Momentum: Merrimack is on the Move

Merrimack College
CALENDAR 2012

JANUARY
14 Residence Life and Orientation Alumni Reunion
Augie’s Pub/J. Thom Lawler Rink
31 Alumni Career Series: Recruiters - The Insider Perspective
Online - Live Webinar

FEBRUARY
11 Young Professionals Hockey Night
Merrimack Club/J. Thom Lawler Rink/Augie’s Pub
15 First Lecture
Cascia Hall
29 Mentoring Program: Leveraging Your Network
Murray Lounge

MARCH
17 Naples St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Luncheon
Naples, Florida
28 Alumni Career Series: How to Run a Meeting AND Get Results
Merrimack Club
31 M.O.R.E. Alumni Retreat
Sakowich Campus Center

APRIL
18 Mentoring Program Closing Event
Merrimack Club

MAY
20 Commencement
Merrimack College Campus

JUNE
4 President’s Cup Golf Tournament
Lexington Ridge Country Club
8-10 Reunion 2012
Merrimack College Campus

ALUMNI EVENTS
Visit www.merrimack.edu/alumnievts or call 978-837-5440.

ATHLETICS
For schedule and news, visit www.merrimackathletics.com

ROGERS CENTER
Event listings and tickets, visit www.merrimack.edu/rogers
or call the box office at 978-837-5355.

Merrimack
A MAGAZINE FOR OUR ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS

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WINTER 2012

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DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

When I became the College’s 8th President I believed that momentum built collaboratively would propel Merrimack to future greatness. I am reminded of that aspiration every day by the palpable energy and renewed sense of pride throughout the Merrimack community.

These past 18 months we came together as a community and realized that we needed to invest in ourselves and our mission to make this institution stronger. I am happy to report that our investments are yielding results.

Our investment strategy started with our 10-year strategic plan, the Agenda for Distinction. In this issue of our alumni magazine, you will hear from a number of our community members who participated in the year-long process of developing this plan. Contributors represented all areas of the College—faculty, administration, the board of trustees, students and staff.

Among the imperatives for achieving our goals is a commitment to assembling and fostering a world-class faculty and developing the academic programs that allow us to maintain a distinctive educational experience for our students. In support of these objectives, I was delighted to welcome 11 new faculty members to Merrimack this year.

We have also enhanced the quality and efficiency of student services, opening a new home for the Center for Career Services and Cooperative Education on the second floor of the Sakowich Campus Center and just recently held a dedication for Trustee Michael Crowe ’92 and his family whose generous donation helped transform the first floor of the Library into the Crowe Family Commons. We have a new director of student involvement and two new resident directors, to ensure students continue to receive personal attention and an excellent academic experience, and we welcomed new campus minister, Father Keith Hollis, who will lead wide variety of spiritual life opportunities for students.

Merrimack has had a successful fall both in the classroom and on the field. Merrimack’s Mary Rose Mazzola ’12 was a finalist in the interview process for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. She was one of just 33 candidates who were chosen to compete in her district.

Merrimack has also recorded its most successful fall athletic season in over a decade fueled by three nationally ranked teams. The Division 1 hockey team became the #1 team in the country for the first time in school history, women’s field hockey won its first-ever Northeast-10 Championship and qualified for its first-ever NCAA Final Four and women’s soccer reached its 26th consecutive winning season, ultimately leading to a spot in the conference championship.

Merrimack College is on the move and I’m proud that the results we’ve already achieved are being recognized beyond our community. We were named to President Obama’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll; we advanced our ranking to #274 in Forbes national listing of America’s Best Undergraduate Colleges and most notably, we were ranked #8 by the U.S. News & World Report’s 2012 rankings of best northeast colleges. You can read more about the College’s successes and these awards and what they mean for Merrimack in this issue.

We are embarking on a pivotal time in Merrimack’s history and this is only the beginning. I ask that you reengage with Merrimack and consider how you may be able to contribute to Merrimack’s momentum. There is no better or exciting time to be a part of the Merrimack College community.

Best,

Christopher Hopey, Ph.D.
President
Due to this, the Merrimack College community embarked in a collaborative strategic planning process to help Merrimack develop a clear vision for the future. This new vision is critical to the success of Merrimack College and, with the community’s participation, resulted in a plan called the Agenda for Distinction.

Interim Provost and Dean of the School of Science and Engineering, Dr. Josephine Medica-Napolitano was part of the strategic planning group, which met on a biweekly basis to discuss Merrimack’s future. She explains that the collaborative nature of the process of creating the plan and sharing it with the community is the key element to its success. “We have a roadmap to advance the College, and everyone has agreed to it. That’s going to be important moving forward because there is consensus on how to advance the College.”

The outcome of the planning process has been Merrimack’s new 10-year strategic plan—Agenda for Distinction—that focuses on five strategic goals for advancing Merrimack to a national and international position of prominence:

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

Among those who provided input in an open session was Associate Athletic Director, External Relations for Merrimack College Athletics, Dean O’Keefe adds, “It was clear from the session that President Hopy was very committed to having this be a truly collaborative process, with the final product reflecting the goals and vision of the entire Merrimack community. The plan is bold and ambitious, and that has translated into a feeling of renewed excitement and energy on campus. Our entire department understands Athletics has a tremendous responsibility to support the goals and mission of the College, and Merrimack’s strategic plan has helped the athletic department in our continued effort to best align our initiatives with the College goals. To be able to visualize where Merrimack is headed and understand our collective strategic goals helps tremendously as individual departments strategize in their areas of expertise.”

Students were also invited to provide their input on the strategic plan. Kyle Neary, senior and Communications Studies major, participated in one of the sessions and explains, “It was great that President Hopy actually listened to us. I think the student meetings gave him a better understanding of what students are like at Merrimack and it gave us, as students, a chance to voice our opinions about where the College might think about improving. Giving students a real stake in the future of the College will benefit Merrimack when we become alumni. When we are out of college and are seeing the ideas and changes we wanted to make still impacting the school, we’re more likely to come back, attend events or donate.”

Over the past decade, the demographics, economics and globalization of higher education have been changing rapidly. These profound changes have made it imperative that small residential colleges like Merrimack engage in a serious process for determining what the future holds five, ten and twenty years from now.
"Being a contemporary Catholic college focused in liberal arts that prepares students to be successful in their careers is laudable and Merrimack is a place for that to occur."

Achieving the goals outlined in the Agenda for Distinction requires a shared effort, which will be driven through the twelve units on campus—Office of the President; Office of the Provost; Office of Institutional Advancement; Division of Enrollment Management & Academic Services; School of Education; School of Science and Engineering; Girard School of Business and International Commerce; School of Liberal Arts; Division of Mission and Student Affairs; Division of Athletics; Office of Administration and Facilities; and Office of Fiscal Affairs.

Dean of Campus Life Donna Swartwout Ph.D. believes the plan will have far-reaching implications for the College. She explains, "It is bold, supports the mission of the College and puts us on a path to create an intellectually vibrant, socially engaged student experience. The strategic plan has embedded at its core the work of the campus life staff—it focuses on creating curricular and co-curricular learning opportunities which are integral to a residential campus experience."

Each unit will create its own three-year operational plan, which details how their own aspirations, goals and objectives meet or exceed the goals and objectives of the Agenda for Distinction. The operational plans will annually measure progress with a series of metrics presented through an Annual Campus-Wide Action & Assessment Report, which will be developed, updated and annually reviewed in collaboration with the Trustee Committee on Planning and the Central Campus Planning Committee. Associate Professor, Religious and Theological Studies, Dr. Mark Allman has been instrumental in bringing the perspective of the Department of Religious and Theological Studies to Merrimack’s strategic planning initiative. He participated in open sessions during the draft phase of the plan’s development, and also provided his department’s official response to the plan.

Dr. Allman says, "What makes Merrimack a Catholic College is that every student is exposed to Christianity. The Department of Religious Studies, therefore, has a unique responsibility to the strategic plan."

As a member of the board of trustees, alumnus Tim Murphy was involved in the development and approval of the Agenda for Distinction. Regarding the strategic planning process, Murphy says, "It always starts with a mission. Going through the planning cycle under President Hopay’s leadership and other stakeholders was an important and clarifying exercise that allowed us to focus in on what we are trying to create for the College." He adds, "Being a contemporary Catholic college focused in liberal arts that prepares students to be successful in their careers is laudable and Merrimack is a place for that to occur. But the mission is only the starting point. You have to have good plans around it."

As part of the Agenda for Distinction, the campus will embark on a Master Campus Planning process, followed by the launch of a Capital Campaign, which will provide additional resources to fund the future of Merrimack College.

"This plan will enable us to confidently drive toward our vision of creating a highly ranked, internationally respected, selective masters’ comprehensive Catholic college, which is residential, student-centered, professionally focused and rigorous in the liberal arts, sciences, and business," explains President Hopay. "I am grateful to all who contributed their candid and constructive input and feedback throughout this process."

The complete strategic plan document can be viewed online at www.merrimack.edu/strategicplan.
By the age of 40, Merrimack alumnus Tim Murphy ’88 had made a successful career as an investment banker in New York, served as a strategic advisor to the Romney administration in Massachusetts, and was a key architect of Massachusetts’ landmark health care reform law. Having experienced success and fulfillment in both the public and private sectors, Murphy carefully considered his next move.

“I asked myself, ‘Do I go back to being a banker again? Do I join Mitt’s presidential campaign full time? Or something else?’” he recalls. “I was at an interesting point in my life with interesting experiences in both the public and private sectors. A lot of the things I’d done, I was always advising someone, but hadn’t been the principal. I figured I had accumulated enough experience to try something.”

At the time Murphy was considering his options, the founder of Beacon Health Strategies was looking for someone to lead her company to its next stage of development. Murphy accepted the opportunity and currently serves as president and CEO of the privately held Massachusetts-based company, which employs 530 people.

Beacon is a behavioral health managed care company providing care coordination and utilization review services to health plans and state governments on behalf of approximately five million Medicaid, Medicare and commercial members in 14 states. Under Murphy’s leadership, the company has grown from $35 million in annual revenues to over $350 million in four years.

An Informed Approach to Public Policy

In the years leading up to joining Beacon Health Strategies and prior to working in the Romney administration, Murphy was a vice president in the investment banking division at JP Morgan, advising and raising capital for both corporations and not-for-profit institutions. Despite having a successful career as an investment banker, Murphy felt a calling to do more.

“I realized there was more to life than doing the next deal,” he explains. “I was looking to do more. So I sold my house in Connecticut and moved back to Massachusetts. Romney had won the governorship in November 2002. While an investment banker, I had worked for his private equity firm, Bain Capital. My experience with Bain demonstrated that they were smart tough-minded people who made informed decisions. Bringing that skill set to state government would be something I was interested in. So I applied for an opening in the Romney administration and got it.”

Murphy initially served as a principal advisor to Governor Romney and as his director of policy, helping craft and guide the Governor’s agenda on tax, fiscal and debt policies, economic development strategies, transportation planning and health care.

In 2005, Romney appointed Murphy as Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts and lead the Governor’s healthcare reform efforts. In this capacity he oversaw a $12 billion budget and approximately 22,000 employees that delivered programs and services through 15 state agencies to over one million Massachusetts residents. His signature accomplishment during his tenure was the development, passage, and initial implementation of the landmark Massachusetts health care reform law.

Giving Back to Merrimack

In 2007, on the heels of his high-profile success in the Romney administration, Murphy was invited to bring his creative thinking back to Merrimack as a member of the Board of Trustees.

“As alumni we all know what the school has offered to us throughout our careers. Under the leadership of Chris Hopey, I’m extremely enthusiastic about what the next ten years is going to look like. In Chris we have a leader and team around him that recognizes what we need to do to compete. Alumni should be very excited about what they are going to see in the next ten years at the school. They should be very supportive of it.”

Murphy encourages his fellow alumni to take a closer look at the plan to advance Merrimack and to support the effort to position the College to compete in the future.

“Merrimack has significant positive momentum,” says Murphy. “As alumni we all know what the school has offered to us throughout our careers. Under the leadership of Chris Hopey, I’m extremely enthusiastic about what the next ten years is going to look like. In Chris we have a leader and team around him that recognizes what we need to do to compete. Alumni should be very excited about what they are going to see in the next ten years at the school. They should be very supportive of it.”

Murphy holds a Bachelor of Arts from Merrimack College, where he serves as a Trustee, and a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University.
FR. KEITH REJUVENATES CAMPUS MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Reverend Keith J. Hollis is the newest member of Campus Ministry at Merrimack. Joining the College in August as the new Director of Campus Ministry, he sees his department as a unit whose purpose is to serve students in both their spirituality and service needs.

“My job is 80% presence, being available to students and 20% from the deck up, doing administrative tasks,” said Fr. Keith. Along with Campus Life, he has helped implement the Chaplin Program for Residence Halls. Each Chaplin is assigned to a residence hall and is tasked with creating relationships with students who may be looking for guidance, spiritual counseling or are adjusting to college life. Fr. Keith is in charge of Degan East and West, which he said has been a great experience as he considers himself a freshman just like the students living in those residences. According to Senior Resident Advisor Jonathan Ladino ’12, “Fr. Keith is one of the most caring people that I know. He is always willing to help others and will put countless people before himself.”

In addition to the residence hall program, Fr. Keith has helped continue the Chaplin Program for Athletics. This program was started last year as a partnership between the Athletic Department and Campus Ministry. Fr. Keith is assigned to Women’s Golf, Women’s Basketball and Men’s Lacrosse. He believes this is another great program to interact with students and make sure they are familiar with at least one Augustinian on campus. As Fr. Keith says, “Everything we do on campus is about building relationships.”

CAREER SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM COLLABORATES WITH GIRARD BUSINESS SCHOOL

Career Services is partnering with the Girard School of Commerce and International Business to offer a pilot “passport program” in the fall semester 2011 and spring semester 2012. In the program, students are given “passports” to 10 career activities. As part of their grade for class, they are asked to participate in five of the ten activities, one of them being a mandatory resume-building workshop. Upon completion, students are asked to complete an assessment of each of the five career activities.

Created by the Dean of the Girard School, Dr. Mark Cordano, and Director of Career Services and Cooperative Education, Dr. Heather Muietta, this pilot program is considered a positive educational tool for students, mostly freshmen who are just becoming acclimated to the opportunities available to them on campus. Career Services also benefits from the collaboration because the career exploration is a process by which individuals seek information and make decisions not only about themselves, but also about education and career options related to their area of study. Engaging students in this process early in their academic careers allows them to make more informed choices.

“We are thrilled for the opportunity to partner with faculty to provide this type of co-curricular programming in the classroom,” said Muietta. “Research suggests while nothing prohibits students from taking advantage of, and participating in, experiential learning opportunities, they may be less inclined to participate if not required to do so as a component of formalized curriculum. Programs such as these are testament of how impactful credit-bearing academic co-curricular programming can be for students.”

NEW TO THE MERRIMACK FAMILY

This fall, the College hired 27 full-time custodians to join the Merrimack College family. Each staff member hired is now assigned to a building where they manage waste, monitor cleanliness and maintain the appearance of the buildings and the campus.

“I am very thankful for this opportunity,” said Hilda Famila. “It had been two years from the date I first lost my job and it has been a struggle to provide for myself and my daughter. This job has given me and my daughter the opportunity to start all over again.”

As colleges and universities around the country are outsourcing, Merrimack College was able to make this extraordinary decision of hiring custodians to fill full-time positions with benefits, including advancement opportunities. Notably, each staff member has had an enormous impact on the College and its community.

“I was laid off in 2010 and as a father of three children, that news was devastating,” said Jose Berez. “I must have sent my resume to about 100 companies before receiving my job here at Merrimack. I take pride in my work here and I see that pride in the faces of all of the custodians who work here.”

TO THE TOP OF THE HILL

Senior MaryRose Mazzaola is going places. A dedicated student, committed volunteer and an active participant in campus life are just some of the qualities that led her to compete for a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship for a chance to study at the University of Oxford.

Given an institutional endorsement by Merrimack College, Mazzaola knew trying for a Rhodes Scholarship wouldn’t be easy, but would help her do what she wants most in life: to have a public policy job in Washington, preferably on Capitol Hill.

Mazzaola made it to the final round of the interview process among 13 other finalists for the coveted Rhodes Scholarships. Students applied from Harvard College, Harvard Medical, Princeton, Yale, Brown, West Point, MIT and Auburn. Students from both Princeton and Brown were selected as this year’s recipients. “Each person I met was amazing and had done incredible work,” said Mazzaola. “I would have been equally excited for any one of them to win because we all represented what the scholarship is all about.”

As far as continuing her education, Mazzaola says, “I’m applying to graduate programs to study public policy. My top choices are the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, the Princeton Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the Georgetown Public Policy Institute.”

Clowns are from top left: Reverend Keith J. Hollis, Merrimack’s custodial team, MaryRose Mazzaola, Heather Muietta meets with a student. www.merrimack.edu
LIBRARY

Merrimack College has experienced a number of transformations this past summer, including the recent renovation of the first floor of the McQuade Library. The library now boasts several new aesthetic features and serves students’ needs with the installation of a state-of-the-art information commons, lounge-inspired study areas, and a café.

Thanks to the generous donation of Trustee Michael Crowe ’92 and his family, students can enjoy the Crowe Family Commons, which offers a spacious, comfortable study area with luxurious seating and tables. Tisz Café, run by Sodexo, is now open and available from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and features specialty coffee drinks, teas, baked goods, panini, soups, salads and more—just what our students need to keep them going.

CAREER SERVICES AND COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Now located on the second floor of the Sakowich Campus Center, near the Post Office, the Center for Career Services and Cooperative Education is positioned at the heart of the most student-accessible building, the Sakowich Campus Center. Merrimack College recognizes the importance of programs advancing the career development of its students and relocating the center aids in the accessibility and convenience for students who are looking for career and networking opportunities.

Career Services assists students and alumni with career planning, resumes and job searches. Under the direction of Dr. Heather Maita, they provide career-related events, on-campus interviews, and extensive one-on-one counseling. Through the Cooperative Education Program, students can gain valuable on-the-job work experience in fields such as business, nonprofit, healthcare, government, and education.

AUGIE’S PUB

The Merrimack community, particularly the class of 2012, recently welcomed the opening of Augie’s Pub. Located on the first floor of the Sakowich Campus Center, Augie’s Pub serves as a place for student-based activities that include club meetings, information sessions or as a central spot for a casual meet-up.

Complimentary popcorn can always be found on every table, in addition to the variety of pub food, draft beer and wine selections available to order. Augie’s Pub is open Thursday nights from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday nights from 7:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. Did we mention it is fully equipped with plenty of high top tables, couches, chairs and four flat screen TVs? It’s a great place for students 21+ to hang out, socialize, and watch a game!

ITC COMPUTER LAB

This fall the new ITC Computer Lab opened its doors to students. Located on the 2nd floor of the McQuade Library, this lab features new and improved technology, enhanced service and a broader range of applications for student use. It has brand new carpet that absorbs sound, new furniture and a new design that creates a modern work environment. The lab is outfitted with 35 brand new desktop computers running Windows 7, two new duplex printers, one color printer and one scanner. The new ITC lab is always crowded, attracting students for individual or group work, a place to print, and Internet access.
FRANCO CAPALDI, Ph.D., joins Merrimack College’s faculty as assistant professor of civil engineering. He received his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering at Brown University and completed his doctoral work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prior to coming to Merrimack, Dr. Capaldi taught at Drexel University in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He has conducted research on polymer nanocomposites, property characterization of biological materials, and engineering education. He has taught courses in mechanics, material modeling, failure of materials and design.

AUDREY FALK, Ed.D., is an assistant professor in the school of education and the program director for the M.Ed. in Community Engagement. Dr. Falk was previously an assistant professor in the Department of Family Studies and Community Development at Towson University. Her areas of expertise include service-learning, community development, civic engagement, and family studies. She has published and presented on issues of service-learning, citizenship, and community engagement. With colleagues, she received an AAC&U grant to study the interrelationship between service-learning and critical thinking. Prior to working at Towson University, Dr. Falk was a post-doctoral fellow at the American Institutes for Research (AIR), and was also the executive director of the nonprofit organization Columbia Point Community Partnership in Dorchester, Massachusetts. She has a doctorate in Administration, Training, and Policy Studies from Boston University, an M.Ed in Risk and Prevention from Harvard University, and a B.S. in English Education and Art History from Boston University.

SUSAN MARINE, Ph.D., serves as assistant professor in the school of education and the program director for the M.Ed. in higher education. Dr. Marine was previously the assistant dean of Harvard College for Student Life and the founding director of the Harvard College Women’s Center. In her role at the Women’s Center, Dr. Marine also oversaw the Radcliffe Mentor Program and Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (WiSTEM) science mentors program. Dr. Marine has published and presented widely on issues of race, gender, identity and sexuality and has been invited to speak internationally on these issues. Dr. Marine was recently the National Chair of the NASPA’s Women in Student Affairs Knowledge Community and is an active member and leader in the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) and the National Women’s Studies Association. Dr. Marine has a doctorate in Higher Education from Boston College, an M.A. in College Student Personnel from Bowling Green State University, and a B.A. in Philosophy from Transylvania University.

JIMMY FRANCO, Ph.D., joins Merrimack as assistant professor of chemistry, teaching biochemistry and organic chemistry. His research interests are centered around the interface of organic chemistry and biochemistry. The emphasis of his research is on drug discovery, continuing his collaboration with colleagues at The University of Toledo. Dr. Franco began his academic career at Beloit College, where he received his B.S. degree in chemistry. He then pursued graduate studies in chemistry at the University of California, Davis and performed research in the lab of Prof. Marilyn Olmstead. His research focused on using organic chemistry and x-ray crystallography to probe host-guest interactions between aromatic molecules and fullerenes. This work resulted in his dissertation titled, "Methodology and Host-Guest Chemistry of Organic and Organometallic Compounds." Dr. Franco then spent three years teaching at the University of Toledo, where his teaching responsibilities included general chemistry, organic chemistry and chemistry for health science students. In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Franco conducted research in medicinal chemistry with Prof. Donald Rinning. The focus of this research was to identify potential drug candidates that could be used to combat tuberculosis. Dr. Franco’s work has resulted in four publications and a number of presentations at national meetings of the American Chemical Society.

This fall, Merrimack College welcomed 11 new faculty members to our College community. This year’s incoming faculty represent new positions, supporting a number of objectives in the new ten-year strategic plan, including the goal to recruit a diverse faculty with exceptional knowledge and experience in order to enrich the teaching, learning and student experience and prepare our students for twenty-first century problems and challenges.
“Among the imperatives for achieving our goals is a commitment to assembling and fostering a world-class faculty and developing the academic programs that allow us to maintain a distinctive educational experience for our students.”

CHRISTOPHER HOPEY, PRESIDENT

KRISTA MCGUENNEY, Ph.D., is assistant professor of sociology and criminology. She has interests in social inequalities, symbolic interaction, relationship violence and sexual assault, and teaching and learning in sociology. She comes to Merrimack from Salem College in North Carolina, where she taught courses in Gender Roles, Social Problems, and Violence Against Women. Her research has been published in Social Problems and in several edited volumes, including Do You Feel Me? Exploring Black-American Gender and Sexuality through Feeling and Emotion (Vanderbilt University Press) and Introducing the New Sexuality Studies (Routledge). She earned her doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

KYLE McCONNELL, S.C.D., is a nationally and internationally recognized leader in the field of exercise science. His prominent career has included distinctions of excellence in teaching, research and professional and community service. Previous to his appointment at Merrimack College, Dr. McConnel held the academic rank of tenured Professor and Chair of Exercise and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. He began his academic career at UMass Boston in 1991, after receiving his Doctorate of Science (S.C.D.) in Applied Anatomy and Physiology at Boston University. He performed his initial research training in clinical exercise physiology in the Department of Medicine, Section of Cardiology, at Boston Medical Center. More recently, he served as research and program director of the Beth Israel Interdisciplinary Research and Training Center, a venture he founded and ran in Massachusetts in collaboration with the Children’s Hospital, Boston. His innovative work at Beth Israel to reduce obesity and improve physical activity and nutrition among underprivileged youth was recognized by receiving the U.S. Surgeon General’s Healthy Youth for a Healthier Future Champion Award. Dr. McConnel has an extensive record of scholarly and professional publications in the area of exercise and chronic disease prevention and treatment. He served as contributing editor on two internationally-renowned books, ACSM’s Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription (9th and 10th editions) and ACSM’s Health Fitness Facilities Standards and Guidelines (3rd edition). His ongoing research to increase physical activity and healthy nutrition in schools involves integrating movement-based digital gaming technology into traditional academic lessons such as science and math. This includes novel research involving the Lawrence Public Schools, Merrimack Valley YMCA, and students and faculty from the Department of Health Sciences at Merrimack that is being funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. His recent co-authored study on the energy cost of movement-based video gaming in overweight children appeared in Time Magazine and U.S. World News and Reports. Dr. McConnel is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and serves on the national YMCA’s Medical Advisory Board and adjunct Director of Health and Wellness Innovations at the Merrimack Valley YMCA.

TERRY ROBERTSON, Ed.D., is a visiting assistant professor in the graduate program of the School of Education. She holds a B.S. in Communication Disorders from the University of New Hampshire, M.Ed. from Boston University and an Ed.D. from the University of Massachusetts Lowell, with a concentration in language and literacy. One of Dr. Robertson’s special interests is in the comparison of picture book genres for emerging language from children.

ANGELA SENANDER, Ph.D., associate professor, religious & theological studies, comes to Merrimack College from Washington Theological Union (a school founded by the Augustinians in collaboration with other religious communions where she served as chair of the Department of Systematic and Moral Theology). Her writing has appeared in Prophetic Witness: Catholic Women’s Strategies for Reform, Catholic Identity and the Laity, New Theology Review and America. She has presented academic papers at meetings of the Catholic Theological Society of America, the European Society of Catholic Theology, the Society of Christian Ethics, the College Theology Society, the American Academy of Religion and Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church. She has participated in the Rome Seminar on Catholic Higher Education in a Global Context sponsored by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, and she is the recipient of a Theological Scholars Grant and of a Wabash Center summer fellowship. She serves on the Women in Leadership Advisory Committee for the Association of Theological Schools and on the Board of Directors for the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. She has accepted an invitation to teach for Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry as a visiting professor in the summer of 2012. Her research interests in Catholic social ethics focus on faith and political life as well as business ethics, and she looks forward to opportunities for interdisciplinary work at Merrimack College.

SALLY SHOCKROD, Ph.D., is assistant professor in Merrimack’s History Department. She completed the medieval studies program at Brandeis University, where she majored in history, classical archaeology and ancient history. At Brandeis she was a founding student member of a program called Peer Perspectives, which paired students from different backgrounds and provided opportunities for them to attend cultural events together so they could attempt to understand the events from the other person’s perspective. She earned her doctorate from Boston College. Her dissertation, Reading Bede as Bede Would Read, was a study of ways in which early-medieval authors crafted their texts to contain a multiplicity of meanings, so that a single text simultaneously would speak to the concerns of different audiences. She has taught introduction to nutrition, health and wellness, kinesiology, exercise physiology classes and graduate cardiovascular physiology laboratory. She also has experience in cardiac rehabilitation from Emerson Hospital and Lahey Clinic, in addition to years of experience as a personal trainer. Dr. VanLanger’s research experiences have focused on the female athlete and performance. She has researched the effects of thermoregulation in menopausal women exercising in the heat in addition to metabolic acidosis during menstrual cycle phases. Her current interests are environmental studies and the effects on performance.

DEBORAH VANLANNER, Ph.D., is interim assistant professor in the department of health sciences, teaching human pathophysiology. Dr. VanLanger received her bachelor of science degree in exercise physiology in addition to earning a graduate certificate in disability studies from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. She earned her Master’s degree from Springfield College in exercise physiology before continuing to complete her Ph.D. in exercise physiology, also from Springfield College. Dr. VanLanger has taught introduction to nutrition, health and wellness, kinesiology, exercise physiology classes and graduate cardiovascular physiology laboratory. She also has experience in cardiac rehabilitation from Emerson Hospital and Lahey Clinic, in addition to years of experience as a personal trainer. Dr. VanLanger’s research experiences have focused on the female athlete and performance. She has researched the effects of thermoregulation in menopausal women exercising in the heat in addition to metabolic acidosis during menstrual cycle phases. Her current interests are environmental studies and the effects on performance.
Dual Roles. Singular Commitment.

Interim Provost Josephine Modica-Napolitano, Ph.D., remains dedicated to the mission of the School of Science and Engineering.

Merrimack College is currently conducting a national search for a new Provost. Until a new provost is appointed, the responsibilities of this critically important position will be handled by Interim Provost Josephine Modica-Napolitano, Ph.D.

In this role, Dr. Napolitano serves the chief academic administrative officer of the College, providing leadership to the faculty and managing all College academic activities, reporting directly to the President and serving on the President’s senior leadership team.

‘As interim provost,’ explains Dr. Napolitano, ‘my concern is with the growth and progress of all of the schools—the School of Liberal Arts, the Grand School of Business, the School of Education and the School of Science and Engineering. The job of the provost is to ensure all schools have the resources, mechanisms, policies and procedures in place so that faculty and students can be successful. I’ve been focusing especially on identifying areas that lack policy—areas where we can formalize new policies to facilitate growth in the academic areas.’

Dr. Napolitano, who was named interim provost in May, will also maintain her role as Dean of the School of Science and Engineering. Her experience as dean has enabled her to develop the kinds of skills required for being an effective provost.

‘As dean, you learn how to listen to people and find out what they need to do their job well,’ she explains. ‘A dean facilitates faculty and student success by implementing existing policies and utilizing existing resources, a provost has the capacity to facilitate faculty and student success by establishing new policies and helping to secure new resources.’

In accepting the position of interim provost, it was important to Dr. Napolitano that her new duties would not sidetrack the mission of the College of Science and Engineering.

‘We’ve had great momentum over the last couple of years and I didn’t want to lose that,’ she says. ‘I have a great team supporting me in Science and Engineering, with Mary Noonan as assistant dean, Deb Simone as administrative assistant, and all of the department chairs. My intent was to have the right people in place during the interim so that the School of Science and Engineering could continue to move forward in a positive direction. I’m still involved in the strategic planning and higher level responsibilities for the School, just not the day-to-day duties.’

The momentum Dr. Napolitano refers to at the School of Science and Engineering centers around four target areas of growth—STEM education; health science and sports medicine; engineering; and biotech and biomedical sciences.

In the area of STEM education, the School is working with the Lawrence Public Schools on a math-science partnership. The ultimate goal regarding STEM education is to get students of all ages—from the elementary level through high school—involved in math and science and to inspire them to envision themselves one day as students on a college campus like Merrimack.

Plains are already underway to build a new facility for sports medicine, including a new hockey rink with a cutting edge facility for the sports medicine major, Merrimack’s largest major in the School of Science and Engineering. In the area of engineering, the School is currently developing two new programs: a Bachelor’s in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science in Engineering.

Lastly, the School is focusing on biotechnology and biomedical sciences, developing programs in these areas, which, Napolitano explains, by nature are interdiscplinary.

Building Consensus on Merrimack’s Future

Dr. Napolitano has been involved with strategic planning at Merrimack for many years—as a faculty member, as chair of the department of biology, as dean and now as interim provost. She was deeply involved in this past year’s strategic planning process, which has resulted in the Agenda for Distinction.

‘In this past year, with the deans of all the schools, faculty and administration, we worked together to come up with some great ideas to move the College forward,’ she recalls. ‘In one year, we developed the plan, vetted the plan in the entire community and then the plan was approved by the community. This year has been exciting as we began to implement the College’s Strategic Plan and turn our vision into reality.

Congratulations to Dr. Patricia Sendall, Professor of Management, who was recently appointed Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at Merrimack College.

Earlier this year Dr. Sendall was named an American Council of Education Fellow for 2011-2012. The ACE Fellowship is the nation’s premier higher education leadership development program. This honor is a reflection of Dr. Sendall’s academic credentials, commitment to teaching and dedication to advancing Merrimack College through academic leadership.

Her fellowship had her working this fall at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell under the mentorship of Provost Ahmed Abdelal. Upon her return to Merrimack in January, she will be assisting the Provost’s Office in advancing the Agenda for Distinction, especially in the areas of Graduate and Continuing Education programs and policies.

Dr. Pat Sendall Named Vice Provost For Academic Affairs
MERRIMACK WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As Merrimack College executes its new Agenda for Distinction, it will benefit from the insights of three new Board of Trustees members.

President Hopey and the College are delighted to welcome Paul Jordan ’91, Bradley MacDonald and John Pasini ’73 to the Board.

PAUL JORDAN ’91
Paul Jordan is a 1991 graduate of Merrimack College with a degree in accounting. His wife, Heather Goodwin, graduated in 1992. Jordan is currently a vice president of listed futures at Goldman Sachs. Prior to Goldman, he worked for Citi, also in the financial services industry. Jordan and his wife live in Greenwich, Connecticut with their two children.

BRADLEY MACDONALD
After 28 years of service, Bradley MacDonald retired as a Colonel from the Marine Corps in 1997. He served in Desert Storm and developed an expertise in operational deployment. He currently serves as chairman of the board of Medifast. He was company president until 2002, when he joined the board of directors.

J ohn Pasini graduated from Merrimack College in 1973 with a degree in marketing. He received an MBA from Fairfield University in 1977.

Pasini retired from Pfizer in 2008 after nearly 30 years there. In that time, he held a variety of positions from entry level sales to vice president of business intelligence and planning. He also held the position of vice president for product development, in which capacity he was responsible for the development of strategic operating plans for multiple products. While at Pfizer and active in its product development area, Pasini played a significant role in Pfizer’s philanthropic efforts to combat AIDS in Africa.

Presently, he serves as chief commercial officer of Oligomeric, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company founded in 2006 to develop diagnostics and treatments for causative agents linked to the spread of Alzheimer’s disease. He has served on the Board of the American Long Association.

Pasini and his wife have two grown children. He and his wife live in Florida for most of the year. They also own property in northern New Jersey.

MERRIMACK NEWS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

THE STUDY OF WAR AND PEACE AND CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ETHICS

Associate Professor, Religious and Theological Studies, and Outstanding Faculty Member of 2011, Mark Allman, Ph.D., helps students view the world through the prism of Merrimack’s mission.

Mark Allman, Ph.D., associate professor in Merrimack College’s department for religious and theological studies, recalls the moment during the 2011 Commencement ceremony when he received the Edward G. Rodney, Jr. Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. “I was sitting there during the graduation ceremony and I was reading the bio of the honorary degree recipients when they called my name. I didn’t hear them say my name. The whole thing was like a gigantic blur. I did not expect it. It’s really humbling.”

Dr. Allman was selected by students and colleagues to receive the award for his efforts and devotion to teaching excellence. He is a recognized authority on topics not only challenge his students in the classroom, but also our society at large—global poverty, war and peace, social ethics, politics religion.

When asked how he tackles such complex subjects in class, Dr. Allman explains he always begins by asking, “How is it relevant in the world we’re in today? Before I do theory, I’ll pull a newspaper article or online video to show the relevance.” Case study, theory, history and then revisit the case study. We ask questions like, “How has St. Augustine changed how you look at what’s going on in Sudan?”

Dr. Allman’s primary area of interest is Christian social ethics and, more specifically, Catholic social thought, war and peace studies, business ethics and globalization. He has presented papers at many academic conferences including the Society of Christian Ethics, the Catholic Theological Society of America, the College Theology Society and the American Academy of Religion. He has published articles in several scholarly journals.

At Merrimack, he also serves as Faculty Associate and Coordinator of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Studies Center for the study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations. Those who min jaw Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations are required to take a new course titled, “Ethics in the Abrahamic Traditions.”

“Mark Allman is an outstanding teacher, an outstanding faculty member. He is a wonderful presence on campus and it is greatly appreciated that he has taken on this role of outstanding faculty member in 2011,” said Dean of Students Margaret Allman, Ph.D.

“Dr. Allman is a singularly talented teacher who is able to engage student in complex subjects in an accessible way,” said President John Hopey. “There are no easy answers in these subjects, but Dr. Allman is able to stimulate the students with thoughtful questions and provocative discussion.”

And that is what is so special about Dr. Allman and why he is such a wonderful teacher. He is able to help students find an understanding of the world they live in, while helping to define their values and beliefs.”

A Teacher and Student of Christian Social Ethics

Dr. Allman, who joined the Merrimack faculty in 2004, is one of only a handful of scholars working on postwar ethics and the just war theory. His focus on this theory emerged when he was in graduate school, around the time of the 2003 invasion of Iraq. He was asked to teach a class on war and peace, and has been teaching it every year since.

He published his first book in 2008, Who Would Jesus Kill? War, Peace & the Christian Tradition (St. Mary’s Press). The book, which earned the College Theology Society Book of the Year Award in 2009, offers an overview of approaches to war and peace within the Christian tradition. Dr. Allman recalls, “I was asked to write it because I had been teaching it so much. The publisher found me.”

His second book, After the Smoke Clears: The Just War Tradition and Post-War Justice (Orbis Publishing) was co-authored with Tobias Winright and published in 2010. The book examines the period after a conflict and what is required to restore justice.

He is currently in the research phase of his third book, which is expected to publish in a couple of years.

Merrimack students benefit from Dr. Allman’s immersion in the complex subjects he teaches. His courses study the world while helping to change it through projects focusing on global issues, such as the genocide in Darfur, the water crisis in Central America, or the number of combat deaths in Iraq. He believes that exploring such topics gets to the core of Merrimack’s mission.

“Mark Allman is an outstanding teacher, an outstanding faculty member, a wonderful presence on campus. He is one of the rare handful of scholars working on postwar ethics and the just war theory. He helps our students find an understanding of the world they live in, while helping to define their values and beliefs,” said President John Hopey. “It is what makes him so special.”

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Dr. Allman serves as Faculty Associate and Coordinator of the Jewish-Christian-Muslim Studies Center. The center is a research and teaching center for the study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations. Those who major in Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations are required to take a new course titled, “Ethics in the Abrahamic Traditions.”

“The center is one of the cornerstones of our students’ education at Merrimack College,” said Dean of Students Margaret Allman, Ph.D. “It is a place where students can explore important social and political issues from multiple perspectives.”
On Sept. 15, 2011, the Merrimack College community gathered to celebrate the inauguration of Dr. Christopher E. Hopey, who was named the eighth president of Merrimack College on July 1, 2010.

MERRIMACK CELEBRATES the Inauguration of President Hopey

The celebration began with an Inauguration Mass at Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, followed by the Installation Ceremony at the Rogers Center for the Arts and a community reception at the Sakowich Campus Center.

In his inauguration speech, Dr. Hopey remarked, "This is our pivotal moment. The future for us has challenges that will force us to think differently: the ever-changing economy, shifting demographics, barriers to education, global warming, stagnant unemployment—the list goes on and on. And as difficult as that seems, I take comfort in realizing that this doesn’t sound much different than the environment Cardinal Cushing and Father McQuade were dealing with when they decided to start the College more than 60 years ago. They were bold then, they took risks. We must be bold now and take risks, as well."

Dr. Hopey’s first year as president has been a productive one. He directed a range of investments and initiatives intended to advance Merrimack’s position as a highly ranked, internationally respected, selective, comprehensive Catholic college.

He also engaged the College community in a collaborative strategic planning process to help Merrimack develop a clear vision for the future. The outcome has been Merrimack’s new strategic plan, the Agenda for Distinction, which focuses on five strategic goals for advancing Merrimack to a national and international position of prominence.

Reflective of that vision is a renewed focus on faculty, students and enrollment. As a result, this fall, Merrimack College enrolled the largest freshman class in recent history. The College also made investments in faculty to continue academic innovation and maintain a distinctive educational experience for students. For the first time, the College was named to The Chronicle of Higher Education’s prestigious list of "Great Colleges to Work For" for Teaching Environment and Tenure Clarity and Process.

"Leadership is about making the best choices for the right reasons at the right time,” remarked Dr. Hopey. “Each leader has to make one of two choices—to be bold or not to be bold. I promise you I will be bold. Bold is what this College was built on, and bold is what will define the next great chapter of Merrimack College.”

Congratulations to Dr. Hopey and to the Merrimack College community on this landmark occasion.

Highlights from the Inauguration celebration, including photos, videos, and Dr. Hopey’s Inauguration speech, are available at www.merrimack.edu/inauguration.
John F. Kennedy once said that leadership and learning are indispensable to each other—and from my experience to date—I assure you—he was completely correct. Over the past 15 months as the new President of Merrimack College, I have been able to focus my attention on meeting many of you, understanding your issues, concerns, hopes and aspirations for Merrimack and learning much about this college. Some things I expected—some things surprised me. What has been most welcome is the people. I have been deeply touched—by the love each of you has for your College—and the spirit everyone has for our mission. I thank each of you for welcoming me—teaching me—and joining me on this journey.

We have boldness, spirit and energy—we have a willingness to take risks—we have a commitment to service—we have the people, faculty and skills to succeed—we have a common purpose—and we have a rich Augustinian tradition and strong Catholic values.

We have momentum: you see it in our newest rankings and awards. We have energy: you can feel it across campus. We have spirit: you can see it in our students. We have passion: you can see it in our excellent faculty. We have a common mission: you see it in our Augustinian friars. We have talent: you see it in our deans, administrators and staff. We have mutual respect and accountability: you can see it in our conversations. We have a lot going for us—we have a lot to achieve—and we have much expected of us. Taken collectively—the challenges we face can be conquered—and the opportunities in front of us can be achieved.

I promise you and you can expect from my presidency: collaboration, communications, openness and transparency. I will always protect the integrity of our academics—our reputation—and our values. I promise to look out for others—and celebrate people for hard work, dedication and performance. You can expect from me accountability, fairness and honesty. I will look for new ways to do new things, and I will do more with less. I will be entrepreneurial and provide the energy and passion required—for new ideas and change to take hold. I will listen, consult and seek advice from the faculty, alumni, students and staff. I will protect and defend our Catholic identity and nurture our Augustinian heritage, traditions and values.

Most of all, I will be a creative leader.

If there were only two words to describe senior Tara Bartley, they would be Service and Learning. Like many students at Merrimack, Bartley has immersed herself in being involved.

Bartley has been an active participant in almost every area of campus. As an executive board member of Merrimack Programming Board, Bartley co-chaired the Spring Concert Committee; she has also been a leader in many other campus events and activities that include SGA, Relay for Life, and an Orientation Coordinator, to name a few.

Bartley also was a participant in Study Abroad, where she traveled to Morocco.

“My favorite aspect about Merrimack is the importance that we put upon service. The college offers endless opportunities to help serve our community,” Bartley said of her experiences.

Her time in Morocco inspired her to become passionate in the fields of public health and non-profit organizations that help less fortunate people access and acquire medical assistance.

Bartley’s educational experiences will overlap her service, in a partnership with St. Jude’s Children Hospital in Nashville, TN.

“I will travel to St. Jude’s to see how the hospital operates and attend a leadership seminar. Next year we will be bringing a new large-scale fundraiser called ‘Up till Dawn’ in the fall to raise money for the hospital. We hope to advocate awareness and urge a yearlong initiative to battle illness. The battle against cancer and other diseases is ongoing, not just one night or event. We hope to constantly remind our community of this,” Bartley said.

After graduation Bartley hopes to pursue a degree in public administration or public health, in hopes to one-day work for a non-profit organization.

“Merrimack will always be my home, and it is my hope that some day I can give back to the place that gave me everything,” said Bartley.

By Patrick Lawlor ‘13, Associate Editor in Chief, The Beacon
CHRISTOPHER FRIOT

INTERNSHIPS, MENTORING PROGRAM INVALUABLE TO FUTURE GOALS

Ever since he was a kid, Christopher Friot, a senior business major, had an interest in the stock market. Now, entering his final year at Merrimack, Friot feels confident to enter the fields of finance or accounting.

"I chose Merrimack because I did not want to spend my college career sitting in lecture halls of 200 or more students; Merrimack has afforded me the opportunity to be part of close-knit classes where professors are interested in your future," Friot said.

Friot became a part of the Merrimack Mentoring Program, a program that pairs students up with alumni or professionals in their area of concentration. A relationship Friot testifies is rewarding and successful.

"My mentor has provided me with networking and invaluable career advice in the financial industry," Friot says. A mentor Friot says has helped him define and develop career goals as well as real world experience.

Upon graduation, Friot will continue his education as he pursues a masters of business administration, as well as other financial examinations that will further his career possibilities. He hopes one day to be involved in portfolio management or part of a venture capital firm.

Friot gives Merrimack great praise for their career services and their focus on job placement. "I have completed three internships, and gained an incredible amount of experience thanks to Merrimack's relentless efforts to help me achieve my career goals." Friot is the vice president of the Merrimack Automotive Club and a member of the American Marketing Association. This year Friot intends to develop a student-run investment fund, something he hopes will turn into a club, or one day even a class.

"I enjoy the community feel that the College continues to foster. At Merrimack it is easy to develop long-lasting friendships with both students and faculty," Friot added.

By Patrick Lawlor '13, Associate Editor in Chief, The Beacon

HANNAH CUNNINGHAM

"I came to Merrimack with the thought of being a high school math teacher one day. I had some really great inspiration from the teachers I had in high school," said Cunningham.

Cunningham demonstrates her active and studious passion by becoming an orientation leader, being a part of the Asea Scholars program, Pep Band, The Honors Program, Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honors Society, Alternative Spring Break Leader, Merrimack Ambassador, Lawrence Math and Science Partnership and the list keeps going on.

"I have really enjoyed the friends I have made and the connections I have made within the community that I will be able to carry with me throughout my life," said Cunningham. Merrimack has not only been a place for academics for me, but I have also been given a place to achieve my goals and strengthen my values."

During her college education she has been most proud of her position as an Orientation coordinator. "I have been an Orientation coordinator for two years. I have learned a lot about working with others and how to plan and organize."

Throughout her time at Merrimack, Cunningham has enjoyed her experience attending Merrimack College and is enjoying her last year. Since first walking onto the campus of Merrimack College as a freshman, she has grown to be an active member throughout the campus community. As an upcoming graduate, she will have her bachelor's degree in math and secondary education and have a minor in religious and theological studies.

By Kayla Morang '12, Sports Editor, The Beacon
SOCcer Helped Him Balance Busy Schedule

Benjamin Paradis

Like many students at Merrimack, college became a balancing act for Ben Paradis, a recent graduate. Paradis juggled numerous roles and was involved in all aspects of campus life. A Biology major, Paradis was a soccer standout, a dedicated and resourceful resident advisor and did his part to keep campus grounds pristine, working for Physical Plant.

Now as he enters the workforce, he is completing a Research Internship at Nexen BioScience in Lawrence, MA. Paradis can attest to his college experience and how it has shaped him; being on the soccer team helped him balance the busy schedule of any student, and he praises longtime soccer coach Tony Marone for providing such an experience.

"Getting involved in college is essential in having a memorable college experience, meeting new people, and most importantly growing as a person," Paradis said of being a resident advisor.

Paradis' talents stretch out of the classroom and playing field, as he masters classical piano, claiming that music is one of his greatest passions.

The community feel of Merrimack impacted Paradis greatly, appreciating all the help along the way as he awards accolade to Dr. Piaste for his writing abilities, and Drs. Barron and McGowan for all of their help and confidence in him throughout the years.

Paradis also appreciates the friendship of Marcell Paradis, a Merrimack College staple for over three decades on the grounds crew.

"If I were to attend college again, I would choose the exact same path," Paradis said.

By Patrick Lawlor '13, Associate Editor in Chief, The Beacon

The College is already gaining recognition from a variety of sources for its efforts and outstanding achievements. U.S. News and World Report, Forbes, The Princeton Review and The Chronicle of Higher Education have each singled out Merrimack. This recognition validates our efforts to advance the College and positions Merrimack to become more competitive and of greater distinction and ultimately a highly ranked, internationally respected, selective masters comprehensive Catholic college.

Merrimack College Gains Momentum + Recognition
Growing Affirmation of the Agenda for Distinction

Best Regional College in the North
-ranked no. 6
U.S. News and World Report

Merrimack College has been ranked no. 6 by the U.S. News and World Report for 2012 as a "Best Regional College in the North." Being recognized by U.S. News and World Report as a leading northern regional college demonstrates that we are competitive in offering an outstanding undergraduate education and is the result of our investments in the College and our mission.

Best of the Northeast
-The Princeton Review

Merrimack College has once again been named to The Princeton Review's "Best of the Northeast" list for academic excellence. Being chosen among the "Best of the Northeast" is an affirmation of our commitment to academic excellence and a testament to our outstanding faculty.

America's Top Colleges
-Forbes

Merrimack College has been named one of "America's Top Colleges" by Forbes magazine for the second consecutive year. Being named to this prestigious list is reflective of our commitment to student success and also highlights our dedication to driving positive enrollment momentum. This year, Merrimack is ranked no. 274 (up from no. 524 last year) out of 450 schools. This significant change in our standing affirms our collective efforts in advancing the College.

Great Colleges to Work For
-The Chronicle of Higher Education

For the first time, Merrimack College has been named to The Chronicle of Higher Education's prestigious list of "Great Colleges to Work For." The College was recognized for Teaching Environment and Tenure and Clarify and Process. This honor is yet another recognition of Merrimack's momentum and affirms how important our faculty are to the future of this institution.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Merrimack has been honored by the Corporation for National Community Services, for the College's support of volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. Merrimack College was admitted to the 2010 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for engaging students, faculty and staff in meaningful service that achieves measurable results for the community.

To support Merrimack's Agenda for Distinction, please visit www.merrimack.edu/strategicplan

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ATHLETICS NEWS

Game-Changer
ATHLETICS LEADING THE WAY TO MAKE MERRIMACK A NATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED INSTITUTION

With a new vision, direction, unmatched success on and off the field, and an exciting outlook on its future, Merrimack Athletics is creating a wave of momentum while uniting Merrimack’s students, staff, faculty, alumni, parents and community.

“My students talk about which sporting events they are going to over the weekend when in years past, they used to talk about which other college campuses they would visit on the weekends,” said Jane D. Parent, an assistant professor in the Management Department. “The campus is buzzing almost every weekend over athletics. It’s great to have a president and an athletic director who recognize that athletics are a big part of campus life.”

Merrimack’s Athletic Department has emerged as a leader in promoting the virtues of the College, increasing overall enrollment, engaging the community, building passion and pride and assisting the College in its goals of becoming a nationally recognized institution.

UNPRECEDEDNTED SUCCESS ON THE FIELD

Fueled by three nationally ranked teams in the fall and winter seasons, Merrimack recorded its most successful fall season in over ten years.

The Division I hockey team, who became the #1 team in the country for the first time in school history on November 21, has sold out every game at Lawler Arena this season and ten straight going back to last year. More than 700 students, almost one third of the entire student body, are flocking to Lawler Arena every weekend wearing their gold shirts in proud support of head coach Mark Dennehy’s squad.

“It’s tremendous how our athletic success brings the students, student-athletes, faculty, administration and alumni together,” said Parent. “I find the new energy and excitement for our growing athletic department so thrilling.”

Meanwhile, Merrimack’s Division II programs are just as successful, as six of seven DII teams improved from the previous year, headlined by the field hockey team that set a school record for wins, won its first-ever Northeast-10 Championship and qualified for its first-ever NCAA Final Four. Women’s soccer, who recorded its 26th straight winning season, returned to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth time in five years and reached the conference championship.

“There is a dramatic difference in the confidence, attitude and spirit of the student-athletes and the Athletic Department,” said Father Ray DiGios, O.S.A., vice president for mission and student affairs. “More than anything else, I see the student-athletes having fun. They enjoy the competition because they know they can compete. It makes me want to come back again and again to watch them play.”

Overall, Merrimack is ranked 24th out of 300 Division II institutions in the Learfield Sports Director’s Cup standings, released on November 23.

“When I first arrived on campus, there really was no sense of community,” said Pat Bogart, a sports management major, who plays club baseball. “But over the past couple years, we have had major success in our varsity programs. Athletics is the one thing that can unite a group of people regardless of age, race or gender. Our athletic programs have really given Merrimack a sense of community and pride that is very unique. It is something I will take with me wherever I go, and I will always cherish and be proud of my time at Merrimack.”

UNPARALLELED PUBLICITY IN THE NEWS

The excitement on campus is translating across New England and across the social media world.

For the first time in school history, Merrimack announced its first-ever TV contract. Five hockey games will be broadcast and produced live in high definition and will air on WBIN-TV in the Boston/Manchester, NH area, while at least nine hockey games will be televised live across New England.

Athletics has also set records for the number of web hits at merrimackathletics.com and the number of social media followers. The hockey program has been mentioned in almost all of the Boston area TV and radio sports reports as well as on ESPN and ESPNU and in USA Today and the Wall Street Journal.

INCREASING ENROLLMENT THROUGH STRATEGIC SPORT ADJUSTMENTS

Merrimack has also added more Intramural programs when many prominent universities are cutting sports.

In the last three years, eight programs have been added, including men’s and women’s indoor and outdoor track and field, women’s golf, women’s crew, and men’s and women’s swimming, with plans to add even more in the near future. The additions have helped the College increase its overall enrollment and have improved the geographic diversity of Merrimack students.

“Over the past four years, I have watched and been a part of the growing success and momentum at Merrimack,” said senior Melissa Garabedian, a business major, who is a captain of the women’s soccer team, and the senior class president. “We have introduced many new sports, upgraded facilities, hired more staff, and this is just the beginning. The best part of the transformation has been the increased support and buzz from the community. The energy about the direction of the athletic programs has taken over the campus and has really helped unite the community.”

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM

At the same time, Merrimack is taking its academic performance just as seriously.

For the second straight year, Merrimack’s student-athletes recorded a grade-point-average of 3.0, which is higher than the average of the entire campus. Nine teams posted a GPA over 3.0 in 2010-11, including the softball and hockey teams, both of whom advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

“The idea that our collective success will result from teamwork, good preparation, and the willingness of individuals to sacrifice is taking hold over the whole campus,” said Father DiGios. “With some success, there is a renewed hope, and it is making coming to work every day a lot of fun.”

But just as the department is not content with its strides on the field and in the community, it continues to make enhancements academically with the hiring of a full-time student-athlete academic coordinator and regularly-scheduled mandatory study halls for all freshmen and all student-athletes who need additional guidance.

BUILDING MOMENTUM TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE

As the calendar turns to 2012, Merrimack has plenty to be proud of: the largest freshmen class in recent history, a successful Athletic Department on the playing field and in the classroom, a renewed community that brings unprecedented support to sporting events, and a possible move to Division I that will only increase the Merrimack brand across the country and the world.

While recent facility improvements such as the Lawler Arena renovations, increased signage at all venues, a new Volpe grass practice field, and new outdoor batting cages have brought Merrimack’s facilities up to speed with its competitors, Merrimack will break ground this spring on the Volpe Expansion Project in early 2012, which will add a new state-of-the-art Sports Medicine facility with classrooms and labs for the Health Sciences Department, a 5,000 square-foot weight room, a new lobby, pro shop and ticket office, a second hockey rink, and additional locker rooms and offices. Future plans are in the works for a new basketball and volleyball court, new tennis courts, and a second turf field.

Merrimack has also embraced its identity as a small, proud Catholic College, which in many ways has been remembered of and many more will soon realize, can compete both academically and athletically with anyone in the country.
"This is... amazing," said Phi Kappa Theta president and alumnus Matt Waine ’04—a sentiment shared by over 4,500 alumni, students, faculty, staff and families at this fall’s Homecoming: a family weekend.

An exciting firework display kicked off the weekend preparing visitors for what would be the largest Homecoming in Merrimack College’s history. Alumni and their families made up the sellout tailgating crowd, with over five hundred participants reveling in pre-game parties, demonstrating their Warrior pride along with competing for the strongest class attendance. A carnival fun zone, offering rides, games and inflatables, adjourned this year’s tailgate.

Blue and gold clad fans were out in full force to support Merrimack’s athletes, who were on top form. Men’s ice hockey defeated both Northeastern and Connecticut, football claimed victory over Stonehill in the signature Homecoming football game; and the nationally ranked #3 women’s field hockey team claimed a win over Adelphi. Basketball was also a highlight of the weekend with the dedication of Hummel Court, honoring the men’s head basketball coach, Bert Hammel, with a heartfelt ceremony and reception.

Over two hundred Greeks and alumni from various student involvement groups returned to reunite and enjoy time with staff at the Student Life/3rd floor coffee hour and Greeks Roolansas. The weekend also provided opportunities for returning alumni and visiting parents to see some of the recently renovated spaces on campus, including the Center for Career Services, an open house in the Merrimack Club and were able to top off the day with a nightcap in the newly created Augie’s Pub.

To see more photos from the weekend, or to tag yourself, visit the Merrimack College Alumni group on Facebook.
66
Donald Smith was voted Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Bank of Canton.

72
Frank Colzil and his wife, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with family and friends. They were married on June 20, 1971 while Frank was a junior at Merrimack.

Vicky (Yalela) Stacer retired after 11 years of teaching math in Agawam Junior High School. Prior to that, Vicky taught science in St. Martha School in Enfield, CT and worked for several volunteer organizations, including 12 years as a Girl Scout leader and trainer. She is now looking forward to time to do some traveling and enjoying her granddaughter, Cassandra.

95
Dean Capuano, who has been heading up the Marketing for Swarovski Optik North America for the past eight years, will host “Swarovski Optik Quests,” a hunting show that will air on the Versus Network starting in the fall of 2011. The show will travel to many exotic destinations all over the world.

99
Louis Trappaso was promoted to sergeant on July 19, 2011 and placed in charge of the Criminal Investigation Division.

Kathryn Juszaume earned her MBA from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, in summer 2011, and has been recently hired as a Web business analyst for EF Education in Cambridge, MA. Kathryn also purchased her first home in Lowell, MA.

Anne (Heffernan) Collins relocated to Anderson, SC this summer. She was recently named marketing & public relations coordinator at Christ Church Episcopal School in Greenville, SC. Anne’s husband, Nick, is studying for his Master’s of Architecture degree at Clemson University, so they’re cheering for the Red Sox, Patriots, Warriors, and Tigers.

Weddings

Louis Trappaso, Jr., and Kelly Nichols, May 18, 2011 at Turtle Bay, Oahu, Hawaii. Alumni in attendance were Lisa Trappaso ’92, and Nicholas Scacchi ’04.

Julie (Draper) Silbovitz and Jason Silbovitz, March 27, 2010. Merrimack alumni attending the wedding were Eric Anderson, Allison (Diedomenico) Lane, Tiffany (Barrett) Attutabo, Tracey (Hovey) Spiral, Andrew Ruggles, Jill (Tenerelio) Verzy, Michelle (Biron) Pobiegl, Michelle (McLaughlin) Punch, Melissa (Clough) Cassidy, Janessa (Lanigan) Zurek, Alberto Canas, Tim O’Leary, Haley (Medeiros) Duarte, and Brad Bamberger.

Paul Piepiora and Katie Powell, April 18, 2011 at Treasure Beach, Jamaica. Alumni in the wedding party included bridegrooms Angela (Fischer) McBrine ’05, Alissa (Carleligio) Koane ’05, Megan (Mescal) O’Neil ’05, and groomsmen Matthew O’Neil ’05, Matthew Author ’05, and Michael Fidler ’05. Additional alumni in attendance included Kassey (Gagnon) ’05 and Christian Nupp ’06, Melissa Kuris ’05, Lauren (Holmgerg) Mercurio ’05, Casey Sylvester ’05, Kate Walker ’05, and Alison (Frazier) Gilroy ’05.

Matthew Author and Katherine Sundberg, June 3, 2011 at Lake George, New York. Paul Piepiora ’05 was a member of the wedding party. Other alumni in attendance included Katie (Powell) Piepiora ’05, Michael Fidler ’05 and Ryan Quinn ’05.

New Arrivals

Spencer Harrison Moller was born on July 25, 2011 to Adrienne and Chuck (’84) Moller. Spencer joins his sisters Annika, Stephanie and Lindsey.

Renee (Catine) Valdyke gave birth to a baby boy on November 21, 2009. His name is Max James Valdyke.

Paula (Pistareto) Higgins & husband Patrick Higgins announce the birth of their daughter, Eleanor Joanne Higgins on March 15, 2011. She joins a very proud big sister, Isabella Rose, 6 years old.

Erin (Nowak) O’Neill and Matthew O’Neil, July 24, 2010 in the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher at Merrimack College. There were over 30 alumni in attendance. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii.

Amy (Corey) Campbell and Brian Campbell, March 27, 2011. Worcester MA. Alumni that were in attendance at the wedding, from left to right: Lori Perrella, Timothy Fenton, Amy (Corey) Campbell, Tina (Fernandez) Ricard, and Benjamin Ricard.
John F. Lyons, Jr. ’52. Jack worked for Avco Corporation in Wilmington, until his retirement in 1978. He also worked for the Internal Revenue Service from 1967-1998. He attended St. Augustine Church in Andover. Jack is remembered as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who was content enjoying simply the things in life: a good book, a classic movie or moving opera, the warmth of the summer sun, the sound of the ocean and the dawn and laughter of his family and grandchildren. He had an infectious laugh and made everyone feel special. Jack will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Jean (Nee) Carney ’55 died on November 17. She received her BA in biology from Merrimack College in 1955 and went on to teach at Center School in Hampton, N.H. The wife of John Arthur Carney, Jr., they settled in Doylestown, Penn, where they resided for 33 years. Contributions in her memory may be made to Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845, or Penn Transplant House, 3940 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Arthur V. Johnson, Jr. ’55, who worked in the Danvers schools for over 30 years and loved to share the game of golf with friends and family, died of leukemia July 8 at the Kaplan Family Hospice in Danvers. He was 77.

Robert B. O’Connell Sr. ’59 of 350 Revere Beach Blvd, Revere, and a former long-time Wrentham resident, died on Friday, June 3, 2011. He was the beloved husband of Dorothy (Mac) O’Connell to whom he was married on May 29, 1949. He was a graduate of the St. Mary School in Lynn, Merrimack College and Salem State College, where he had earned his Masters in Education. He had attended Boston University and the University of the Oblate of St. Mary Immaculate in New York. He also served in the National Guard. Prior to retirement Bob had been the Superintendent of the Wrentham Public Schools for 26 years. He and his wife lived in Revere since 1949. He was a member of Past President of the Wrentham Lions Club, and was a former longtime communicant of St. Mary’s Church in Wrentham, where both he and Dorothy had sung in the Church Chant. A quintessential grandfather, he had a genuine interest and love of all children and education. He was an avid runner and was a man appreciative of culture and art.

Donald T. O’Connor ’60 of South Yarmouth, formerly of Andover, died Saturday, July 7, 2011 at Cape Cod Hospital following a short illness. Donald leaves his beloved wife of 54 years, E. Virginia “Dini” (McCourt) O’Connor of South Yarmouth, his three children, Patrick J. Michael T. and Kathleen A.

He became a production control supervisor for the Missile Systems Division at Raytheon Manufacturing Company where he worked on both the Hawk and Patriot Missiles. Donald was active in Raytheon’s bowling, golfing, and golf leagues for several years and also a golf tournament, the “Doc Open” for thirty years. Donald also served as the vice president of the REAA, the Raytheon Employee Activities Association. For many years, he was in charge of the Children’s Annual Christmas Party and the Family Outing at Whalom Park. Donald had voted REAA’s first Man of the Year. In 1990 Donald retired from Raytheon.

Ann (Honey) Mastroliano ’65 passed away Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at the McCarthy Care Center in East Sandwich, MA. She was the wife of the late Frank J. Mastroliano and is survived by her children Major Peter M. Mastroliano, U.S.A.F., Elizabeth Mastroliano and Patricia Brown. Ann enjoyed all pets and was a leader and a member of the Democratic Club of America and the Brook Club of America. An artist, Ann enjoyed creating stained glass and quilting. Ann most recently worked for the Town of Barnstable as a chemist at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Francis E. Fortier ’64 of Lawrence passed away on Monday, June 6, 2011 at Lawrence General Hospital. Francis was born, raised and educated in Lawrence. He was a graduate of Central Catholic High School and went on to graduate from Merrimack College in 1964. He leaves a son, Scott (Kamala) Fortier of Lawrence, a sister, Dena (Bill) LeBlond, a brother, Roger Fortier and his wife, Brenda, of Goffstown, NH and several nieces and nephews.

Jill Ma, a freshman at Merrimack College, died on October 32 as a result of an accident on Route 114. He was a resident of Dallien, Liangning Province, China, and was studying to be an electrical engineer. It was always his dream to become an American college student. In his honor his fellow Merrimack students erected a Memorial Wall on campus where students hand wrote messages of remembrance. Along with his friends, who traveled from China to claim their only son, special services were held on campus.

Elaine Rose (Favuzza) Sampson ’78 died on April 4, 2011 after a long battle with breast cancer. Dedicated to helping others, first through her work in a hospital, nursing home and elderly social work, and later through a personal Christian ministry of her book and CD. Her wish is that you give at your level, time, encouragement and resources to those in need. She is survived by her husband, Tom.

John Byrne Carroll ’81 is survived by his wife, Margarita and four children Joseph, Anna, James and Katherine himself. His parents, Francis and Katherine Carroll as well as his three brothers, Francis, Neil and Timothy.


Sean M. Hickey ’82 died suddenly, Thursday, May 5, 2011. He was only 41 years old. Born on September 29, 1969 in Everett, he was the 1977 graduate of Pope John High School in Lawrence. He received a BA degree from Merrimack College. He worked for 17 years as Vice President of Sales with Dekek Software of Woburn. Sean loved spending time with his family and enjoyed skiing, hunting, fishing, and coaching children’s baseball. He coached baseball and baseball and was on the National Little League Board of Directors. He enjoyed traveling to Cape Cod and the beaches.

He was the devoted husband of Osana A. (Rinaldi) Hickey of Medway, loving father of Cameron R., Rogan C. and Coryn D. Hickey. Cherished and loving son of Alberi C. & Janice M. (Parelli) Hickey also of Medway. He also leaves many family, relatives and friends.
JAMES CAIN ('69) IN HIS OWN WORDS

For many people their college years remain a touchstone throughout their lives—a time and place to return to—a retreat into memories of years, when all things were possible and energy seemed boundless.

Walking into the Welcome Center at Merrimack College I was frozen in place—mesmerized—by an enormous aerial photo of the campus. It was disorienting and I was flummoxed as I searched for an apt description of what loomed before me. I had an attack of mixed metaphors—it was truly "breath-boggling," perhaps, even "mind-taking." I reached for the wall to regain my balance—it was that striking. Saturated with the golden glow of a setting autumnal sun, the campus stood in the foreground with the Boston Skyline clearly hovering on the horizon.

Intuitively, I knew Boston was only 20 or so miles from Merrimack but the visual depiction had a visceral aspect as well—the juxtaposition, seeing them in the same visual frame—gave me pause...a tag team of synapses that retrieved memories and forged pathways and associations to things and events not previously connected.

Looking at the foreground of the photo in isolation, it was not difficult to imagine the bustling activity, the pristine pathways and bay field near Wilson's corner—that existed in 1944. Known then as Richardson's building. Stepping back and viewing the broader perspective that the photo provided made this exercise of imagination quite challenging. Looking at the foreground of the photo in isolation, it was not difficult to imagine the bustling activity, the pristine pathways and bay field near Wilson's corner—that existed in 1944. Known then as Richardson's building. Stepping back and viewing the broader perspective that the photo provided made this exercise of imagination quite challenging.

The photo in the Welcome Center has a hopeful, optimistic feel. With the sun, the campus stood in the foreground with the Boston Skyline clearly hovering on the horizon.
A gift annuity is a contract between a donor and Merrimack College that will provide a guaranteed, fixed income for the life of the donor or other designated beneficiary. The annuity assets are backed by the total assets of the College. There are no management fees or investment worries. The minimum annuity gift is $10,000.

Eligibility
An annuitant must be at least 60 years of age in order to receive income from a charitable gift annuity. You may make your gift at a younger age, but must defer your income until at least age 60. By deferring, you would qualify for a higher rate. For more on deferred payment gift annuities, please contact Cara R. Dyers, Director of Gift Planning at 978.837.9012.

Annuities based on two lives are also available, but the rates are generally lower.

Tax Deductibility
With a gift of cash, gift annuities generate an immediate charitable income tax deduction. If you give a gift of appreciated securities, capital gains are reduced dramatically and can be reported over a number of years so that those taxes are not due all at one time.

Rates
Merrimack College has a revised schedule of rates effective January 1, 2012. If you chose to fund a Merrimack College annuity on or before December 31, 2011, you can still benefit from the current—higher—rates. Please be assured that the rates and payments on your existing gift annuity with Merrimack College will not be affected by this change. Why the drop in rates? Like many nonprofit organizations, Merrimack College subscribes to gift annuity rates recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities, which has recently adopted lower gift annuity rates reflecting current market conditions. To ensure that you lock-in the higher annuity rates, Merrimack must receive your gift no later than December 31, 2011. Charitable Gift Annuities are great reunion gifts!
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