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Merrimack College Record

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Merrimack College has launched its Together for Good campaign, a historic effort aimed at raising $50 million by 2019. Hundreds of alumni and supporters joined events on campus celebrating the campaign, which has raised more than $28 million to date.

“This is the largest fundraising campaign in our history,” said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. “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.”

During the Hopey administration, Merrimack has nearly doubled its undergraduate population, created more than 20 graduate programs, attracted world-class faculty members, built two new student housing complexes and modernized athletics, teaching and learning facilities. Together for Good will continue this momentum by facilitating strategic investments in infrastructure, academic programs, support services, athletics, student experiences and scholarships. Specifically, the campaign will help to:

- Enhance the new Academic Success Center, which provides critical one-on-one advising, tutoring and mentoring services for students.

Merrimack College offers an exciting program to eligible college employees and their qualifying dependent children: the tuition exchange program. Tuition exchange opens doors and creates opportunities through its reciprocal educational scholarship program, allowing the possibility for dependent children of eligible employees to significantly defray their higher education costs by receiving exchange scholarships to other participating educational institutions.

Merrimack is a member of the Tuition Exchange Program, which is composed of over 600 institutions that award more than 6,000 scholarships annually to dependents of its members’ eligible employees. These scholarship opportunities, while not guaranteed, are a benefit offered to all eligible employees annually.

As administered by Merrimack, the tuition exchange program is available to:

- Merrimack employees with three years of full-time service (or the equivalent of three years of full-time service if hired prior to July 1, 2005).
- Whose dependent child is a high school senior or older.
- Whose child is interested in pursuing an undergraduate education.

Any eligible employee interested in being sponsored for one of the scholarship opportunities must return a completed application for sponsorship, which can be found on the human resources page of MyMack under “Tuition” (where one can also find the list of participating institutions). The application for sponsorship for the 2017-18 tuition exchange program

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Academic Technology Offers New Trainings

The academic technology team in information services will begin offering technology training workshops for Merrimack staff later this month.

The first session, Getting the Most Out of Gmail, will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 25, and will demonstrate the many ways to organize email to increase user efficiency. Participants will also learn how:
- Email integrates with other Google services.
- To use email filters.
- To create and configure out-of-office messages.
- To create a mail merge with Gmail.

Those interested in attending should send an email to askit@merrimack.edu. Personalized trainings are available upon request.

To view the complete schedule of upcoming workshops, please visit the new academic technology page on MyMack.

Work-Order Requests Can Be Made Online or via Mobile App

Requests for repairs or cleaning services by the Division of Facilities can be made both online and through a mobile app.

On the college home page, click on “maintenance requests” under the “Logins” column. It will take you to a log-in screen for your Merrimack email address and password. The tab “Work Orders” allows you to specify the campus location and specific need.

The system also allows you to track work orders in progress.

Downloading the app “MobileFacilities” and logging in with email address and password permits the same functionality on a smart phone.

Requests for future renovations should be directed to your dean, department chair or vice president.

For emergencies that threaten life or safety, you should always call the Merrimack College Police Department at ext. 5911.

More Than 700 Guests ‘Fall for Merrimack’

On Oct. 16, Merrimack College welcomed 734 guests, including 291 prospective undergraduate students, to campus for the Fall for Merrimack Open House.

After a “Warrior Welcome” presentation in the Rogers Center for the Arts, guests had the opportunity to meet with faculty, staff and current students; attend an academic and campus life fair; learn about the admission and financial aid process; and take a tour of campus.

Hautanen thanked all staff and faculty for supporting the college’s recruitment efforts.

The next Fall for Merrimack open house is on Sunday, Nov. 6.
Mack Gives Back Scheduled for Nov. 5

Hands to Help is encouraging members of the college community to participate in Merrimack’s annual day of service, Mack Gives Back, on Saturday, Nov. 5.

The event, which honors the nation’s military veterans, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at dozens of sites in the Merrimack Valley and beyond.

“The college really values community service and giving back,” said Hands to Help Director Alisha Reppucci. “So it’s a perfect opportunity for us to make a difference in our community.”

Merrimack College was founded for veterans returning from World War II, so it is appropriate that the event “honors those who have served by serving others,” Reppucci said.

There are scores of sites participating in this year’s Mack Gives Back, including the Bellevue Cemetery, Lawrence; Challenge Unlimited at Ironstone Farm, Andover; Cor Unum Meal Center, Lawrence; Emmaus House, Haverhill; Food for Children, Manchester, New Hampshire; IMEC in North Andover; Project Home Again, Lawrence; Salem Animal Rescue League in New Hampshire; and The Wish Project, Lowell.

Public works departments in several Massachusetts and New Hampshire communities will also enlist the help of Mack Gives Back volunteers.

“All of the sites we choose are nonprofits and public organizations, so I am hoping we can help them out,” Reppucci said. “The DPWs are using over 100 students to clean up.”

Mack Gives Back will start with an eye-opener brunch in Murray Lounge.

To register or learn more about the event, visit merrimack.edu/mackgivesback.
2017 Employee Benefits Open Enrollment Period

Wednesday, Oct. 26 – Wednesday, Nov. 16

- Medical
- Dental
- Vision
- Medical Flexible Spending
- Dependent Care Flexible Spending

Watch for more information from the Office of Human Resources via Merrimack email.

Tuition Exchange Opens Doors, Opportunities

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must be returned to Patricia Sonia in human resources at soniap@merrimack.edu, or campus mailbox A17, no later than Wednesday, Nov. 9.

After the applications have been received, the Office of Human Resources will confirm eligibility based on length of service. Should more eligible employees apply than there are openings, placement in the program will be made according to seniority (years of service at Merrimack). Eligible employees will be notified of their standing on the sponsorship seniority wait list. Applications received after Nov. 9, regardless of an employee's seniority, will be placed at the bottom of the wait list.

In addition, you and your child should review the institutional profile listed on the tuition exchange website for any institution your child may be considering. The institutional profile provides useful information about that institution's tuition exchange program, such as deadlines, the competitive nature of awards and programs open to TE scholars. Institutional profiles can be found by conducting a "School Search" at tuitionexchange.org.

Questions can be addressed to soniap@merrimack.edu or ext. 5472.

College Launches Historic Fundraising Drive

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- Construct a new academic district including a three-story, 50,000-square-foot pavilion to house the Girard School of Business.
- Build new athletic fields and facilities to serve Merrimack's growing varsity, club and intramural sports programs and support the college's goal of becoming a Division I institution.
- Expand programs that honor the college's Augustinian mission, including service learning, mission opportunities, research initiatives and scholarships.

"At Merrimack, Catholic Augustinian values still guide our actions," said the Rev. Raymond F. Dlugos, O.S.A, vice president for mission and student affairs. "As we embark on this new venture, we will remain true to our mission to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives."

By strengthening infrastructure and programs, Together for Good will enhance academic scholarship and enable the college to attract and retain talented faculty members.

Together for Good is co-chaired by four individuals who have long been an important part of the Merrimack community: Alfred '84 and Mary Louise Arcidi, P'06, '18, and Michael '92 and Kerridan Crowe, P'17. In addition, renowned actor, screenwriter, producer and comedian Charlie Day '98, best known for his role on "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," will serve as honorary campaign chair.

The son of a Merrimack alumnus, Alfred Arcidi has three sons who are also Warriors. Today, he serves as vice chair of the college's board of trustees.

"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. One 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," he said.

Michael Crowe, the father of Keelyn '17, is chairman of the board of trustees. "Together for Good means moving forward," he said. "It also means standing out academically and culturally. To sustain our upward momentum, we need to continue working together."

For more information on Together for Good, its leadership and how to get involved, visit www.merrimack.edu/togetherforgood.
Renowned Christian Ethicist to Speak Oct. 27

Renowned ethicist MT Dávila, an associate professor of Christian ethics at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, Massachusetts, will deliver a lecture, “The Option for the Poor and the 2016 Election: Beyond the Culture Wars,” on Thursday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. in Cascia Hall.

Dávila is a foremost authority on Catholic social thought, race, class, public religion and immigration. She is a dynamic speaker and actively engaged in many grassroots social-justice movements.

Her presentation is sponsored by Merrimack College’s religious and theological studies department, the social justice program and campus ministry.

“We’re hoping to create a space where students, faculty and staff can come and think critically about the intersection of their faith and their vote,” said religious and theological studies professor Mark Allman.

Option for the poor is a biblical principle in which people make decisions based on how they affect the most vulnerable members of society.

“Which is a major ethical principle in Catholic social thought,” Allman said. “Imagine if Christians started pulling (election ballot) levers not for who will benefit their pocket books but who will protect the most vulnerable,” he said.

The United States is experiencing a divisive election season, he said. It’s important for voters to steer past an “us versus them” mentality toward a common ground, Allman said.

He sits on the advisory board for associate professor Luis Saenz de Viguera Erkiaga’s Social Justice Board. Planning for Dávila’s presentation began last spring when the board decided to make a connection between social justice and the election season. Allman has known Dávila since she wrote a chapter for “The Almighty Dollar,” a 2012 book on economic justice, edited by Allman, and he recommended her as a speaker.

Dávila is a graduate of Brown University and holds a Master of Theological Studies from Boston University and a Ph.D. from Boston College.

Her main interests are the intersections of class identity formation and Christian ethics in the U.S. context. Her research looks for the intersection of these issues with respect to the relationship of class and militarism, class and immigration, and class and activism. She is currently undertaking a study of leaders of communities of faith, peace and justice practitioners, and others to examine the relationship between different understandings of discipleship and activism-public witness-faith in action.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued its updated “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility” regarding the political responsibility of Catholics last year. So Davila’s presentation is a good fit for a Catholic school such as Merrimack College built in the Augustinian tradition, Allman said.

“It aligns perfectly with our identity,” he said. “How does our faith inform our politics.”

Merrimack Contingent Fetes Fledgling Med Student

Science & Engineering Dean Alan Weatherwax, health sciences professor Charlotte Berkes and student Andria Auger ’18 represented Merrimack at graduate Joshua Bartlett’s “white coat” ceremony at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine, Oct. 7.

The ceremony is a rite of passage for students working toward a career in the health profession during their first year of medical school.

Bartlett graduated Merrimack with a degree in biology and is now in the class of 2020 at UNECOM.

“It is absolutely wonderful to see him take a big step toward achieving his goal by beginning his medical studies at UNECOM,” Berkes said. “Gaining admission to this program requires a passion for medicine combined with a high level of academic achievement.”

Auger, of Salem, New Hampshire, said she is considering applying to UNESCO.

Charlotte Berkes with Joshua Bartlett at UNECOM white coat ceremony Oct. 7.
In her new role as academic success coach in the Center for Academic Success, Kristy Forrest ’15, MEd’16, helps students improve their study and testing skills, and develop strategies to succeed in the academic world. She holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a Master of Education in community engagement, both from Merrimack College.

As assistant director at Hands to Help, Rosana Urbaez, MEd’16, coordinates volunteer activities and oversees the O’Brien Scholar Program for Catholic high school students from Lynn and Lawrence. She is a graduate of UMass Amherst, where she majored in communications and psychology, and holds a Master of Education in higher education from Merrimack.

Mari Watson, MEd’16, has joined the student involvement office as coordinator of programming and student affinity groups. In this position, she serves Merrimack’s commuter, graduate, transfer and veteran populations. She holds a bachelor’s degree in communication disorders from Emerson College and a Master of Education in higher education from Merrimack College.
**Women’s Golf Wins Third Consecutive Northeast-10 Championship**

The Northeast-10 Conference Women’s Golf Championship trophy is returning to North Andover for a third straight season.

After building a 13-stroke lead through the opening round of the two-day tournament at Bretwood Golf Course in Keene, New Hampshire, Sept. 25, the Merrimack College women’s golf team secured its third consecutive league title by an impressive 21 strokes.

Junior co-captain Alessandra Ricigliano, of Scarsdale, New York, was the tournament’s individual medalist for the second year in a row.

Merrimack College remains the only school in the NE-10 to win a women’s golf league title since the conference began sponsoring the sport in 2014-15.

“Without a doubt, this is our program’s biggest win and accomplishment to date,” said head coach Nick Crovetti.

Team members are a determined and focused group that thrives under pressure within a conference that improves every year, he said.

Three Warriors finished in the tournament leaderboard’s top five. Ricigliano was the top golfer on the team and tournament with a combined two-day score of 146. Krystal Knight ’19, of Groveland, Massachusetts, carded a 154, for third place overall, and Jessica Wagner ’18, of San Diego finished fourth overall with a 155. Other Warrior finishers were Samantha Monaco ’18, of Brewster, New York, with a 170, and Sam Gervais ’17, of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, with a 184.

The team next plays at the Trevacca Fall Invite, hosted by Trevacca Nazarene University in Old Hickory, Tennessee, on Oct. 24 and 25.

**Hoop Teams Greeted by Raucous Madness Crowd**

The Merrimack men’s and women’s basketball teams celebrated the unofficial start to their 2016-17 campaigns Oct. 13 before more than 1,000 raucous fans at the college’s annual Midnight Madness festivities.

The event featured a free T-shirt giveaway and other prizes, a knockout challenge pitting student participants against faculty and student-athletes, and a skills showcase featuring members of both the men’s and women’s programs.

Men’s first-year head coach Joe Gallo and women’s sixth-year head coach Monique LeBlanc addressed supporters to kick off the evening. The night also featured performances by the Merrimack pep band, and the cheerleading and dance teams.

The men open their 2016-17 slate on Friday Nov. 11, against Post University as part of the Bentley Tip-Off Classic. The women begin the year on Saturday, Nov. 12, against Georgian Court in Lakewood, New Jersey.
Artists Serve Up Eclectic Mix at Rogers Center’s Atrium Gallery

The Rogers Center for the Arts is featuring the art of Emma Leaden ’19 and Andover resident Shane Crabtree in its atrium gallery this semester.

Leaden, of Cutchogue, New York, is a double-major studying French and a self-designed course in visual storytelling.

“I like being able to communicate complex ideas quickly through visual media,” Leaden said. “I like pleasing images, disturbing images, images that make you think.”

She started painting early in high school and hasn't had formal training, but shows artistic maturity.

The Rev. Richard Piatt, O.S.A., worked with faculty to choose a student artist for the Rogers and settled on Leaden, whose potential had already come to their attention, he said.

“So we invited her to expand her body of work over the summer for a one-person show this fall,” said Fr. Piatt, the director of the Rogers.

Leaden's work can be considered dark, but she doesn't see it that way. Rather, she views the nature of her art as an expression of the fleeting and beautiful nature of life. Life can be best appreciated by remembering it must end, Leaden said.

Crabtree doesn't worry about the commercial appeal of her art.

“I make work that specifically doesn't sell,” Crabtree said recently. “That means it gives the freedom to paint what is important to me.”

Crabtree's art, hanging in the wing of the atrium art gallery reserved for professionals and community members, features work using everyday items such as paper bags and pajamas belonging to her husband, Doug.

The abstract art is open to each person's interpretation, Crabtree said. The text printed alongside the art is an important element to the work.

Crabtree sees in the work featuring Joan of Arc a woman filling a man's job as a warrior on the battlefield and becoming a man herself. It was inspired by her grandchild.

Fr. Piatt collaborated with the Essex Art Center in Lawrence while deciding which local artists to bring into the Rogers Center.

He opened the atrium to artists last year. It brings in community artists as a way of energizing the student body and larger Merrimack community through exposure to new works, he said.

The works of Leaden and Crabtree are getting "extraordinarily positive responses," Fr. Piatt said.

Leaden's work has been on display since Aug. 27 and will continue until the end of October. Crabtree's work went on display Sept. 28 and is scheduled to remain until Nov. 21.