2014. There is no greater inspiration than the success of the Merrimack community—near or far.

- Number of students studying abroad increased by 42 percent
- Launched eight new varsity sports, including six for women with Division 1 hockey
- Increased student-athlete participation by over 50 percent
- Increased club sports participation by 81 percent
- Increased intramural athletic participation by 80 percent
- Doubled the number of students who participated in service learning
- Undergraduate international student body grew from 43 to 143; a 300 percent increase

The five pillars that guide the Agenda for Distinction are rooted in the college’s core values to promote leadership, community, awareness, scholarship and service—speaking precisely to what Merrimack College adds to the higher education landscape.
Merrimack’s Sara Jane Brazda, senior vice president for development and alumni relations, has been instrumental in bringing this campaign to fruition. She says, “Of course fundraising is a goal, but money is just part of it. Through this campaign, we will raise opportunities for students, raise experiences for faculty and raise the quality of our community. And this will happen through both financial gifts and the engagement of our alumni, partners, friends and parents.”

Merrimack plans to raise $50 million in its first major fundraising campaign—Together for Good—the largest in the history of the college. As of October 2016, Merrimack had raised more than $28 million, 56 percent of its overall goal, through gifts from alumni and other donors.

Dr. Christopher E. Hopey
President

WHAT IS TOGETHER FOR GOOD?
The connections that are made at Merrimack College last a lifetime. Undergirding this unique bond, Together for Good epitomizes the positive impact that can be made when we work together to advance Merrimack College’s goals. It embodies the Catholic Augustinian tradition that lives on in our mission to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives. It also highlights Merrimack’s long-standing reputation for developing ethical leaders in our school, our community and out in our world. Together for Good is a reminder that our students, alumni and friends helped make Merrimack what it is today—and together, they will play a critical role in the college’s future.

Merrimack’s Sara Jane Brazda, senior vice president for development and alumni relations, has been instrumental in bringing this campaign to fruition. She says, “Of course fundraising is a goal, but money is just part of it. Through this campaign, we will raise opportunities for students, raise experiences for faculty and raise the quality of our community. And this will happen through both financial gifts and the engagement of our alumni, partners, friends and parents.”

Designed to ignite the institutional pride and aspirations of the Merrimack community, the Together for Good Campaign will facilitate strategic investments in infrastructure, academic programs, support services, athletics, student experiences and scholarships. “This campaign will set the standard for engaging Merrimack’s external community and enriching the campus—helping elevate our visibility and competitive position,” says Brazda.

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

Campaign Chairs
Michael Crowe ‘92 P’17
Kerridan Crowe P’17
Alfred Arcidi, Jr. ‘84 P’06 P’18
Mary Louise Arcidi P’06 P’18
Honorary Chair
Charlie Day ’98
Vice Chairs
Innovating for Good
Michael Franco ’81 and Mary Franco ’81
Building for Good
Frank Girard ’62 P’16 G’17
Bruce Bouchard ’79

“Competing for Good
Richard Gallant H’15
Lee Slattery ’81

Standing Up for Good
James Zampell ’75 and Christine Zampell ’75
Jack Boyce ’81 and Maryann Boyce ’81
Rev. Raymond P. Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D.

Merrimack Community
Dr. Kyle McInnis P’19

The Together for Good Campaign aims to secure investments in four key areas:
• Innovating for good
• Building for good
• Competing for good
• Standing up for good

The campaign will also provide support for the Merrimack Fund and sponsored programs.

GETTING INVOLVED
You’re invited to join as we help take Merrimack College to the next level, together. Says Brazda, “Participation can take many shapes, from making a financial gift to mentoring students to sharing your network to attending on-campus events. Here, our donors and alumni find that their efforts make a significant and meaningful impact. Thanks to President Hopey’s entrepreneurial approach and vision, we are able to quickly implement new ideas and programs, which is not always the case at bigger institutions.”

LEARN MORE BY VIEWING THE TOGETHER FOR GOOD VIDEO AT MERRIMACK.EDU/TOGETHERFORGOOD
The Blessings for a New Campaign
God of mercy and wisdom, source and summit of all goodness, we ask you to help unite the Merrimack College community. Together for Good this evening as we launch this exciting campaign to secure a future filled with possibility and potential for our school.

Stir within our always restless hearts the desire to search for you above all through our learning and in our love.

Inspire us through the words and example of St. Augustine and the Augustinian tradition to love you and our neighbor in oneness of mind and heart, ignite in us an inexhaustible passion for good, and help us work together to bring about that good in our community, in our neighborhood and in our world.

Deepen our fidelity to the Augustinian ideals of finding wisdom through knowledge transformed by love; living in harmony with one another, with all people and with all creation; seeking the common good above our own; and humbly following the guidance of Christ, our inner teacher.

In your grace, join us to one another in profound unity of effort, purpose and direction to fulfill the mission of this college to enlighten, engage and empower the minds, hearts and lives of all we serve and all who serve in our name.

Call each one of us alone and all of us together to place our gifts generously at the service of this institution that has done so much good for so many.

Bring us all eventually to the fullness of life, where we may enjoy the reward of seeing and knowing how our offerings through this campaign have contributed to building a lasting City of God filled with justice, peace and love for all of its citizens.

We ask this, as we ask all things, through Jesus Christ your Son and our Teacher and Lord.

Amen.

Written by Rev. Raymond F. Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D.
Vice President, Mission and Student Affairs
Inspiring a great transformation

A conversation with Michael “Mike” K. Crowe ’92 P’17 and Kerridan Crowe P’17

A lifelong entrepreneur and angel and equity investor, Mike has served on the Merrimack College board of trustees for seven years and is currently the board chairman. Kerridan is a special-education teacher for middle school students. Mike and Kerridan are serving as co-chairs of the Together for Good Campaign.

Q: What does the Together for Good Campaign mean to you?
Mike: Together for Good means moving forward and standing out, both academically and culturally. We’re now a master’s comprehensive college, and on campus there are new innovation spaces that didn’t exist five or six years ago. The centerpiece of the Together for Good Campaign is attracting and retaining great talent. Like a private company, you need that—especially when you’re growing an educational institution. Merrimack has also been able to attract talented faculty and administrators, which in turn has attracted great students. To sustain our upward momentum, we need to continue working together.

Kerridan: When you hear President Hopey talk about the students at Merrimack, he coins it perfectly. Even if a student at Merrimack is uncertain or lacking confidence, they are going to leave with everything they need. That type of acceptance and belief that every kid has the ability to aspire to be something greater is huge. A lot of kids don’t get that opportunity. To me, the way the Merrimack community comes together to help students is what Together for Good is all about.

Q: What is the most rewarding aspect of being involved with the college?
Mike: Merrimack has always been a great school, and as an entrepreneur, I see the opportunity to make it even greater. Being on the board is a significant time commitment, but it doesn’t feel like work because of the progress that we’ve been able to make. It’s been an honor to play an active role in the growth and transformation of the college.

Kerridan: Our daughter, Keelyn, is a senior at Merrimack majoring in communications with a focus in marketing. I’ve really seen her grow during the last few years and I couldn’t be happier with the woman she has become.

Q: What makes Merrimack special?
Mike: Many of the kids that attend Merrimack are first- and second-generation college students. They come to the college grounded by practical, real-life experience. Merrimack takes good kids and helps them realize their potential as business and community leaders.

Kerridan: Merrimack produces great people who are business savvy but also socially conscious. I recently introduced Merrimack’s senior leaders to MGHI Aspire, a program that helps adults with autism explore work opportunities, and they quickly found a place at the college for two interns. It’s just one example of how Merrimack shows that it’s a progressive institution with a lot of heart.

It’s amazing to watch my daughter grow and have these incredible opportunities thanks to Merrimack College. And it’s not just our daughter. I’ve heard many other success stories of students who’ve really blossomed thanks to academic support they’re received through resources like the Compass Program and the Obrien Center for Career Development.

Q: What is the most impacting event you have seen at Merrimack?
Mike: The Together for Good Campaign has helped us do so much—offer scholarship assistance to kids who could not afford to go to Merrimack, expand facilities and grow the college. Your contribution to Merrimack will have a significant impact both on the institution and on students’ lives. Put simply, an investment in Merrimack is an investment in the future of our community.

Kerridan: At the end of the campaign, you’ll actually see what you’ve created—the positive, tangible results. It’s been exciting to see what has already changed and what will change because of the Together for Good Campaign.

Q: What do you think Merrimack will look like in 10 years?
Mike: It will be a self-sustaining institution with a future of greatness. I believe Merrimack will be in an entirely different peer group, competing alongside outstanding institutions such as Villanova and Providence College.

Kerridan: I think the school in 10 years will look drastically different given the rapid progression I’ve witnessed in just a few short years. Merrimack continues to grow academically, athletically and structurally while maintaining a social conscience that exists in the fundamental roots of Augustinian tradition. It’s an innovative institution.

Q: What differentiates Merrimack?
Al: I’m proud of Merrimack’s Catholic Augustinian heritage and the message it sends. Through various efforts like Mack Gives Back we are spreading Augustinianism to our students throughout the greater community. We are truly devoted to “making good kids great.”

Mary Louise: St. Augustine was all about bringing education to the masses. His desire to spread education to the common man drives the whole idea of Augustinianism. With Merrimack, you get a beautiful melding of education and Catholicism.

Q: What have you learned or gained from being involved with Merrimack College?
Mary Louise: As the mother of four children, as well as a music and choir director at Saint Theresa Church in Rye Beach, N.H., my faith is very important to me. I find meaning in being able to contribute to a cause that promotes strong family values as well as Catholic Augustinian values. I delight in seeing the gospel at work on the Merrimack campus, helping nurture the spirit of students by teaching kindness, wisdom, compassion and faith in God as well as each other.

Q: What would you say to someone who has been back to Merrimack in a while?
Mary Louise: I think people would be surprised at all the changes. We’ve been able to see all the development that’s taking place inside the school and the vibrancy of the student body. You can just feel the energy on campus.

Al: For alumni, seeing the changes at the school and feeling the pride of being part of the school again is exciting. That can happen with the donation of time, money or both. They can become part of this institution and realize the benefits of joining a special community that embraces good values and spreads them out into the world.
INNOVATING FOR GOOD

The new Academic Success Center will transform academic support services at Merrimack. Housed in the McQuade Library, the new center will unify our academic enrichment services and provide new spaces for future growth. By helping students develop effective skills, advocate for themselves and become more confident learners, the Academic Success team, working closely with partners across campus, will drive academic and personal achievement. The Academic Success team will also provide support for our growing student affinity groups such as Honors, Compass, Promise, Austin Scholars and Innovation through Engineering and Computing (iTEC). Ultimately, the work in our new center will propel students successfully through their collegiate journey and enhance our student retention and graduation rates.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

Over the past several years, we have made significant progress on the objectives outlined in Merrimack’s 10-year strategic plan, the Agenda for Distinction. To support our efforts and continue our growth, the Together for Good Campaign aims to secure investments in four key areas. Read on to learn about how these four areas will be a catalyst for positive change in Merrimack’s people, programs and campus infrastructure.

INNOVATING FOR GOOD

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HIGHLIGHTS

• New testing and study labs to facilitate one-on-one advising, tutoring and mentoring
• Dedicated classrooms and office space for the Compass Program, Promise Program, Tutoring and Math Center, and Writing Center
• An expanded Office of Accessibility Services to enrich educational opportunities for all students

FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

Peter Ellard
Dean of Student Success and Academic Support

Charged with providing academic support to help Merrimack students succeed, Peter Ellard offers the best of both worlds—expertise in academic administration combined with extensive classroom experience. Ellard worked as an administrator and assistant professor at Siena College for 16 years before joining Merrimack in 2015.

Merrimack is committed to providing innovative resources and programs to help each student reach his or her full potential. Ellard explains, “We’re focused on individual success and that’s accomplished through one-on-one coaching, test prep help, subject tutoring and our bridge programs, Compass and Promise. It even includes things like assisting students who have mobility or other issues.”

Ellard feels the Together for Good Campaign is aptly named, explaining, “To me, it’s a validation of my philosophy of academic support and student success. No one does it alone. The best outcomes are only possible if we do it together. It’s great to work with a team that’s dedicated to helping students succeed.”

College Leadership Council member KAREN MCCARTHY ’92 and KEVIN MCCARTHY also support student success through a major investment in health and wellness programs on campus.

Trustee KEVIN LUCEY ’89 and KAREN LUCEY named the Career Advising Center within the Girard School of Business. This gift will connect our students to experiential learning and full-time employment opportunities, helping our future leaders secure exciting and rewarding career paths.
Merrimack’s plans include a new Academic District in the North Campus that will encompass several new buildings and provide more classroom, study, lab and studio space. Prominent in the new district will be a three-story, 50,000-square-foot building that will become the new home for Merrimack’s Girard School of Business. The building will provide flexible learning environments as well as conference and event space, supporting Merrimack’s goal of transforming the Girard School into an accredited business school with a robust array of resources, degrees and programs. Future development plans include enhancing resources for Merrimack’s communications, psychology, STEM and creative arts programs.

**BUILDING FOR GOOD**

With big crowds, speeches and a night capped by fireworks, Merrimack College broke ground Sept. 30 for the North Campus Academic Pavilion, the college’s first new stand-alone academic building since the early 1990s.

“Merrimack College is not only an institution of higher learning,” said President Christopher E. Hopey in a ceremony preceding the groundbreaking. “Merrimack College is a promise—a promise made and a promise fulfilled.”

“This new academic building says to our family and the world that we have built success upon success. It is fulfilling the promise of ‘we will be’ with ‘we are,’” he said.

Hopey was joined in the ceremony by Michael Crowe, chair of the board of trustees, who recalled being an undergraduate when the college’s last new academic building, Mendel Center, was opened. He said he was proud of Merrimack as an alumnus, a trustee and the father of a graduating senior, and said it is a “moment the trustees and administration have been working toward for a long time,” after years of strategic planning.

The 50,000-square-foot building will be home to the Girard School of Business as well as 14 general-purpose flexible learning environments, the Mucci Capital Markets Lab, the Comprehensive Business Advising Center and the Financial Capability Center. Construction will begin soon; the building is expected to open in August 2017.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- 14 modern classrooms, including two large tiered-style rooms that can host larger classes (80+), campus events and guest speakers
- The Mucci Capital Markets Lab, featuring Bloomberg terminals and access to real-time finance and investment learning resources
- The Comprehensive Business Advising Center, with academic and career advising customized for our business students
- Girard School of Business Dean’s Suite and offices for faculty and staff that will promote interaction and collaboration

**Launching Building for Good**

The ceremony was followed by a block party inside the Multipurpose Room of the Sakowich Campus Center, featuring food, games, music and a beer garden for those over 21. Fireworks were launched over the athletic fields to conclude the festivities.

**Trustee ROBERT ZATTA ’71 and KATHLEEN ZATTA have named a modern, tiered classroom designed to host large classes and external speakers.**

**College Leadership Council member BRUCE BOUCHARD ’79 and SANDRA BOUCHARD have named a new center at Merrimack that will foster management consulting and social entrepreneurship opportunities for our student and community nonprofits.**

**Trustee MARY FRANCO ’81 and College Leadership Council member MIKE FRANCO ’81 dedicated their gift to Building for Good and will name an important dining and event space for faculty, staff and students.**
**HIGHLIGHTS**

• Redevelopment of 350,000 square feet of land to create three fields for varsity, club, intramural, recreational and community use

• Development of a 2,500-seat stadium with a multipurpose field and a 400-meter eight-lane track

• Construction of a modern concessions area, locker rooms and athletics offices, as well as new sport lighting and walkways

**LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE**

Jeremy Gibson
Director of Athletics

Jeremy Gibson has led the Warriors’ athletic programs since 2013.

Says Gibson, “The foundation of our athletic program really starts with our student-athletes and coaches. The Together for Good Campaign will enable us to renovate our field space so that we can provide them with the resources they need to pursue excellence at the highest level. It also helps us attract and retain outstanding talent—and puts us on par with schools that we aspire to be associated with.”

When asked about the anticipated impact of the campaign, Gibson explains, “Merrimack’s made a lot of exciting progress over the years. We want to build on that momentum and continue to inspire pride. It’s an awesome feeling to talk with alumni who come back to campus and see the new facilities and programs—many of which are beyond what they experienced during their time at Merrimack. That’s what we want to perpetuate.”

**COMPETING FOR GOOD**

To compete at the highest level, Merrimack is investing in a state-of-the-art Athletic District that will include new fields for the varsity teams, a new stadium and track, and facilities for our expanding intramural and club sports programs. These new athletic spaces will support our goal of becoming a Division I institution, help us meet demand from our expanding enrollment, and serve as a resource for the campus, our fans and the surrounding community.

Expanded athletic facilities will not only support Merrimack’s move to Division I but provide enhanced experiences for our club and intramural sport competitors, which is a passion for leadership investor VINCENT FOLEY ’68.

RICHARD GALLANT H’15 continues to champion our competitive sports program by supporting the construction of modern hockey locker room facilities.

Trustee LEE SLATTERY ’81 has shown her commitment to enhancing athletics at Merrimack as chair of our Title IX committee and a major investor in our new athletic facilities.
At Merrimack, Catholic Augustinian values guide our actions. That is why we plan to expand service learning and mission opportunities, support faculty excellence, foster research initiatives, and advance academic programs. To ensure that students from all backgrounds have access to a Merrimack education, we also intend to expand our scholarship support. By focusing on student-centered programs that inspire, engage and enlighten, we are committed to achieving 75 percent undergraduate participation in at least one of the following enrichment activities by 2021:

- Undergraduate research
- Clinical learning experiences
- Mission trips and service learning
- Study abroad

FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

Father Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A.
Vice President for Mission and Student Affairs

The powerhouse behind Merrimack’s day of service, Mack Gives Back, Father Ray helped reintroduce the Mass of the Holy Spirit and was instrumental in shaping Merrimack’s vision to “enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives.”

Father Ray explained how Merrimack continues to “stand up for good.” Through student affairs and co-curriculum, we’ve been able to infuse Catholic Augustinian values into many student experiences. Our service immersion trips are a prime example. They include alternative spring and winter breaks, as well as summer trips, which are now both domestic and international.”

“[I] see students change on those trips as they learn and experience new things. Their concept of the world changes. St. Augustine said, ‘No one should be so contemplative as to ignore the needs of his or her neighbor.’ To that end, we also offer service components to our academic courses. This year, we expect over 1,200 students to go out in the community and bring their lessons and perspectives back into the classroom. Beyond that, we have active student organizations like Relay for Life, which raises money for cancer research; Active Minds, which focuses on suicide prevention and destigmatizing mental illness; and the Young Athlete program, which is part of the Special Olympics—all of which are focused on the needs of others.”

Of the Together for Good Campaign, Father Ray says, “The idea of sharing, of holding things in common and embracing the common good are all Augustinian hallmarks. St. Augustine says you know you are growing in charity when you put the common good ahead of your own. Together for Good captures that sentiment very beautifully.”

HONORING OUR AUGUSTINIAN VALUES

Scholarships ensure that Merrimack can continue to attract talented students, enable them to choose meaningful paths and help them graduate in better financial standing.

Currently, more than 90 percent of Merrimack students receive financial assistance to bridge the gap between tuition and their ability to afford a college education. With more than $45 million in scholarships, financial aid and fellowships awarded in the last year alone, Merrimack has put an exceptional education within reach for many students. Private philanthropic support is critical to this important Augustinian mission of helping others.

We will launch our “Good to Great” scholarship drive with the goal of raising $3 million in new endowed and current-use scholarships. Through this ambitious initiative, we will have the financial support we need to ensure that deserving students, from all backgrounds, have the opportunity to achieve greatness at Merrimack.

SATOWICH FOUNDATION made a major commitment to launch and endow the Anthony J. Sakowich Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities and the Gladys Sakowich Charitable Foundation Scholarship.

The JAMES W. O’BRIEN FOUNDATION established the O’Brien Scholars program, providing students with financial aid and social justice and service learning experiences.

Supporting college success through scholarships has long been a tradition at Merrimack College. Recent endowed scholarship donors include trustees JACK BOYCE ’81 and College Leadership Council member MARYANN BOYCE ’81, ROBIN SMITH ’66, and DAVID SCHELZI ’81 and JONI SCHELZI.

Together for Good captures that sentiment very beautifully.”

With the aim of developing more inclusive leaders, EILEEN JENNINGS ’64 made an estate gift in support of enhanced interfaith programming at Merrimack.
STANDING TOGETHER FOR GOOD

Equally important to our $50 million fundraising goal are our alumni engagement objectives. Through the Together for Good Campaign, we aim to expand Merrimack’s annual fund, increase alumni participation, and enhance research and sponsored program funding. In addition to raising our national profile, this campaign will cultivate a greater sense of pride within the Merrimack College community.

THE MERRIMACK FUND

Annual giving is a meaningful way for donors of all levels to strengthen the future of Merrimack College. The Merrimack Fund encourages alumni, parents and friends to begin donating regularly to Merrimack and experience the impact of giving back. Every gift to The Merrimack Fund will count toward the Together for Good Campaign. Throughout this historic campaign we seek to raise $7 million in annual fund support and continue to enhance alumni engagement at Merrimack.

THE WARRIOR FUND

The Warrior Fund raises awareness of our student-athletes’ impact and accomplishments and provides philanthropic support to our athletic program. In 2016, The Warrior Fund raised nearly $200,000 to help fund staff and student training initiatives, athletic equipment purchases, out-of-region team travel, leadership development programs, and recruitment efforts.

SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Sponsored programs will also count toward our campaign and support our overall goal to bolster Merrimack’s reputation and strengthen our value proposition and competitive position. Supporting this goal, we seek to raise $4 million for research and sponsored programs as part of the Together for Good Campaign.

97% of the class of 2015 were employed, in grad school or completing service within nine months of graduation / 100+ academic programs / 75% of students live on campus / 190 full-time faculty, 86% holding a Ph.D. or highest degree available in their field / more than $54M in financial aid and scholarships awarded to 98% of our student body / 50+ student-led clubs and organizations

The Merrimack Fund

Gifts to The Merrimack Fund empower the college to realize its vision. From creating more student learning spaces on campus to making critical academic hires that will enable Merrimack’s reputation to soar, your investment will touch areas related to teaching, research and student life in fundamental ways.

Every gift matters. Especially YOUR gift. Invest in Merrimack College.

merrimack.edu/gift
“Merrimack College is not just about an education; it is about transforming lives.”
ALISHA REPPUCCI ’12, DIRECTOR, HANDS TO HELP

“Merrimack saw a path for me. Merrimack made it financially possible for this son of a single dad from central Maine to expand his horizons and build a future.”
SHEON JAMES ’19

“From my time here as a student to my current role—as chairman of the board—I have seen firsthand an institution that has taken on a bold vision and transformed itself to become a stronger and more vibrant institution—one that is on its way to greater recognition.”
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. CROWE ’92 P’17, TOGETHER FOR GOOD CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR

“It [Merrimack] has helped shape who my family is—and the values we live by. As we have become more involved in the growth of the college, my inspiration to give back has grown.”
ALFRED J. ARCIDI, JR. ’84 P’06 P’18, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, TOGETHER FOR GOOD CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR

THE WARRIOR FUND

Gifts to The Warrior Fund allow our student-athletes to thrive competitively, in the classroom and throughout the community. Providing the financial resources necessary for our teams to recruit outstanding student-athletes, travel out of the region, engage in leadership development training and receive academic support services, your investment enables our students to be the best they can be.

• More than 1,000 students participate in 24 varsity and 17 club sports
• 554 student-athletes have a 3.0 GPA or better
• Four teams qualified for an NCAA tournament
• Two individual NCAA national championships
• 16 Academic All-Americans
• A league-high 19 Hockey East All-Academics
• 11 programs participate in Team Impact, more than any other school in the country

merrimack.edu/gift

OUR LOGO: THEN & NOW

Drawing on our rich history, the new logo reinterprets elements from the college seal in a more modern and simple way. The logo includes four quadrants containing three images: a book with the words “Tolle Lege” (“take up and read”) from Saint Augustine, waves that represent the “swift water” of the Merrimack Valley Native Americans, and the cross from the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Boston. The symbolism of our colors remains unchanged: blue for loyalty and gold for wisdom.

Wavy lines represent water in heraldry, so wavy pallets were chosen to represent Merrimack, which meant “swift water” to some of the Native Americans who once lived in the Merrimack Valley. The cross fleurette refers to the French ancestry of Bishop Cheverus, the first Bishop of Boston (1810–1823). Thus the shield refers to the name of this Augustinian college and to its location in the Archdiocese of Boston. The trimount also is a charge on the coat of arms of Pope Pius XII, during whose pontificate Merrimack College was established. The Order of Saint Augustine is represented by the image of a book imprinted with the famous words connected with Saint Augustine’s conversion, “Tolle Lege” (“take up and read”).
Alumni, students, staff, families and friends attended Merrimack’s Homecoming Weekend in record numbers during this year’s October celebration. The weekend events drew a wide range of spirited participants who enjoyed a tailgate party and several athletic events as well as the highly anticipated launch of Together for Good.
A Merrimack education is grounded in an in-depth knowledge built within the classroom, accented by enriching hands-on learning opportunities. This allows Merrimack students to gain real-world experience and a greater, deeper understanding of their area of study in order to be confident and highly prepared for their future careers.

Recently, four Merrimack students, along with two of their professors, completed an intensive data analytics project for Watts Water Technologies—a global provider of plumbing, heating and water quality solutions for residential, industrial, municipal and commercial settings.

Joe Borgatti ’16, Tori Thistle ’18, Nick Santosuosso ’16 and Robyn Stanley ’17 served as members of the interdisciplinary team of students across multiple majors working on this project.

With a focus on statistical revenue breakdowns, the team went to work running extensive analyses on Watts Water’s historical data. Facing challenging issues such as an examination of replacement parts versus new construction, the team successfully created a model to forecast the company’s revenue and presented it to the senior management team.

Stepping out of the classroom allowed these students the opportunity to engage and network with industry professionals, strategize solutions to real-world problems, and develop a wide set of valuable skills.

With opportunities such as this one, Merrimack students gain strong, practical knowledge that puts them ahead of the pack in the world’s rapidly evolving professional arena.

“I really enjoyed being a part of the Watts Water project because of the fact that we worked as an interdisciplinary team. Being able to work with students from different majors was important because to solve complex problems that face our world, I will have to work with others from different fields—and learn from them. Working on this project, outside of the classroom, gave me a glimpse of what life after college will be like.”

Tori Thistle ’18

“Helping students understand, and then articulate, their value to employers and graduate schools prepares them to navigate not only their first job but their fifth.”

Courtney Luongo
Assistant Vice President and Executive Director, O’Brien Center for Career Development

Community Service Honors Veterans

Over 1,000 members of the Merrimack community fanned out across greater Boston during this year’s annual Mack Gives Back Day on Nov. 5. Volunteers at 44 sites, including five in Boston, helped with landscaping and grounds cleanup, loading trucks of donated furniture, and preparing medical equipment shipments to developing countries, all to honor those who have served.
The Merrimack College board of trustees welcomed five new members in 2016 and elected trustee Michael Crowe ’92 P’17 as its chairman.

CROWE, who served two years as the board’s vice chair, is founder and CEO of ClearSurance LLC; an active angel and early-stage company investor; and a director of Matrix Healthcare Services Inc., a Florida-based pharmacy benefit management company operating in all 50 states. He was previously senior vice president of services and acquisitions at Brown & Brown, the sixth-largest independent insurance intermediary in the world. Crowe is a lifelong entrepreneur who has served as a director and officer for a number of venture-funded startups, including several that he guided through successful acquisition. He is the co-founder and former CEO of Crowe Paradis Holding Co., an insurance services holding company that collectively grew to $50 million in revenue before it was acquired in 2010 in two separate transactions with Brown & Brown and Verisk Analytics. He served as deputy treasurer of the Massachusetts Democratic Party from 2000 to 2002 as well as finance chairman for U.S. Rep. Martin Meehan. Crowe has more than 20 years of executive finance experience in early-stage emerging technology companies. She is former CFO and senior vice president for operations of Zirent Inc., former CFO of Groove Mobile Inc., former corporate controller of Bi Free, former vice president for finance of Internet Securities Inc., former financial manager of Millipore, and former auditor with Arthur Andersen, as well as a former self-employed contract CFO. She serves as treasurer of the board of directors of Science Club for Girls, based in Cambridge. She and her husband, John Piekos, live in Westford.

DENNIS J. LEONARD ’77

Dennis Leonard has been president since 2000 of Delta Dental of Massachusetts, a national leader in innovative programs to improve the overall health of members, prevent oral disease, and reduce health-care costs for employers, groups, and individuals. Delta Dental of Massachusetts is the largest provider of dental benefits in Massachusetts, serving more than 2.2 million members. He previously served as chief sales officer for Delta Dental. He is a member of the board and former president of Family Services of Greater Boston, and a board member of Everett Cooperative Bank and Associated Industries of Massachusetts, for which he has been assistant treasurer since 2010. He earned his M.B.A. from Northeastern University and is married to Norma; they have two children, Kathleen and Andrew.

PAUL L. MUCCI ’87

Paul Mucci is a former executive of Devonshire Investors in Boston, a private investment firm affiliated with FMR LLC, the parent company of Fidelity Investments, which manages investments on behalf of FMR and its shareholders in businesses outside the financial services industry. Its global portfolio consists principally of investments in operating companies, real estate, venture capital and indirect investing. He served as a member of the Devonshire leadership team when it entered the building materials market with the purchase of the Strober Organization in 1997. He held several executive leadership roles with Devonshire, including non-executive chairman of the board of ProBuild Holdings LLC, president and CEO of MetrolRED, a South American telecommunications company; managing director of Fidelity Broadband Group; and president of Community Newspaper Co.

Mucci has also served as president of Impresa Management LLC, president of Star Horizon Management LLC, president of Fidelity Ventures, CFO of Fidelity Capital, senior vice president of finance for General Cinema Theatres and vice president of finance for Wang Laboratories.

He resides in Woburn, Mass., with his wife, Joyce; they have three children, Christopher, Nicholas ’07 and Leanna.

PATRICK J. SULLIVAN

Patrick Sullivan has been Massachusetts president of People’s United Bank since 2013. He is responsible for the strategic development of all commercial business, retail banking, wealth management and insurance across the state. The group includes defined divisions of business banking and middle market lending, and a regional focus on the seafood industry as well as the nonprofit and education industries. He has almost 40 years of experience in the banking industry and has held a variety of executive and management positions. Prior to joining People’s United Bank, he spent time in the Berkshires as executive vice president of commercial banking and wealth management at Berkshire Bank and president and CEO of Legacy Banks, which successfully merged with Berkshire Bank in 2011. At Santander (Sovereign) Bank, he held the dual role of president of the New England division and managing director of corporate banking across the bank’s footprint, with responsibility for all commercial and community banking activities within those regions. Previously, he was president and CEO of Howard Bank in Burling, VT. Additionally, he served as COO of a mid-sized family distribution business, and he was executive vice president at First NH Bank, a Bank of Ireland subsidiary. Sullivan is a director of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, Massachusetts Bankers Association, Massachusetts High Tech Council, People’s United Community Foundation of Eastern Massachusetts and Massachusetts Business Development Corp., for which he serves as chairman. He is a member of the Commercial Finance Association, Massachusetts Business Roundtable, Smaller Business Association of New England and Tumorard Management Association.

Sullivan earned his M.B.A. at Bryant University and is a graduate of the Executive Management Program at the Amos Tuck School of Dartmouth College. He lives in Boston with his wife, Debra; they have three children, Cara, Rory and Ashley.

ROBERT J. ZATTA ’71

Robert “Bob” Zatta is an independent director and business executive. He was the longtime senior vice president and CFO and, more recently, acting CEO of Rockwood Holdings Inc., a world-class specialty chemicals and advanced materials company committed to delivering exceptional value through continued leadership in customer service, quality, on-time delivery and innovative technology. Rockwood was acquired by Albemarle Corp. in 2015.

Prior to joining Rockwood in 2001, Zatta spent 12 years with the Campbell Soup Co., where he held several significant financial management positions, including his final position as vice president and responsible for corporate development and strategic planning. Prior to joining Campbell’s in 1990, he worked for General Foods Corp. and Thomas J. Lipton Inc. He is a director of Innowax Holdings Inc. in Cranberry, N.J. Zatta holds an M.B.A. in finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He lives in Princeton, N.J., with his wife, Kathleen, and they have three children.
NEW FACULTY

Merrimack has welcomed 31 instructors and researchers to the ranks of the full-time faculty this fall. They are as follows:

School of Education and Social Policy
• Justine Bulger-Medina, professor of practice in education
• Stephanie Smith, instructor in criminology
• Marie Galinski, lecturer in history
• Rodrigo Bandeira de Mello, professor of practice in accounting and finance
• Sharon Shore Taitelbaum, professor of practice in education

School of Science and Engineering
• Sadegh Asgari, assistant professor of civil engineering
• Sarah Bones, lecturer in health science and senior director of graduate studies
• Azara Santiago-Rivera, professor and director of clinical mental health counseling
• Rickey Caldwell, assistant professor of mechanical engineering
• Christopher Duston, assistant professor of physics
• David Mandeville, lecturer in health science
• Justin Murray, lecturer in civil engineering
• Julie Anne Noone, lecturer in mathematics
• Azam Noori, assistant professor of biology
• Tunda Sizov, assistant professor of health science
• Suajita Thinhvengadathan, lecturer in mathematics
• Walter Tingle, lecturer in mechanical engineering

ALUMNI NEWS

• JOAN LEAHY ’86, vice president of marketing at Pooles Bank, presented on digital marketing for financial services at the recent Moda Buying Innovation Summit hosted by the Massachusetts Bankers Association. Joan discussed her work related to behavioral targeting and content marketing. [1]
• TONY LONGO ’97 was elected to the Wakefield Board of Selectmen in April 2016. Tony topped the ticket in a field of five candidates, including two incumbents.
• EDWARD ARDINI ’89 was appointed by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon to be a judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals. Ardini has served for the past seven years as counsel to the governor following a 16-year career with the Missouri Attorney General’s Office.
• JOSH CARROLL ’05 graduated from Duke University Law School in May 2016. He is currently a law clerk for Chief Justice Linda S. Dailians of the New Hampshire Supreme Court. [4]
• KAREN REDDY ’05 was recently promoted to finance and analytics manager at Barefoot Books Inc., a Cambridge, Mass.–based international children’s publishing company.
• KRISTIN ANDERSON ’08 married classmate Nick Faire ’08 at the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher on campus on April 29, 2016. In the photo: James Dennis ’89, Kathy O’Boyle Trainer ’79, Mary Dennis Anderson ’81, Professor Jack Glencross, Taryn Broughton ’08, Shaun Shattuck ’09, Megan Scheld ’08, Stephanie Franzone, Marco Franzone ’06, Nick Faire ’08, Emily Kennedy, Steve Kennedy ’08, Donna Aylward ’08, Heather Aylward, Ame Manheimer and Scott Manheimer ’08. [3]
• BRIAN YORK ’11 is an online marketing product support specialist at MainetoDay Media/Portland Press Herald in South Portland, Maine.
• TIM IANNACONE ’12 was ordained to the transitional diaconate for the Diocese of Bridgeport in June 2016. In attendance at his ordination were Brandon Murphy, Adam DiCostanza ’12 (right) and Evan Moore ’12 (far right). [2]

WEDDINGS

• NICOLE ENGRE ’14 is engaged to Andrew Hoyle of Marblehead, Mass. They will be celebrating their wedding on Sept. 23, 2017, at the College of Church of Christ the Teacher at Merrimack College.
• CHRISTINE NEEL ’14 married Rene Dumont at Merrimack College in July 2016, followed by a reception at the Seaport Hotel in Boston, Mass. Alumna in attendance were Jordan Caruso ’13, Marisa Blaney ’14, Shawn Ratts ’11, Megan Folino ’14, Michallda McVier ’14, Kelly Vaillancourt ’15, Leanne McCallife ’14, Paige LaRoche ’14, Matthew Kerkham ’13, Michael Bryant ’14, Brandon Walter ’14, Brandon Rugman ’15 and Chantalla Dumont ’19 [5]

NEW ADDITIONS

• JOSEPH SHOLA, JR. ’03, and his wife, Rachel Shola, of Windham, N.H., welcomed a baby girl, Brianna Belle Shola, on July 6, 2016. They have another daughter, Chloe, who is two years old.

In June, members of “THE KIDS” gathered for their annual summer lobster bake and golf reunion. Each year, these alums from the late ’60s to early ’70s get together to share laughs, their Merrimack stories and a look into the hockey season this year. Many of “The Kids” played hockey while at Merrimack and in fact claimed the first Merrimack Warrior championship in 1967. It’s great to see these legacies live on!

Front Row: Fred Clews ’67, Tim Foley ’68, Joe Yanett ’67, Terry O’Sullivan ’69, Mickey O’Reilly ’69, Mike “Buster” Duflo ’67.
Back Row: friend Jim McLaughlin, Bill Langone ’68, Paul Windle ’69, Tom Kelley ’68, Bill Donovan ’67, Brendan Sheely ’70, Paul Devin ’68, Ed Izzo ’70, John Powers ’70, Brian Testa ’67, Dave Pollard ’67

Merrimack friends recently traveled to Panama to celebrate their 60th birthdays!

Front Row: Mary (McAdams) Feury, Mary (Connolly) Ledwith, Sally (Lehane) Murphy, Marie (Sottile) Zim, Alison (Miney) Hazzell, Kathy (Griffith) Hogan. Back Row: Jane (Darveau) Clair, Eve (George) Silva, Judy (Giordano) Terroni, Rose (Shia) Coleman, Joan (DeNico) Louty, Mary Kate Cohane

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It’s your year!
Come together with fellow classmates to rekindle friendships, explore campus and learn more about Merrimack College today.
Interested in volunteering on your Class Reunion Committee? Contact alumnirelations@merrimack.edu
Left: Pete Caulo ’83 and Joe Gallo ’04. Top right: Members of the College Leadership Council in attendance.
Bottom right: Dennis Leonard ’77, Frank Girard ’62 H’16 G’17 and Mark Leonard P’16.