What Makes Merrimack Students Stand Out? A Focus on Success!

Merrimack College

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WHAT MAKES MERRIMACK STUDENTS STAND OUT?
A FOCUS ON SUCCESS!
FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is simply no higher calling for us as an institution than to give our students the education, motivation and tools to build successful lives. Every department, every policy, every program and every member of our faculty and staff is focused on this goal: working with the great students who come to Merrimack and preparing them for the world beyond campus.

Our approach is multi-faceted. We have excellent classroom teaching and varied research opportunities, to inspire and engage students. We nurture and encourage spiritual and intellectual growth, in line with our Catholic heritage and Augustinian tradition. We create and support academic and student-life programs that work with students who have particular needs and challenges. We offer a multitude of ways to explore the world of work, such as internships, co-op jobs, clinical positions and fellowships.

And both faculty and staff work, formally and informally, to provide specific career-focused preparation — whether it be seminars that teach students to refine their social media presence and “elevator speeches,” or the O’Brien Center for Student Success, which works with employers, students and alumni to find the right employment partnerships.

At the same time, Merrimack itself must continuously pursue success — both so it can provide the best possible education and so its recognized successes can add value to the degrees of our alumni, current and future students.

Institutionally, our drive for success is guided by the framework of our collaboratively created Agenda for Distinction — the lens through which we view our progress and planning, and the ladder by which we continue to reach new heights.

In these pages, you will read about success in many forms. Our faculty is expanding and its expertise diversifying; our athletic program continues its rise; our facilities grow and adapt to new ways of learning and thriving; our alumni find new ways to celebrate their Merrimack heritage and give back to our community; and our students engage with a variety of programs and services that will build on their knowledge and talents to help them rise to greater heights in the years to come.

We are proud of the successes the college has achieved, and proud that we are never satisfied to rest on our laurels. At Merrimack, our greatest successes are always ahead of us.

Best,

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President
In a summer message to the Merrimack community, President Christopher E. Hopey announced that Money Magazine had just named the college a “Value All Star” for adding value to graduates’ degrees. “Merrimack is a school that prepares students for professional and economic success,” he said, citing “many efforts, by departments and individuals across this campus, to ensure that Merrimack students are ready to thrive on day one post-graduation.”

Here is the story of those efforts and the people — faculty, staff, and in the main, driven and forward-looking students — who are both the embodiment and the beneficiaries of Merrimack’s core focus on success.

In the wake of the Second World War, a Merrimack Valley labor-management committee — under the auspices of the federal Manpower Commission — began looking at ways to revive industry and speed the return of American servicemen into the workforce. Committee members quickly realized that higher education was the key to economic growth, and toured educational institutions in Greater Boston with an eye to hiring a satellite campus north. Ultimately they found an ally in Archbishop Richard Cushing, who reached out to the Augustinians, then an order with a hundred-year history of teaching and ministering in the region.

Out of that drive to restore economic vitality Merrimack College was born in 1947. More than 160 freshmen — and they were all men — commuted to the initial classes in a single cinderblock building, most of them military veterans and most of them studying business administration, with a healthy dose of liberal arts students as well.

In 2014, Merrimack has nearly 3,000 undergraduates — more than half of them women — and several hundred graduate students, 30 buildings and a growing national reputation based in its institutional momentum and its intense focus on student success. The college’s four schools — its original business and liberal arts faculties now matched by schools of science and engineering and of education and social policy, offering 90 academic programs — continue to graduate well-rounded students, but with an even sharper eye on Merrimack’s original mission: preparing young people to stand out as they embark on careers in a growing global economy.

**Students seize the moment**

“Helping students understand, and then articulate, their value to employers and graduate schools prepares them to navigate not only their first job search but their fifth,” said Heather Maietta, associate vice president and director of the O’Brien Center for Student Success.

The college’s “wraparound support,” from academic courses to faculty advising to student support centers such as the O’Brien, has shown startling results: 98% of the Class of 2013 reported being employed or in graduate school nine months after commencement, according to a survey of the class with an 89% response rate. Merrimack students across majors can find help in the Compass Program or the Math or Writing Center. Education students link theory and practice in local schools. Science and engineering faculty identify clinical and internship placements for their charges. Business students transition from the new Bloomberg Markets Lab in the Academic Innovation Center to jobs in high finance. Communications majors learn about turning themselves their own brands for the job market. The O’Brien Center helps with building this brand, interview preparation and job searches. And students bound for success find themselves taking every opportunity presented and then creating more on their own.

“I think that I, as a person, took the main initiative” in seeking her internship with Puma’s North American human resources operation, said senior Casey Duggan.

The Weymouth, Mass., native, a psychology major with a minor in health sciences, drew strength and skills from her work with the O’Brien Center and advice from her internship advisor, associate professor Christina Hardway, who was “thrilled” when Duggan landed the prestigious placement.

The internship not only gave her academic credit but a close-up view of employee disciplinary and corrective practices. “I’ve learned a lot,” she said. “Primarily I’ve learned that even such a big company — an elite company — still has performance management issues, but they know how to properly overcome these issues to remain an elite brand.”

Though she has longer-term plans to go to graduate school, she hopes to land full-time at Puma next year to continue her real-world education in industrial and organizational psychology. She cited the help of Stephen Maser, associate director for employer relations at the O’Brien Center, in preparing for her internship interview, and the center staff overall for its work with students. She was part of that work, as a peer advisor at the O’Brien, helping fellow students with resumes and cover letters and booking appointments.

The O’Brien center, she said, is “a real asset for the college.”

**About the O’Brien Center**

The O’Brien Center, sponsored by Merrimack alumna Christina B. O’Brien in honor of her late father, Eugene P. O’Brien, has been renamed the O’Brien Center for Student Success in recognition of recent support from her sister, Christina O’Brien Boudreau. The center, under the leadership of Heather Maietta, manages nearly 200 programs and services that help, as she puts it, “build pathways” for students, including the following:

- The O’Brien Career Center, which now has more than 700 students engaged in a variety of work-based learning opportunities.
- The new Bloomberg Markets Lab, which offers students high-quality internships in the finance industry.
- The O’Brien Center for Student Success staff, who work with students to prepare them for experiential opportunities beyond campus.
"Heather is a rock star, no doubt about it," said senior Vince Bellino, a business major with a minor in philosophy. "The O'Brien team exceeded my expectations."

The confident Andover, Mass., native came to the college after graduating high school at 17 and moving to California to try to make it on the professional tennis circuit. That may have been his last mistake, but he used his experience "as a vehicle to get into Merrimack," where he has been captain of the tennis team and 2014 male scholar-athlete of the year, as well as finance editor of The Beacon.

Bellino connected with the O'Brien Center in his freshman year for help with interview preparation, among other things. "They gave me the expertise to mold my story, to build my personal brand," he said.

At the Girard School of Business, management professor Jane Papazian guided him. "She gave me the expertise to mold my story, to build my personal brand," he said.

Making college work better for all students has been the focus of Tia Roy, a senior psychology major and communication minor who has built a research expertise out of her undergraduate experiences. "All of us need to ask ourselves: How do I step up my game?" said Roy. "You need to be connecting with someone. It really is all about making it your Merrimack — you find someone, be it a professor or an administrator, and utilize that person as a mentor."

"What you come to know yourself — that's a difficult, reflective process," said Isbell. "Students have to look inward for who they are, and then decision "what they want to be next." That's the underpinning of his capstone course: turning well-educated students into well-prepared candidates for jobs or graduate schools. That is well embedded in the context of learning communication theory and skills. "Creation of a brand is a narrative event," he said.

For her, finding the O'Brien Center — and relying on the Academic Enrichment Center and Writing Center — was "pretty much saved me. They helped me find my path, into that job, and her close connection with the O'Brien, into internships with Northern Essex Community College, and 2014 male scholar-athlete of the year, as well as finance editor of The Beacon."

Bottom, from left: Steve Mazer of the O'Brien Center; professor Mary Papazian in the Bloomberg Markets Lab; professor Kevin Finn in an athletic training lab.
Learning, help students make sense of real world challenges and—beginning in the freshman year with shorter visits and smaller responsibilities or shadowing opportunities—that build up by step outside of their textbook covers and the four walls of the college classroom. We very consciously focus on scaffolding student experiences through field based experiences such as mathematics) settings. We learn to create and control their brand, gauge themselves. Our students work in more than two dozen schools and school settings. The School of Science and Engineering places "a strong emphasis on providing students with not only the knowledge in the classroom but also the hands-on, practical skills needed in their discipline." An associate professor of health sciences, who teaches and actively researches in his field of athletic training, Finn noted that the school provides "a variety of experiential learning opportunities such as internships, externships, clinical experiences, and directed research," giving students "valuable, real-world experiences where they apply the content from their courses in a variety of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) settings. "We feel that these out-of-class opportunities are what make our students successful when they enter graduate school or the job market," he said. Dan Batten, dean of the School of Education and Social Policy, said his school bases its programs on the critical link between theory and practice, "through field based experiences such as internships, service-learning, and student teaching experiences. "We very consciously focus on scaffolding student experiences in the beginning of the freshman year with shorter visits and smaller responsibilities or shadowing opportunities—that build up by step outside of their textbook covers and the four walls of the classroom."

The result: job-ready graduates. Merrimack teacher education students work in more than two dozen schools and school systems in the Merrimack Valley during their degree programs; graduates have a 97% pass rate on the Massachusetts teacher licensure test, Batten pointed out. Said the O'Brien Center's Maietta: "It is our job as an institution to not only educate students academically, but also connect them to experiences and opportunities—coops, internships, research, service. These opportunities enhance academic learning, help students make sense of real world challenges and possibilities, and enable them to make well-informed personal and professional decisions."

Proof of the pudding

That Merrimack has an impressive recipe for student success seems almost self-evident to the faculty, staff and students who work hard to produce these results. The reviewers, like Money Magazine, see the value. But what about the ultimate critics—the hiring managers at big firms and international corporations whose decisions ultimately mean more than all the rankings?

"We find that Merrimack students have a solid foundation in the engineering sciences to get quickly established inside of Teradyne," said Steven Conte, an engineering-support manager with the world leader in electronic testing equipment. The North Reading, Mass.-based Teradyne has been relying on Merrimack engineering and computer-science students for internships for "quite some time," Conte said, and then offering full-time work to graduating students. "They quickly acclimate to the engineering discipline, be it software testing, product development, or hardware design that they are assigned to," Conte said. "With this foundation, we are able to enhance the students' skill set by offering them additional learning opportunities while on the job."

A four- to six-month internship is essentially treated as an extended job interview, he noted, as well as "helping us shape and grow the student's ability. The process is "a tremendous value to us as an employer. New college graduates are able to be productive from the start of their employment, and achieve greater success in their career growth."

The college's relationship with BAE Systems, a global provider of defense and security products, stretches back 53 years, said finance manager Chad Theroux—specifically, the recruitment and hiring of business students for BAE's Financial Leadership Development Program. The college's relationship with BAE Systems, a global provider of defense and security products, stretches back 53 years, said finance manager Chad Theroux—specifically, the recruitment and hiring of business students for BAE's Financial Leadership Development Program. When Merrimack students "arrive at BAE Systems, they have learned the key concepts required to succeed in a corporate environment and add value to our organization," Theroux said. "Students from Merrimack College come prepared with business acumen and a strong work ethic." Having interned, he said, is critical for job candidates at the Nashua, N.H.-based company. "This helps to ensure that the student has hands-on experience and understanding of what it takes to be successful upon college graduation in the workplace."

As the magazine went to press, Citibank weighted in with a ringing endorsement as well. Bellino, the business major from Andover, Mass., is a job-fueled student, with that global banking leader in Manhattan. His personal brand—and Merrimack's—continues its rise.

"It should all blend with who they see themselves as," Libell said. "They learn to create and control their brand, gauge themselves."

The course also covers such matters as how to network, to explain what a "communicator" is, and how to pitch themselves in the classic "elevator speech." Like the O'Brien Center, whose advisor Libell requires students to meet with, he drills on interview techniques, both face-to-face and by Skype. "It's really formalizing a process we had long hoped our students would do organically," he said.

Homecoming weekend included many social and athletic events starting Friday with football and the Mr. Merrimack competition, followed by a 5K race, football, soccer and hockey games Saturday and a car show Sunday. More than 80 runners showed up at Austin Field at the 8 a.m. start of the 5K race, which raised money for the American Cancer Society under the auspices of Zeta Tau Alpha. Alumni Alex Vlahos and Gary Cuneo were the top two finishers. Saturday's tailgating in the parking lot next to the Sakowich Campus sold out. Bevenden competed for distinction of best tailgate menu, most Merrimack Proud, and most well-represented group. Brianna Burt '15, had twice-baked potatoes that won the menu contest; the Class of 1984 had custom koozies, decorated tents and rousing school spirit to take home the Merrimack Proud award; and the Dhy family was honored as the largest affinity group. For those who didn't want to tailgate, there was a family-friendly cookout and children-friendly corn roast near Rogers Center for the Arts. The college introduced the new Merrimack Proud attraction to homecoming weekend this year. Affinity groups such as Greek Life, Legacy Families and Student Involvement used the main entrance to host alumni and current students for sharing college stories, said Joanne Sakowich, associate vice president for alumni relations. President Christopher E. Hovey and many members of the faculty and staff renewed old acquaintances. The new Merrimack Proud state-of mind campaign went over well and resonated with visitors throughout the weekend—with T-shirts, stickers and the social media hashtag #MerrimackProud. Some of the "brag" was purple, marking the campus' commitment to ending domestic violence.

The new alumni Twitter account @merrimackalumni was launched during the weekend. "With the growth in social media presence, we want to keep contact with our alumni, who is truly what it is about," said Mermelstein. "We reach multiple generations through print, email and social media."

"Phenomenal"

Regan renewed his relationship with the college when his daughter enrolled two years ago and is still marveling at the changes from his college days. "This is night and day compared to when I came here," he said. "What they have done is phenomenal?"

Homecoming was a special day for Kayla, too—"because my parents came to my school and they brought food."

David and Kertie Blazon, of Lowell, Mass., are fairly new to the Merrimack family. Their daughter Lauren is a sophomore majoring in business finance who is a member of the crew team. "I just love this school," David Blazon said. "It's just a nice, small Catholic school."

The local and national student population, and the effort President Christopher E. Hovey is making to elevate sports to Division I have impressed him, Blazon said. Steven Sobhian, '95, of Andover, Mass., majored in liberal arts with a concentration in philosophy and English during his college years. Even though he lives nearby, Sobhian enjoyed the chance to return during Homecoming. "It's a time to reflect where I've been and where I'm going," he said. "It's also a reflection on what was going on then and what is going on now."

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COACH ERIN WHITTEN HAMLIN AND ASSISTANT BRENT HILL HAD THEIR FIRST FOUR SKATERS OUT ON LAWLER RINK FOR PERENNIAL POWERHOUSE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DURING HER OWN COLLEGIATE DAYS FROM 1989 TO 1993. HAMLIN BRINGED HILL FROM RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE SHORTLY AFTER SHE ARRIVED IN NORTH ANDOVER.

THE MERRIMACK COLLEGE WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY TEAM WILL PLAY ITS INAUGURAL DIVISION I SEASON DURING THE 2015-16 ACADEMIC YEAR.

Hamlen brought Hill from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute shortly after she arrived in North Andover. Bellamy had played for Hamlen at UNH before skating on the U.S. Olympic team; she was a volunteer assistant coach at UNH for a year before Hamlen recruited her for Merrimack.

Hamlen said she couldn’t resist the chance to join the start-up program. “It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to start a program from scratch, that’s the number one reason,” he said. “Merrimack has a tremendous amount of potential to be successful.”

Hamlen wants to start winning right away. “I’m slightly competitive,” she said with tongue in cheek. “The goal is to finish above .500 the first season. It’s a lofty goal given the pressures of building a new program and playing in Division III’s powerful Hockey East. The growing process will test Hamlen’s patience. “It’s going to take time,” she said. “It’s like everything else, you don’t build a business overnight.”

Building a team
Since the team isn’t playing yet, Hamlen and Hill have to sell recruits on the college community and their opportunity to get good coaching so they can also play for national or Olympic teams. “The best thing I can say about Merrimack College and our program is the cohesiveness of our college,” Hamlen said. He’s a small community in which everybody on campus is pushing each other to succeed, she said; the school is also in a great location with easy access to Boston for players who enjoy access to urban excitement but are leery of living in a large city.

The first recruits on campus include Jackie Pieper, 18, of Edina, Minn.; Marie Delarhre, 20, of Fuenen, Germany; Jillian Battista, 18, of Buffalo, N.Y.; and Chadlyn Burgio, 18, of Quincy, Mass.

The coaching staff is recruiting hard workers with high-competitive levels who have already shown they will fight to reach their goals, said the coach. “These are players who understand the need to get mentally strong, physically strong and understand they are getting guidance from us,” Hamlen said.

The core four players understand the chance they are getting for tutorial coaching and the coaches are counting on them providing leadership when the other players begin arriving. The players are hard workers and working in the coaching, Bellamy said. “They are spoiled right now because we can do skills (work) one-on-one,” she said. “Next year they are going to be leaders so this is a building year for them.”

Hamlen’s quartet on campus this year all said they want the year to work on the weaknesses in their games. The four will also play rural roles in helping the athletes arriving next year. Every freshman struggles to understand the commitment needed to win at the collegiate level, said the coach.

Players and coaches have their own reasons for loving their sport, and sometimes wax poetic in their description of the game. Hamlen said she loves being able to mentor players, loves the way the sport can bring people with different talents and goals together to create something bigger than themselves. “Primarily, it brings a group of people together who, other than that, may not have that connection,” she said.

Pieper loves the sharp, cold air of an ice rink and the sound of skates cutting across the ice. Hockey is a perfect fit for her because of its physical nature. “I love the intensity and it has a lot of contact, which I love,” she said.

Delarhre is a sports management major and loves the physical nature of the sport, and sometimes wax poetic in her description of the game. “These are players who understand the need to get mentally strong, physically strong and understand they are getting guidance from us,” Hamlen said.

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Delarhre is a sports management major and loves the cerebral part of the game that goes with the physical. “Just that you have to use your feet, hands and head at the same time,” she said. “It’s a quick game, you can score in a couple seconds; it changes quickly, so you have to be ready for anything.”

Delarhre was in a unique position to join the Warriors. “She’s a transfer student from the University of Minnesota at Duluth and she needed to find a home right away. She had been playing for Germany’s Under-18 world team when Duluth recruited her. An older friend was already playing for Duluth, and Delarhre has an aunt living in Minnesota so she thought it would be a good fit. But she didn’t like playing in Duluth and when she started looking for another team, Hamlen invited her for a visit.

She likes the nearby beaches — and North Andover, if you can believe it, is warmer than Duluth in the winter — so Delarhre made the change. Like the other four players she’s exhibiting this year so she won’t lose a year on the ice. It’s a bonus to know she’s a pioneer in helping build the team, Delarhre said. “I’m really excited, happy to be here, just to know you are the first to do something,” she said.

Battista is majoring in education. “I love the Catholic setting, the small classes,” she said.

She looked at many schools but it was the opportunity she’s getting at Merrimack to spend a year working to improve before the collegiate games that made it a go. “I think that is really crucial,” she said. “Especially at Division I level.” There are one-on-one meetings with the coaches in which they break down her game and encourage her in academics.

...AS SOON AS YOU STEP ON THE ICE, EVERYTHING GOES AWAY. NOTHING ELSE MATTERS...
Battista said she enjoys the game so much because it's so peaceful on the ice even in the heat of competition. "It sounds peaceful on the ice even in the away," she said. "Nothing on the ice, everything goes away," she said. "Nothing else matters."

Burgio comes from a hockey family. Both her parents played youth hockey, so when she was just 4 or 5 years old they asked her if she wanted to hit the ice. All the children playing in her house league had to take turns playing goalie. "My very first game as goalie I had a shutout until 29 seconds left in the game and there was a breakaway," Burgio said. The other team scored on her and Burgio couldn't stand the taste that left in her mouth — so she kept going back to play goalie.

"I'm not going to let that one go," she said. Peiper, in an education major around human development with the goal of being a child life specialist or elementary school teacher. Her mother was a figure skater and started teaching Peiper when she was 3 years old, but she was a stubborn student. "I refused to wear figure skates when my mom put me in a figure skating show," she said.

When she was 5, she decided to follow her older brother into hockey. His career was cut short by an off-ice injury but she blossomed into an all-conference and all-state player before Hill began to recruit her and she visited Merrimack's campus. "I fell in love right away," Peiper said.

ATHLETICS CONTINUES DRIVE FOR FULL DIVISION I STATUS

The initiative to move Merrimack athletics fully into Division I is "a top priority for the athletic program and the institution," said Athletic Director Jeremy Gibson — boldly laid out in the college's Agenda for Distinction and passionately but methodically pursued by the college.

"We are very pleased with the feedback that we are doing all of the right things to position Merrimack Athletics to make a successful transition to DI when we receive a conference invitation," Gibson said.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association, which regulates intercollegiate athletics for nearly 1,300 U.S. institutions, organizes competition into three divisions. Merrimack has 24 teams in competition — two, men’s and women’s hockey, classified as Division I, the rest Division II.

"Athletics is very visible — historically, it’s been a source of great pride for the institution," said Gibson. The athletics program has boosted its visibility with such moves as "webstreaming athletics events" and partnerships with "local, regional and national media," including several televised games each season.

That visibility, while important, is one of several factors weighed by Division I athletic conferences when they formally extend an invitation to a school to join. Merrimack has been focusing its efforts on selected Division I organizations, in hopes of receiving an invitation to join a Division I conference in the near future, Gibson said. "We’ve been cutting an eye over such matters as Merrimack’s investment in athletic facilities, the growth and success of programs, coaching staff, scholarships and support services such as athletic training programs."

"We’ve received very positive response from various conferences through our conversations, our visits to those schools and their visits to us," said Gibson. "Ultimately, we need to show them we’re an institution with which they want to be affiliated."

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT:

PRESIDENT’S CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Over 200 players and 30 sponsors enjoyed a bright, sunny day on the Indian Ridge Country Club golf course in support of the President’s Cup Golf Tournament and The Warrior Fund. Through the generosity of the players, sponsors, donors, and volunteers, the tournament raised over $50,000, to help establish The Warrior Fund, which supports Merrimack’s pursuit of excellence for all its student athletes, both in the classroom and on the field. In addition, special thanks go out to the Friends of Merrimack for their continued support of and volunteerism at the Athletic Department.

The momentum created by the tournament will only continue as the College strives to provide the best experience possible for all its student athletes. We look forward to the President’s Cup Golf Tournament becoming a signature event for the Athletic Department.

For more information on the President’s Cup Golf Tournament or The Warrior Fund, please contact Sarah Sceery at 978-837-5554.
A PRIEST FOR ALL SEASONS

FR. JIM WENZEL ‘RETIRES’ BUT HIS WORK — AND LEGACY — CONTINUES

“I will never retire from being a priest,” said the Rev. James McFadden Andrew Wenzel, O.S.A., “or an Augustinian!”

In the fall of 2014, however, Fr. Jim did make the decision to retire from full-time ministry at Merrimack, after 63 years as an Augustinian friar, 58 years as a priest, and 15 years serving at his alma mater. He has been a strong and loving presence on the Merrimack campus — as a priest, a friend, an advisor, a teacher and an Augustinian. Throughout his ministry, Fr. Jim has promoted educational and spiritual programs to foster a love and understanding of St. Augustine of Hippo and the order named for that Father of the Church, which founded and continues to sponsor Merrimack.

He lives his ministry and his Augustinian heritage every day.

In 1947, when Fr. Jim’s parents first brought him to Merrimack, the Augustinian college that had just opened in the Merrimack Valley, he was “none too impressed. Campus consisted of one building on a flat, barren parcel of land; there was nothing but promise to go by, he remembered.”

But after meeting Fr. Joseph Glavich, O.S.A. — one of the school’s original faculty members, serving as dean of languages — he decided to take a chance.

“God brings you to things for a reason,” said Fr. Jim. “I had no intentions of being a priest, either.”

The rest is history. After serving in a variety of postings over what would for most people be a full career, Fr. Jim came full circle back to Merrimack in 1999, and here — at the Elm Street friary — he remains.

Education ministry

From 1999 to 2011, Fr. Jim taught the course “The Life and Times of St. Augustine of Hippo,” two sections each semester, getting to know a good number of students — now alumni — over the years. “Hopefully, the course made the students more aware of their Augustinian roots,” said Fr. Jim.

In addition to classroom learning, Fr. Jim wanted his students to walk in the saint’s footsteps. In 1999, he established the unique experience of “Pellegrinaggio in Italia Agostiniana.” Over 15 years at Merrimack, he has led more than 500 students, faculty, alumni, administrators, staff, parents and friends of the college on a pilgrimage to Italy, visiting important places in Augustine’s life, for 10 days each March during Spring Break.

“Each year has been an incredible experience of being part of a community of friends, learning about St. Augustine and the Augustinian friars by visiting those places in Italy that were a key part of Augustine’s history, while experiencing Augustinian hospitality in the country where the friars began in 1244,” he said.

His ministry, of course, has extended beyond the class and chapel to the playing fields (and rinks) of his beloved Merrimack College athletics. For a reason,” said Fr. Jim. “You always teach me how blessed my life is and has been.”

Merrimack legacy

The signs of Fr. Jim’s long and deep association with Merrimack are everywhere on the North Andover campus.

In celebration of his 50th anniversary as an Augustinian friar, Fr. Jim worked tirelessly to construct a labyrinth, near Austin Hall on Flaherty Way. A labyrinth, he explained, is a metaphor for life’s journey and an opportunity to look inward to one’s heart. At the center of the Merrimack labyrinth is a grotto stone with the Augustinian logo embedded within, and the admonition: “Be of one mind and heart intent upon God.”

The labyrinth was funded by contributions and gifts on the occasion of his ordination anniversary. It was constructed by Jon Murray of campus facilities, with the help of student Michael Lane ’11, as well as the assistance of students, faculty and staff to complete the project on time. At the dedication on October 17, 2009, hundreds of friends, colleagues, former students, and family members filled the labyrinth, a tribute to the man behind the idea.

The labyrinth was dedicated to the memory of Fr. Jim’s parents, William Lawrence Wenzel Sr. and Gertrude Frances McFadden.

Those names also grace the Wenzel-McFadden Augustinian Collection, housed in McGuade Library, which Fr. Jim established in 2001. “The collection has served as a resource in helping develop and foster research on the thoughts of St. Augustine,” he said.

The collection consists of over 521 books in Latin, French, Italian and English, and includes the works of St. Augustine, scholars, commentary, books by priests and brothers, and tomes about the Augustinian Order.

As part of his legacy, Merrimack is offering alumni and friends the opportunity to honor Fr. Jim through the Wenzel Society, which recognizes those who help continue the ministry and mission to which this proud Augustinian dedicated so much of his life and energy.

That dedication, however, is far from its end. In spite of his retirement, you can be sure that Fr. Jim will continue his longtime association with Merrimack Athletics; he will continue to reside at St. Ambrose Friary and maintain his office in the Sakowich Campus Center; he will continue to celebrate some of the daily noon Masses in Austin Hall; and he will continue to foster the personal relationships with his many friends, colleagues and alumni.

In the words of one of his great fans on the football team: “Fr. Jim keeps popping up everywhere!”

(For more information on the Wenzel Society on Pages 15.)
When The Merrimack Fund has the necessary resources, it can...

- Spend $25 to furnish supplies for a student club
- Allocate $100 for a student tutoring stipend
- Earmark $500 to send a student to a national leadership conference
- Allocate $1,000 for lab equipment in the School of Science & Engineering

Your gift matters to Merrimack!

Ways to Give:
- Online: Use our convenient and secure payment site: www.merrimack.edu/gift
- By mail: The Merrimack Fund 315 Turnpike Street North Andover, MA 01845

Thank you!

Be Merrimack Proud.
Donate to The Merrimack Fund today.

There are hundreds, if not thousands of reasons to be Merrimack Proud. We'll bet your time here inspired your own reasons. We'd like to share with you a few of our own favorite reasons:

Abundant & Meaningful Student Life Opportunities
- 50+ student-run organizations
- 15,500 hours of student service through service learning
- 400 students a day working out in the fitness center

Robust Academic Growth
- 90 undergraduate and 8 master’s programs offered
- 25 new faculty members recruited in the last academic year, for a total of 176
- 10 on-campus academic centers

Extensive Financial Aid
- 97% of our student body, or 2,700+ students, receive financial aid
- This year our students were benefited by approximately $44M in financial aid and scholarship
- Financial aid allows Merrimack students to take advantage of academic, personal and spiritual opportunities

Alumni and donors like you keep these opportunities growing. It's proof every gift matters. Help us make the Merrimack experience possible for today's students.

Be Merrimack Proud.
Donate to The Merrimack Fund today.

McQuade Society
The McQuade Society is a tribute to the man who, more than anyone else, made it all possible, the Reverend Vincent A. McQuade, O.S.A. Reverend McQuade served as Merrimack College’s first President and led the College to eventually become a flagship institution of the Merrimack Valley.

For those donors who give $1,000 to $4,999
Classes of 2005–2014 with a $100+ gift
Benefits:
- Invitation to annual Giving Society recognition event(s)
- 10% discount at the bookstore
- Special edition pictorial calendar
- Recognition in Honor Roll of Donors

Austin Society
The Austin Society is inspired by the Catholic faith and the Augustinian tradition of seeking truth through inquiry and dialogue. St. Augustine serves as the inspiration for Merrimack College’s vision to cultivate the intellectual, moral, spiritual, physical, and personal awareness needed to make wise choices for life, career, and service.

For those donors who give $5,000 or more
Benefits:
- Campus concierge service — your personal connection to Merrimack College
- Exclusive giveaways
- Invitation to annual Giving Society recognition event(s)
- 10% discount at bookstore
- Special edition pictorial calendar
- Recognition in Honor Roll of Donors

Wenzel Society
The Wenzel Society is named in honor of Reverend Jim Wenzel, O.S.A. ’52, for his more than 60 years as a beloved member of the Merrimack College community and his lasting influence among alumni, friends, students, and parents of the College.

For those donors who have given for 3+ consecutive years
Benefits:
- Annual commemorative gift
- Recognition in Honor Roll of Donors

To learn more or to make a gift, visit www.merrimack.edu/giving
"WHY WOULD PEOPLE THINK ACCOUNTANTS DON'T LIKE READING AND WRITING?" ASKED ANDREA ROBERTSON ‘79.

Without a doubt, Robertson — who built a long and successful corporate career — believes in supporting opportunities for student creativity.

“I enjoy listening to writers. They’re some of the most thoughtful people,” she said during a recent visit to Merrimack’s Writers House. “We love the free flow of ideas.”

In fact, the retired group executive/corporate treasurer at MasterCard Worldwide, and her husband, Ken, are so enamored of the literary life they have created the Robertson Writers House Innovation Fund. The fund will enhance the college’s Writers in Residence program, establish a creative writing competition for students, and promote collaboration among academic disciplines.

“T have seen big changes in the growth of the college — it’s amazing what Chris (President Christopher E. Hopey) has done to revamp the campus. And what’s even more important is the direction this school is heading.”

“The gift that Andrea and Ken have made to the Writers House is an invaluable one,” said Andrea Cohen, the Writers House director. As the magazine went to press, Cohen greeted Writer-in-Residence Adrian Nicole LeBlanc, who spent 10 years researching her book Random Family, a chronicle of urban poverty. LeBlanc was to meet with classes across several departments, lead a writing workshop and take part in a public discussion with two of the people she wrote about in her book.

Andrea Robertson, who serves on the college’s board of trustees, was a resident student who was involved in student government and graduated as her class valedictorian. She has “seen big changes in the growth of the college — it’s amazing what Chris (President Christopher E. Hopey) has done to revamp the campus. And what’s even more important is the direction this school is heading.”

The Academic Innovation Center, where the Writers House resides, is emblematic of Merrimack’s momentum, Andrea said. “It really sets the college apart. It enlivens and enriches the experience of our students — and it builds our reputation, no question about it.”

Andrea Robertson’s own reputation was built as a corporate leader at PricewaterhouseCoopers, IBM, MasterCard, and R.R. Donnelley & Sons, building a talent for finance and management on the skills she learned as an accounting student at Merrimack.

Now retired, she and Ken began exploring ways to give back, and were drawn by their literary interests to Merrimack’s new Writers House. “We’re really trying to help the college get to the next level,” Andrea said. “We wanted to make a multi-year contribution, so people can plan ahead, and we didn’t want it to be too restrictive, so the Writers House has flexibility.”

Her message to fellow alumni: “You don’t have to make a huge gift to make a huge difference.”
We recently asked alumni to share with us their own reasons for being Merrimack Proud and have highlighted a few below. Have your own sentiment that you would like to share with us? Visit www.merrimack.edu/proud to let us know how Merrimack has been meaningful to you.

Collectively, our stories and sentiments truly illustrate the heart of "Merrimack Proud".

"My Merrimack experience was an important turning point in my life. The valuable education that I received on all levels—physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual—helped to form my life-long love of education, self-development, and service to others. I am proud of having been part of this educational institution."  
Anne Marie Dorgan '66

"I am Merrimack Proud because Merrimack has helped to shape the person I am today. At MC I met friends that will last a lifetime, professors that will forever serve as advisors and life guides—and lived in a community that I am proud to still call home."  
Mary Unis 'U

"I'm Merrimack Proud because the seeds sown by Merrimack continue to blossom and flourish throughout our country and around the world. Merrimack Strong!"  
Dave Pasquarello '81

"I am proud to be a Merrimack alumna because my education at Merrimack gave me the advantage of having a successful career as a teacher. Merrimack has enriched the life of my family."  
Judith Teehan Winston '64

"I am Merrimack Proud because being a Merrimack alumnus has opened doors and provided me with life-long friendships and resources."  
Mark Lindquist '11

"I am Merrimack Proud because Merrimack has set me up and prepared me to do once I graduated. I am also proud of the advancements the institution is making."  
Anthony Andreucci '13

"I am Merrimack Proud because Merrimack provided me with great opportunities and the tools to jump start and advance my career."  
Karen O'Rourke '82

"I am Merrimack Proud because of everything Merrimack has set me up and prepared me to do once I graduated. I am also proud of the advancements the institution is making."  
Anthony Andreucci '13

"I am Merrimack Proud because Merrimack has set me up and prepared me to do once I graduated. I am also proud of the advancements the institution is making."  
Anthony Andreucci '13

"I am Merrimack Proud because of the forever memories, friendships, and opportunities that came as a result of being a Merrimack student and alumnus."  
Lindsay Hutton '02

"I am Merrimack Proud because of the tradition of excellent higher education in my field of accounting and finance and its reputation in the marketplace. I receive intangible value from my degree at Merrimack College."  
Kevin Rhodes '91

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"I am Merrimack Proud due to the invaluable experience and career advantages provided by the Cooperative Education program."  
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Philadelphia,” which he and two friends wrote and initially struck gold with the television series “It's Always Sunny in
and over again … but I was in the fight. I was taking punches,

Of his post-Merrimack acting career, he said, “I did fail, over
some sort of medieval pastry chef.”

ceremony, and observed that in academic garb he looked “like

world with advice on succeeding by failing.

By turns hilarious and thoughtful, the keynoter — “Dr. Charlie
SHOULD DO WHAT MAKES YOU GREAT.”

Charlie Day ’98, Hon. ’14, star of
stage, screen and the Lawler Arena dais, wowed 320 bachelor's
degree recipients, their families and friends at Merrimack’s 64th
commencement ceremony.

In street clothes, Day had joined several commencement-weekend
events, touring campus with
President Christopher E. Hopey
and obligingly joining scores
of "selfies" with students, faculty
and staff.

The former visual and performing arts major from Rhode Island

YOU HAPPY.” SAID
SHOULD DO JUST
WHAT MAKES
SPEAKER, CHARLIE
SHOULD DO WHAT
COMMENCEMENT
MERRIMACK’S
DAY. “I THINK YOU
MAKES YOU GREAT.”

Alumna Jade Scarpa also addressed her fellow graduates.
Chong was also presented with an honorary doctorate. Education
professionals with social-justice organizations — addressed

Jimmy Chong, founder and CEO of Catchafirc — which links

applause, praise from Day and nearly 20,000 YouTube views
a New York apartment; it is now in its 10th season,
with two more under contact.

“Don't wait for your break. Make your break. Go make it happen
for yourself,” Day said. “You cannot let fear of failure … stop
you from doing what's going to make you great.”

"Fail and pick yourself up and fail again," he urged. "You don't
have to be fearless. Just don't let fear stop you."

Saying he was intimidated after viewing several commencement
speeches by other comics and actors on YouTube, Day urged

the social sciences.

Tierney and his grandfather were unable to attend the annual Legacy reception
day before commencement — honoring the 48 seniors whose forebears
also attended the school by presenting them with Legacy Medallions to wear
during graduation — but the college delivered their medallions in time for the
big ceremony.

The next day when his name was called, Tierney walked not to his dean, but
to his grandfather in the first row on the dais in Lawler Arena.

“You can really be proud of the accomplishment I had to date, and the fact
somebody who went to the very first class and gave me my degree is very special,”
said Tierney. “It was something I was looking forward to for a long time.”

“It was also cool because not only was he in the (Pioneer) graduating class,
he was the very first Cardinal Gushing award winner, so he was wearing
that,” Tierney said. The Cushing Medal honors the top-ranked graduate in the
social sciences.

The graduation did cause some angst for Tierney’s mother, Patricia. Her other
son, Conor, who’s a year younger than Christopher, graduated from Springfield
College the same day and she couldn’t be at both ceremonies.

“I had a broken heart — I couldn’t be in two places at once, but given that my dad
could be on stage with Chris, I knew that’s where I had to be,” she said. Tierney’s
father, George, attended Conor’s commencement.

Christopher Tierney, also of Natick, was a political science major with a minor
in history who transferred to Merrimack as a second-semester sophomore.

While he was in college he worked on the re-election campaign of Massachusetts
Gov. Deval Patrick in 2010, then as an intern for the state Democratic Party in the
spring of 2012, leading up to the presidential election. After graduation he began
work for Attorney General Martha Coakley’s gubernatorial campaign.

“I’ve really enjoyed it. This is the third campaign I’ve worked on and learned a lot
from each one,” he said. “It reinforces that this is what I want to do long-term.”

Merrimack’s proud Legacy tradition includes almost 10 percent of the student
body; 73 members of the Class of 2018 have family connections to alumni or
alumnae. The Office of Development and Alumni Relations celebrates this
tradition by hosting annual Legacy events and by sharing interesting Legacy
stories. Send yours to alumnirelations@merrimack.edu.
MERRIMACK MAKING ROOM

Compass Program Opens New Suite
With a strip of oversized scissors and a burst of applause, Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., cut a ribbon to open the new Compass suite on the third floor of Deegan East in September. The four-year-old program works with students believed to be at risk of struggling academically.

“Compass is central to what we do as an institution,” Hopey told the group of faculty, students and staff who gathered to christen the suite. “We do as an institution,” he said. “Who are those students? Those are our students.”

In September, a new physics lab/collection was opened, complete with mobile furniture for group work, laptops, and multiple white boards allowing problem-solving and experiential activities, and group discussion, as a way of engaging students in lectures and labs at the same time. “Students are more engaged, more exploratory and more actively learning,” said Dean of the School of Science and Engineering Mary Noonan.

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Shuttle Service to meet the needs of the Merrimack students, a shuttle service has been established to serve in North Andover, Andover and Methuen to shopping, dining and housing destinations. The shuttle runs from the stop outside the Dunkin’ Donuts in the Merrimack Athletics Complex to Royal Crest, the Andover Train Station, Fullbrookers, Rocky’s Ace Hardware, and the Leop in Methuen, to name a few. This service gives students more options for shopping, dining, and other activities beyond campus.

Four Spaces
As the magazine went to press, the college opened a new Common Prayer Room, on the third floor of the Sakowich Campus Center, to serve students of all faith traditions, providing a private place in which to worship and facilities for ablutions. “The college broke ground on its long-planned North Campus development, which will primarily consist of new residence halls, with a planned fall 2015 opening. Look for details in the next Merrimack Magazine.”

Newly Elected
Chairman Thomas J. Kinton ’74

Thomas J. Kinton ’74, newly elected chair of Merrimack’s board of trustees, has a long career of leadership and management in the transportation industry. Kinton retired from the Massachusetts Port Authority, also known as Massport, after a 35-year career and is now president of the global firm Kinton Aviation Consulting. The firm offers guidance to clients throughout the aviation industry on strategic and analytical issues. He started his career working with Massport after graduating from Merrimack. He served as manager of airport facilities and then deputy director and director of aviation operations, in which post he oversaw Logan International Airport in Boston, Hanscom Field in Bedford and Worcester Regional Airport.

Kinton was named CEO and executive director of Massport in 2006, holding the post until his retirement in 2011. During his tenure as CEO Kinton set an aggressive agenda for customer service improvements and the expansion and modernization of the air and sea services that connect Massachusetts and New England to markets throughout the United States and the world. He prioritized safety and security measures for all Massport transportation facilities.

Kinton was also responsible for the cause and container terminal, as well as the public cruise ship terminals at the Port of Boston. He oversaw development of Massport-owned properties as well as the operations of the Mystic Tobin Bridge tolls.

The college awarded Kinton an honorary doctorate in 2007, and he was the under-graduate commencement speaker in 2011. The Very Rev. Michael F. DiGregorio, O.S.A., installed as the 39th Prior Provincial of the Order of St. Augustine, St. Thomas of Villanova Province in June — also took his seat as one of Merrimack’s new trustees. DiGregorio is a native of Staten Island, N.Y., and now lives at St. Thomas Monastery on the campus at the University of Villanova.

Kinton started his ministerial career at St. Augustine Church in Andover in 1973. He was assigned to a Bronx parish from 1977 to 1983 before returning to the Merrimack Valley as novice master for the Good Counsel Novitiate in Lawrence from 1984 to 1996. In 1989, he was transferred to St. Augustine Friary in Villanova as director of students, and then in 1990 was named communications director for the order’s General Curia in Rome. He returned to the United States to direct the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia in Philadelphia in 1992, later serving as pastor of St. Rita’s Parish. In 2007 he returned to Rome as vicar general, assistant general for North America, and a member of the General Council until 2013.

Trustee Robert F. Edmunds Jr. ’66

Robert F. Edmunds Jr. ’66 was elected to the board of trustees in 2014, and serves on the board’s Investment and Academic Affairs and Student Experience committees. He is owner and chairman of the family business, Edmunds Gage, which was founded in 1930. The Farmington, Conn., firm makes gages calibrated within one-tenth of an inch for the metal trades. Edmunds is also an independent director of First Connecticut Bancorp, Inc., which is the holding company for Farmington Bank. He has been active in the Merrimack community, as part of the President’s Advisory Board, the Business Advisory Board, the Focus Group JUCX, and serving as an alumni resource.

As a collegian, he was a member of the golf team and served as its captain in the 1963 and 1964 seasons. Edmunds lives with his wife, Mary Louise “Mary Lou” Edmunds ’66, they split time among their homes in West Hartford, Conn., Charleston, S.C., and Naples, Fla.
**PROVOST CAROL GLOD**

Merrimack’s ninth provost, who also holds the post of senior vice president for academic affairs, Carol Glod was drawn to the college by its striking upward trajectory — and by the richness of its academic programs. “Merrimack is attracting a talented faculty with a commitment to teaching as well as vital research interests, and a big pool of students who share a desire to immerse themselves in their fields of study,” she said.

A long-range researcher and teacher, Glod joined the college from Salem State University, where she was dean of the School of Graduate Studies and professor of nursing, helping build graduate and interdisciplinary programs. Previously she was research director and professor of nursing at Northeastern University’s Bouvé College of Health Science, and has lectured at Harvard Medical School.

“Dr. Glod joins Merrimack at a key moment: the outset of Phase II of our Agenda for Distinction, with its far-reaching implications for teaching, research and our student-centered mission,” said President Christopher E. Hoey. “Her counsel will prove invaluable at this historic juncture in Merrimack’s history.”

Drawing on 25 years as a teacher and researcher, Glod will preside over expanding graduate programs and a growing emphasis on research. “The growth of graduate programs is more evidence of the college’s attractiveness to serious students who want to advance their careers by expanding their academic credentials,” she said.

With her primary emphasis on psychiatric disorders, Glod conducted research at McLean Hospital and served as principal investigator on a multicenter trial of light therapy with her colleagues at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and the University of Minnesota. Her program of research focuses on the psychobiology and psychopharmacologic treatment of those with psychiatric disorders with an emphasis on major mood disorders. She has more than 60 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters in prestigious journals that focus on circadian rhythms, seasonal affective disorder in both children and adults, and clinical trials of psychiatric medications and light therapy.

A Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, and a registered nurse, Glod holds her Ph.D. and M.S. in nursing from Boston College and a bachelor’s in English from the University of Pennsylvania. She holds her Ph.D. and M.S. in nursing from Boston College and a bachelor’s in English from the University of Pennsylvania. She is past president of the American Academy of Nursing and a fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She has served on numerous national committees and boards and has received numerous awards for her work in the field of hospice and palliative care.

**NEWS**

**NEW FACULTY 2014–15**

Aaron Adair, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Physics

Thomas Andersen, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of World History

Bryan Bannon, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Philosophy and Director of Environmental and Sustainability Studies

Paula Bordogna, M.S. Instructor of Mathematics

Jaleh Dashiti-Gibson, Ph.D. Assistant Professor and Director of Professional Preparation in the Graduate School of Education

Christopher Duston, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Physics

Paul Fiermonte, Ed.D. Assistant Professor of Health Sciences

Danielle Flam, M.A. Assistant Professor of Management

John Gallagher, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering

John Giordano, M.A. Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Arts

Alicia Girgenti, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Social Work

Aaron Adair, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Sociology

Patricia Howson, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Graduate Education

Richard Meegan, M.A.T. Assistant Professor of Graduate Education

Thomas Nolan, Ed.D. Associate Professor of Criminology

Caitlin Phifer, Ph.D. Teaching Post-Doctoral Fellow in Mathematics

Brian Provencher, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Psychology

Autumn Ridenour, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Religious and Theological Studies

Alison Russell, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Political Science/International Studies

Christine Shaw, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Education

Zee Sherman, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Education

Andrew Smith, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Marketing

Zackery Vernon, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Contemporary Literature

Fang Zhao, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Accounting
The Faculty Development Committee, chaired by the Rev. Rick Piatt and including professors Krista Olsen, Xiaorong Shen and Susan Vorderer, announced Faculty Development Grants for the current academic year for 33 members of the faculty. The faculty members, and their research or writing projects, are:


Tae soo Ahn, sport management: Examining the Effect of Discount Frame and Team Identification on Ticket Bidding.

Brandy Benedict, math: Modeling the Spatial Dynamics of cholera in Post-Earthquake Haiti.

Sandra Raponi, philosophy: A Pluralist Approach to Global Distributive Justice.

Li He, political science: China’s Transformation: Ideas Shaping the Reform of Post-Mao China.


Zhao, a native of Pianjin, joined Merrimack this fall as one of 25 new faculty members. "Accounting itself is a very technical business," said Zhao, who plans to major in Accounting. "It’s a field as one of 25 new faculty members. Accounting itself is a very technical business," said Zhao, who plans to major in Accounting. "It’s a field of science in accounting (i.e., a master’s degree in the field)," said Zhao, who plans to major in Accounting. "It’s a field of study, a major in Accounting, and much less ambiguity in accounting," Zhao said. "When I teach them, when I talk to them, I feel motivated by them," Zhao said. She was a student for a long time, and is careful to recognize each of her students’ own learning curves and understand some topics are easier than others to understand. "When I’m teaching, I’m also learning the topics more in depth," Zhao said. "For me, teaching is the best way to learn."
Alumni News

57


58

Patricia Maney Gorton, after retiring from Holy Family Hospital, Methuen as a microbiologist, was contacted by Northeastern University, asking if she would be interested in being one of several other retired scientists and engineers to be volunteer mentors in middle and high school STEM labs (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Patricia took the one full day for ten weeks training and now volunteers at St. Mary’s, Lynn. The program at NEU is RE-SEED: Referees Enhancing Science and Engineering through Experiments and Demonstrations. The RE-SEED volunteers have an annual conference each December where they hear great speakers and learn about new STEM experiments. [1]

61

John Keon celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary to fellow Merrimack alumna Claire Savage Keon ’62 on 8/10/13 at Rye Beach, NH with their children and their families.

63

Lucille Bova Guzzone and her husband, Ben, who is also a 1963 graduate of Merrimack, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 28, 2013. Ruth Trepanier and her husband, Joe, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 28, 2013.

64

Brian St. Onge was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Selectmen for the town of Farmington, NH. Brian is also a long-time member of the town’s Budget Committee and serves on the Economic Development Committee.

65

Robert O’Neill is retiring with his wife of 43 years to Gilbert, AZ, about three miles southeast of Phoenix, after 26 years as Bunnin Librarian, Boston College, and 15 years as Part Time Faculty, Political Science, Boston College. The 3rd edition of Robert’s book, “Irish Libraries, Archives, Museums and Genealogical Centres” (Belfast, NL: Ulster Historical Foundation, 2013), was released in November 2013. Helen and Robert have six children and 5 grandchildren.

70 – REUNION 2015

Steven Careau recently published a book titled Invention and Understanding: A Pedagogical Guide To Three Dimensions. The book was written by New Academia Publishing in Washington, D.C.

71


Sam Donnellon’s work was honored in two separate ceremonies over a weekend in State College, PA by both The Pennsylvania Associated Press Managing Editors and The Keystone Awards. “Runnin’ with Chipppah”, Donnellon’s look at the New England roots of Philadelphia Eagles coach Chip Kelly, won first place in the feature writing category for major newspapers. A collection of his works, which included a commentary about the Boston Marathon bombing and a look at the complex relationship between former Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb and the city, received a Kezarine Award for best column writing.

83

Kristen Salines Bradlee was the spring 2013 course in which was originally started in 1910 as a traveling food wagon that went from town to town, was moved to its permanent location in 1953 by Al McDermott, its name sake. Serving breakfast all day long, you can wash as your food is prepared on the flat top while sitting at the counter or relax in one of the booths enjoying a milkshake, fresh-made burgers, or any one of the scratch made dinners and desserts proudly served by their staff. For the late night crowd, they are open Fridays and Saturdays from 7:00 – 4:00 a.m. Come visit Susan on your way to the Cape or if you are in the area!

86

Kim Morsel Round earned a Ph.D. in Computing Technology in Education at Nova Southeastern University. She leads the Instructional Technology and Design Center at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH. Kim’s husband, Bruce Round ’84, reside in North Andover.

90 – REUNION 2015

Patricia Merrill retired from the Department of Correction - MCI Concord, on June 29, 2013, after almost 22 years of service at the following institutions: MCI Framingham (16 yrs), MCI Walpole (4 yrs) and finishing at MCI Concord.

93

Andrew Widmer has been hired to teach at Catholic University and help build a new School of Business, received this past January, Andrews’ specific focus is to create an entrepreneurship program that focuses on undergraduate, graduate and executive education.

Christopher McDermott just completed his 21st Pan Mass Challenge (PMC). The PMC is a 2-day bicycle ride from Sturbridge to Providence to raise money for Cancer research. He is well on his way to hitting a goal this year of raising $7,000 himself, and the entire ride raised $40,000. For the second year in a row, he has raised over $70,000 for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. People can donate by going to www.pmc.org/goto/CMI013.
01 Nichole Kelly started her own business as a Wardrobe Stylist/Personal Shopper for men and women. Anyone interested is welcome to contact Nichole via email at Nicholekelly@hotmail.com.

02 Dr. Kevin E. Finn, ATC, CSCS was recently tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Merrimack College. Steven Lynch and his wife Tiffany work as Real Estate Consultants with Exit Realty in Middleton, MA. They cover North of Boston and would love to help other alumni sell or buy their next home! Contact them at lynchtteam@exitrealtya.com.

03 Sarah Roth Osten just opened her own boutique in Winthrop, MA called La Petite Boutique (lapetiteboutique.us). After living in France for nearly twenty years after graduating from Merrimack, she has returned home to open a boutique inspired boutique with designer and vintage garments/accessories.

04 Kyle Wescott is in his 11th year teaching Mathematics at Marthas Vineyard High School and was named the Department Head for 9-12 Mathematics this year. Lauren Davis and William Dylan Stumpf were engaged for Tufts University School of Medicine for Physician Assistant studies.

05 Melissa Labrie recently moved to PA to accept the Associate Director of Financial Aid position at Moravian College. Melissa worked 6 1/2 years in Financial Aid at Southern New Hampshire University and has her MBA ’09 and MS ’13 from Southern New Hampshire University. In addition, she has a two time IRONMAN finisher - Lake Placid ’12 and Arizona ’13.

06 Meghan Grady was honored with the 2013 Young Alumni Achievement Award this year by Roger Williams University in June. Meghan graduated with a Master’s in Administration from RWU in 2008. Michael Berry was reelected to his second three year term on the Walpole Board of Selectmen in June. Prior to that, Michael served one term on the Walpole School Committee from 2007-2010. Laura Nelson completed the University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston’s online program in Blood Bank Technology. She then passed her national certification exam through the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and is now nationally certified as a Medical Laboratory Scientist and Specialist in Blood Banking.

07 Josh Blaszak has been promoted to Senior Analyst after working as an Analyst for two years at Staples. Bryanna also got married on April 5th, 2014. Felicia Sorrentino just started a new job in August as the Financial Aid Counselor for the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University.

08 Christine Weiland recently managed Criminal Records for the American Society of Abortion Providers. She has served as the Director of Criminal Justice Counseling at Merrimack College’s Master’s in Education program in Corrections. Christine continues to work in orthopedic surgery as a nurse practitioner.

09 Kathleen Hall became engaged to Dr. John Burtenshaw at his home. Living in Worcester, MA, she continues to work in orthopedic surgery as a nurse practitioner.

10 – REUNION 2015 Nicole MacLeod got engaged on July 4, 2013. Bryanna Violette recently got promoted to Senior Analyst after working as an Analyst for two years at Staples. Bryanna also got married on April 5th, 2014. Brian Caia was recently named Head Varsity Boys’ Basketball coach at Stoneham High School in Stoneham, MA.

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12 Ashley Childers will be matriculating in January at Tufts University School of Medicine for Physician Assistant studies.

Candy McLaughlin recently got hired at the Plummer Home for Boys in Salem, MA as their Development/ Social Media Volunteer Coordinator (started the position on September 2013). Previously, she served as an AmeriCorps member with Social Capital Inc. in Woburn, MA (a year-of-service position) after graduating from Merrimack College’s Master’s in Education program in Social Work from Boston College. They will marry June 2015 in Santa Ana, California.

13 Danielle Donovan graduated with her Master’s of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from Coastal Carolina University in May 2014. Danielle will start her new job at Walter & Shuffin in Fall 2014.

Amanda Howard, M.Ed. completed a 2 year of service with Amata House, a Catholic Volunteer Network program. His service placement is at a legal aid clinic that offers free legal representation for family law, housing law, criminal defense, and criminal records.

Kathryn Gandier is living in Dublin, Ireland. As part of the program Sport Changes Life, she is working with at-risk youth in Dublin through basketball, playing basketball for a club in Dublin, and getting her MS in Business and Management at Trinity College.

Felicia Sorrentino just started a new job in August as the Financial Aid Counselor for the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University. Nicole Meaney BA ’13 M. Ed. ’13, Helena Barbosa ’13, and Kirsten Dube ’13 are volunteering for an organization called the International Child Abduction Awareness Foundation (ICAAF). The introductory event took place on Sunday, September 7th, at The Democracy Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Weddings

73 Joanne Kurk is happy to announce that she married her sweet heart of 23 years, Ronald Pena, on August 31, 2013.

94 Kenneth Farmer got married in July 2014.

04 Rachel Cordeiro married Raymond Kenney in Newport, RI on November 10, 2013. I'd
CLASS NOTES

05 – REUNION 2015
Kellie Mixon married Ryan Shea on August 10, 2013. In attendance were Merrimack alumni Katie (Mixon) Fay ’02 and Jeremiah Smith ’11.

06

08
Kendra Lima Maltais married her husband Daniel at the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher on October 13, 2013.

12
Bethany Emerson Durkee married Ryan Durkee ’09 on 5/11/13. In attendance were many Merrimack College warriors, including bridesmaid Yanil Rojas ’11, best man Ben Jordan ’09, Laura DeVincent Jordan ’09, Ryan Perreault ’09, Laura Pallone ’09, Jon Moore ’09, Mike Poirier ’09, Ronnie Colaianni ’08, Alex Swanson ’10, Professors Carole Sokolowski, Michael Bradley ’78, Patricia Strazdins, and family and friends. It was a blast!

13
Samantha A. (Tyler) Bellows, M.Ed. ’13 married Lewis W. Bellows on June 27, 2013 in Plymouth, NH. Maid of Honor was Alena Krystofolski, M.Ed. ’12.

05 New Additions
05 – REUNION 2015
Dela (Shafer) Fulweiler and husband, Peter, welcomed a son, Oliver Gregor, on January 21, 2014. He joins brothers Ignatius and Theodore.

06
Alessandra Giuggio became the proud mother to a son, Jeremy, on July 24, 2012. Alessandra works at Massachusetts General Hospital as an Administrator in the Psychiatry Department.

07
Julie Marsh Tagliamonte welcomed her second son on 4/17/12, Nathan William Tagliamonte, little brother to Christian Tagliamonte.

08
Annmary Cullen Geist and family welcomed a 7lb, 5oz healthy baby girl on October 3, 2013. Julia Susan joins big brother, Jack (age 4), and big brother Samuel (age 5).

10
Jennifer (Ambrosino) Sienkiewicz and husband, Mark, announced the birth of their daughter, Vivian Estelle Rottner, on April 29, 2014. 

11
Robert, on July 12, 2013 at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. "08
Robert Rottner welcomed their first child, Parker Timothy, on 10/29/13. "09
Robert, on July 12, 2013. With big sister Kate, age 6 and James, age 4."

13
Cathleen McGuire Bellao and husband Cameron Bellao proudly welcomed their first child, Aidan Joseph, born on 1/16/13 at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. "09
Cathleen McGuire Bellao and the proud mother to a healthy little boy.

10
Rod’s Girard and his wife, Rose Hodgson Gaudreau ’08 welcomed their son, Jayce Robert Gaudreau ’08, on October 28, 2013. Katelyn Souers Trudell welcomed daughter Isla Anne Trudell on 1/3/13.

19
Schenes [Sorrenti] Trudell welcomed daughter Isla Anne Trudell on 1/3/13, 6.15lbs; 19.5inches. [Xander] is a happy, healthy little man! [7]

20
Robert, on October 28, 2013. He weighed 6 lbs, 1/2 ounce and is a happy, healthy little boy.

24
Becky (Buckley) Fleming and Andy Fleming welcomed their first child, a son, Timothy Brendan, on November 27, 2013.

06
Donna Novak Arsenault and her husband, Jonathan Arsenault welcomed their first child, Parker Timothy Arsenault, on Sept 26, 2013. He weighed 6 lbs, 1/2 ounce and is a happy, healthy little boy.

Cynthia Keenan Binari had a son, Brady Patrick Binari, on 10/29/13.

Cathleen McGuire Bellao and husband Cameron Bellao proudly welcomed their first child, Aidan Joseph, born on 1/16/13 at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. [10]

08

09
Joseph Gaudreau and his wife, Rose Hodgson Gaudreau ’08 welcomed their son, Jayce Robert Gaudreau ’08, into the world on October 28, 2013.

11
Amy Mulligan Schiripo and her husband, Alex welcomed their first child- a son- on June 5th, 2013. Alexander Jr. (Xander) is a happy, healthy addition to Amy and Alex’s budding family.

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Passages

57

John J. McCarron, 81, died peacefully surrounded by his loving family. He was the beloved husband of Mary H. (Diaz) McCarron, who survives him, and with whom he celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. John received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Merrimack College in 1957. A veteran of the Korean War, he served in the U.S. Navy in logistics in Miramar, San Diego, Calif. Prior to his retirement, John was a probation officer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the Ayer District Court for over 18 years.

66

Kathleen M. Shortill, 69, of Venice, Fla. Passed away on August 30, 2014. A long-time teacher and guidance counselor, Kathy taught and counseled for nearly 30 years. She is survived by her son, Michael Doumitt; and daughter Melissa Levin.

82

Thomas P. Corey, 53, of Woonsocket, R.I. died unexpectedly on June 14, 2014. He was an 1982 graduate of Merrimack College. Tom was a captain for the Woonsocket Fire Department and served as fire marshal, retiring in 2012. He played hockey at Merrimack, and continued to play into his adult years. Tom leaves his sons, Timothy Corey of Woonsocket and Jonathan Corey of No. Smithfield.

William Russell, professor emeritus who taught education at Merrimack College from 1967 to 2004, died on July 16, 2014 at his home. He was a long-time member of the Faculty Senate and had served as senate president.

Anthony “Tony” J. Sakowich, benefactor of the Anthony Sakowich Recreation Complex within the Gladys Sakowich Campus Center which opened in 2007, died on February 1, 2014. Mr. Sakowich was a successful investor, and a prodigious philanthropist. His generosity toward Merrimack College will be forever engrained in the hearts of its student body who enjoy the facilities on campus.

December

3 A Festival of Lessons and Carols 7 p.m. (Our Mother of Good Counsel Chapel, Austin Hall) Free. Presented by the Merrimack College Schola and directed by Dr. Hugh Hinton.

4 Alumni Christmas Party (Bost)on

5 Tony Kenny’s “Christmas Time in Ireland” 7:30 p.m. (Rogers Center)

10 Building Community, Reaching for Justice Speaker Series: Nelson Butten Murray Lounge)

13 A Festival of Lessons and Carols 7 p.m. (Rogers Center)

21 John Denver Musical Tribute with Ted Vigil 7:30 p.m. (Rogers Center)

31 13th Annual A Cappella Night Starring National Marionette Theatre presents “A Very Jazzy Christmas” 7 p.m. (Rogers Center) Free, with donations accepted to benefit Lazarus House.

January

24 Graduate Admissions Open House Fellowship Program Info Session 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

31 National Marionette Theatre presents “Aladdin” 2 p.m. (Rogers Center)

February

10 Warrior Welcome Back Reception 5-7 p.m. (Cascia Hall)

March

14 Destination Florida: Naples St. Patrick’s Day Parade

May

15-17 Commencement Weekend

June

10 A Festival of Light and Hope at Merrimack.
REUNION WEEKEND RE-CAP

Merrimack College alumni celebrated a successful Reunion Weekend, as the College welcomed over 500 alumni and friends back to campus June 6-8, 2014 for a weekend full of exciting events and activities to reconnect with classmates and celebrate the future of Merrimack College.

The weekend kicked off with the Warrior Welcome Party, an event that has become an annual tradition, open to all Merrimack College alumni. They enjoyed the beer garden style ambiance and international cuisine stations at the recently renovated Merrimack Athletics Complex, taking in the jazzy sounds of Liquid Audio while viewing a vibrant fireworks display.

Saturday morning provided an opportunity for guests to take a tour of a local winery or the option to stay on campus and enjoy the afternoon sunshine at the cookout (a favorite family-friendly event) Alumni spanning the generations and future Warriors alike enjoyed the outdoor picnic, ice cream novelties, and lawn games. Alumni who graduated between 1951 and 1963 gathered for an afternoon campus trolley tour and Golden Graduate Luncheon, reminiscing about their favorite Merrimack memories while taking in Merrimack’s newest additions to the campus. In addition, members of the Class of 1964, the 50th Reunion class, were later inducted into the Golden Graduate Society during a special Mass service in Cascia Hall and afterwards enjoyed a special class dinner.

Alumni in milestone Reunion years celebrated Saturday evening at the Class Dinners and Party On celebration, enjoying the whimsical summer evening themed decor in the MPR and opportunity to reconnect with classmates. After dinner, guests danced the night away, keeping the dance floor full all evening to the greatest hits of the 70s, 80s, 90s, and 2000s. We thank all alumni, friends, and guests who joined us for Reunion Weekend 2014 and hope to see you at next year’s Warrior Welcome Party on June 5, 2015!
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