Class of 2011 Joins Alumni Ranks

Merrimack College

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Class of 2011 joins alumni ranks
CALENDAR SUMMER 2011

JULY
9 Young Professionals Night at the Red Sox
13 "The Music Man" - Summer Film Series
pre-screening talk with Amy Klayman at 6:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m. viewing, Rogers Center
20 The Jazz Disciples Summer Concert
7:00 p.m., Rogers Center
27 "Victor Victoria" - Summer Film Series
pre-screening talk with Amy Klayman at 6:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m. viewing, Rogers Center

AUGUST
6 TKE Annual Softball Tournament
10 "The Sting" - Summer Film Series
pre-screening talk with Arny Klayman at 6:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m. viewing, Rogers Center
17 Jon Shain Summer Concert
7:00 p.m., Rogers Center
24 Monument Square Brass Summer Concert
7:00 p.m., Rogers Center

SEPTEMBER
1 New Student Move-in Day
1-5 Student Orientation
6 Classes begin
5 Upper Classmen Move-in Day
6 Academic Convocation
6:00 p.m.
14 Alumni Career Series: Speed Networking
7:30 p.m., Rogers Center
15 Inauguration of President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
20 Illuminations Series: Sustainability - There is No Planet B
21 Film series (TBA)
25 12th annual Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra Pops Concert
2:30 p.m., Rogers Center
28 Film series (TBA)

OCTOBER
21-22 Homecoming Weekend

SAVE THE DATE
INAGURATION
of the eighth president of Merrimack College
Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
Thursday, September 15, 2011
WWW.MERRIMACK.EDU/INAUGURATION
DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

It is just about a year since I arrived at Merrimack, full of enthusiasm for what Merrimack is and what it can become. I have recently congratulated the first graduating class since my arrival and felt a special pride in doing so. They now join you, an elite group of Merrimack alumni who, as I have come to learn as I meet many of you, have the same enthusiasm and hope for the future of this College as I do.

Looking back, we have reached many milestones this past year. By all accounts, it is an exciting time for Merrimack College and our alumni. A transformation is underway—from facilities, to academic programs, to our strategic vision for the College. We have made changes that provide a better experience for our students, such as 24-hour access to the library and fitness center and our study abroad and financial aid policies.

We've also made enhancements to our campus that will help us attract students, engage our community, provide alumni with an ever-expanding collection of resources, and ultimately raise the profile of Merrimack. Our new Welcome Center, Merrimack Club and renovations to McQuade Library and the Volpe Athletic Center are just some of the changes that have our students buzzing.

There are also noteworthy developments in Merrimack’s academic programs. Our new dean of the Girard School of Business and International Commerce, Dr. Mark Cordano, will soon join us to raise the profile of the business school. Another exciting development in the business school is that Dr. Patricia Sendall, professor of management, was named to the prestigious ACE Fellowship program. In addition, our faculty has brought forth several new majors and minors, including Information Technology, Environmental Studies and Sustainability, and Human Development. The School of Education has recently launched several new graduate programs as well and continues to grow.

As I look to next year, I am pleased to say that this fall we will welcome one of the largest incoming freshman classes we have ever had. Our campus continues to be a destination for prospective students and their families as they explore their educational choices.

With an eye to the future, staff and students have been engaged in an important conversation about the direction of Merrimack College. A strategic plan has been developed and shared with our community, yielding productive discussions and feedback. We hope to receive approval by the Board of Trustees by early summer and then will share this new version with you. I am confident that the plans we are setting for the future will help Merrimack reach a new level of excellence.

I look forward to another year of strategic, thoughtful and exciting endeavors. This is only the beginning. Together we can build a brilliant future for Merrimack College.

Sincerely,

Christopher Hopey, Ph.D.
President

“I am confident that the plans we are setting for the future will help Merrimack reach a new level of excellence.”

Christopher Hopey, President
The passion you have for education and the greater community is your faith and be inspired to lead others.

In her address to fellow classmates, Molly Wicker ’11 spoke of her Alumnus Thomas J. Kinton, Jr. ’74, H ’07, CEO and director of personal journey at Merrimack College, including how she was able “experience the world outside of Merrimack.” “Fellow graduates, this said, “Although there is much uncertainty in the world, hold on to from a 1970s era airport to a 21st century world-class facility. Giving graduates a glimpse into their new roles in the world, Kinton foundation and its commitment to education.

W. O'Brien, founder of the James W. O'Brien Foundation which has education. Make it your own mission to make our world a better place,” she said.

Among his immediate initiatives for the Girard School is to strengthen ties with businesses, alumni, and the local community which will make it possible for the School to advance its mission. He explains, “One thing I stressed when I applied to be dean is the idea of social capital—creating connections among students, faculty, alumni, businesses and all the elements of the Merrimack community. Business education requires those connections.”

Prior to joining Ithaca College, Dr. Cordano was assistant professor of management at Wright State University’s Raj Soin College of Business where he received several awards, including the Outstanding Teacher Award. He is also a prolific author of journal articles and frequent speaker at conferences.

Dr. Cordano holds a B.A. in psychology from Cornell University, an M.B.A. in management/public policy from Indiana University and a Ph.D. in strategy, business environment and organizations from the University of Pittsburgh’s Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business.

Mark Cordano, Ph.D. takes the reins at the business school.

Mark Cordano, Ph. D. was recently named the new dean of Merrimack College’s Girard School of Business and International Commerce. Dr. Cordano takes over leadership of the School from Professor Richard DeBauldo, who served as interim dean and assisted with the search for the new dean.

Commenting on what attracted him to Merrimack and the Girard School, Dr. Cordano explains, “There are a lot of exciting things going on here. The mission is very noble. It’s impressive for its short history what’s been accomplished. It’s an exciting time with a new president and now strategic vision. Being involved in a major business center gives a rich experience to students, and having an engineering school – these are exciting elements.

Dr. Cordano brings to Merrimack over 15 years of experience as a scholar, teacher and academic leader. Most recently, he served as interim dean of the School of Business at Ithaca College where he was involved in the School’s enrollment, curriculum and assessment, and sustainability initiatives, and was actively involved in the College’s development and fundraising. Dr. Cordano also served as associate professor in the School of Business teaching several graduate courses in management and organizational behavior, including strategic management, environmental management and sustainable strategic management.

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The College presented an honorary degree to Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Boston, in recognition of his commitment to serving the community, teaching, and ministering to those who have suffered from social and economic injustice.

Also receiving honorary degrees this year were: Reverend Donald Boffy, O.S.A., of Villanova University, and Dr. Laurence M. Demers ’60, distinguished professor emeritus of pathology and medicine at the M.S. Hershey Medical Center of The Pennsylvania State University in State College, and former board chairman and trustee of Merrimack. A posthumous honorary degree was granted to James W. O’Brien, founder of the James W. O’Brien Foundation which has helped thousands of Merrimack students pursue their educational endeavors. James J. McNamara ’57, president of the O’Brien Foundation, was awarded a surprise honorary degree for continuing the work of the foundation and its commitment to education.

Alumnus Thomas J. Kinton, Jr. ’74, H ’07, CEO and director of Massport, delivered the commencement address, which wove in memorable stories from his role as a pioneer in aviation security and a leader in the transformation of Boston Logan International Airport from a 1970s era airport to a 21st century world-class facility.

Giving graduates a glimpse into their new roles in the world, Kinton said, “Although there is much uncertainty in the world, hold on to your faith and be inspired to lead others.”

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Management Professor Patricia Sendall, Ph.D. was recently named an American Council of Education (ACE) Fellow for 2011-2012. The fellowship will add leadership development to Sendall’s full slate of classroom work, research and committee activity.

Management Professor Patricia Sendall, Ph.D. was recently named an American Council of Education (ACE) 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.

Not only is Dr. Sendall among a select group of Fellows chosen this year, she is only the second Merrimack College faculty member to receive this honor since ACE initiated the Fellows program in 1965. The first was Professor Geraldine Branca, Ph.D., who was named a Fellow while at Tufts University.

Dr. Sendall was nominated by President Christopher E. Hoey. He says, “It is really an honor, all for the president to nominate me, and b) to be named an ACE Fellow.”

The ACE Fellows Program immerses participants in the culture, policies, and decision-making processes of another institution, in the context of years of on-the-job training and development into a single year. Dr. Sendall will go to a host institution for one semester, where she will work alongside the school’s provost or president. She will then return to Merrimack for the second semester to work with President Hoey.

Dr. Sendall joined Merrimack in 1990 as an adjunct faculty member and was later hired as a full-time Assistant Professor of Management. Her leadership roles at Merrimack have included Faculty Senate President (2010-2011), Management Department Chair, Presidential, Provost, and Dean search committees, and member of the Appointment, Rank & Tenure Committee. Outside of Merrimack she has served as president of the Academy of Business Education and as a member of the Board of Directors of AITP EDSIG.

Her tenure as Faculty Senate President ended in May after serving one year as president-elect and one year as president.

In addition to her work in the classroom and on the Faculty Senate and other committees, Dr. Sendall maintains a steady research agenda. She teams up regularly with research partners within Merrimack and with several professors at other colleges.

“My proudest moment was when Merrimack gave me an honorary degree in 2007 at Commencement,” notes Dr. Sendall. “In my heart, I accepted it in the name of others: all those pioneer Augustinians who sacrificed so much in order to get Merrimack on a sound footing so that it could blossom into the excellent institution that it is today.”

Dr. Herbert Meyer also retired at the end of June 2011, having taught philosophy at Merrimack since 1963.

Many alumni may remember his classes, Existential Views of Man, History of Contemporary Education, Generic Ethics and more.

During his time at Merrimack, Dr. Meyer was granted tenure in 1978 and was promoted to full professor in 1987. He holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Boston University and an M.A. in Philosophy from Loyola University.

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Fr. Kevin Dwyer, O.S.A.
A CHAMPION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
BRINGS HIS PASSION TO MERRIMACK

Dan Butin, founding dean of the School of Education, on the critical linkages between teaching, learning and the local community.

Over the last 18 months, Merrimack College's School of Education has grown to over 300 undergraduate and graduate students and has greatly expanded its number of programs and licenses. Leading the development of Merrimack's School of Education is its founding dean, Dan W. Butin, Ph.D.

Under Dr. Butin, the School of Education now offers undergraduate degrees in Education and Human Development, Masters of Education programs in over a dozen licensure areas, as well as three brand new graduate programs in Higher Education, Community Engagement, and a CAGS in Teacher Leadership. Dr. Butin has also revitalized the Graduate Institute of Education and launched two new research centers in the School of Education: The Center for an Engaged Democracy and the Center for Youth and Families.

"This is really exciting and very new and different for us," says Dr. Butin. "The School of Education is about more than schools—it's about educating. We want to form linkages and partnerships—intellectual, practical, and impactful—across and between PreK-12 education, higher education, and local communities."

Among his goals is to double the number of students in the undergraduate and graduate programs as well as develop several additional academic programs in the next two years. At the undergraduate level, this includes an innovative partnership with the School of Science and Engineering for a new major in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Education for future elementary teachers. At the graduate level, Dr. Butin has developed partnerships with numerous local community-based organizations—such as Habitat for Humanity, Northern Essex Community College, and Lowell Community Teamwork—to support the graduate Fellows within the Higher Education and Community Engagement programs.

"The College's Augustinian tradition and values affirm our mission to our communities and to social justice."

Dr. Butin has a strong background in educator preparation and policy as well as in community engagement, both of which have influenced the cutting-edge developments of Merrimack's School of Education. And this is truly possible, says Dr. Butin, because of the College's Augustinian underpinnings. "The College's Augustinian tradition and values affirm our mission to our communities and to social justice," he says. "Education is about dialogue—with ourselves, our peers, and our communities. It is a chance to grow and change, ultimately to transform ourselves and the world around us for the better."

Prior to working in higher education, Dr. Butin was a middle school math and science teacher and the chief financial officer of Teach For America, a non-profit organization that recruits college students from around the country to teach for two years in low-income communities, then go on as alumni to lead efforts to change the face of public education. Dr. Butin was an assistant professor at Gettysburg College and came to Merrimack having served as assistant dean at Cambridge College's School of Education. His Ph.D. is in social foundations of education from the University of Virginia. He is the author of seven books and dozens of articles, reports, and book chapters, has won numerous academic awards, and is a sought-after keynote speaker at national and international conferences and universities. Among the works authored by Dr. Butin are: Service-Learning in Theory and Practice: The Future of Community Engagement in Higher Education, and Teaching Social Foundations of Education. He is also co-editor of the forthcoming, The Engaged Campus: Majors and Minors as the New Institutionalization of Community Engagement.
The 19th century British philosopher and political theorist Herbert Spencer proclaimed that "The great aim of education is not knowledge, but action." Today, higher education is poised to truly make a difference in its local and global communities. The question is how can we in the academy, through what is oftentimes called "pedagogies of engagement"—community service, civic engagement and service-learning—truly foster sustainable, powerful, and meaningful action and change for all stakeholders—students, faculty, and the communities with whom we partner.

To understand this situation, we have to look for a moment at the history of higher education. It is also helpful to define our terms: community engagement is an umbrella term for a host of interrelated practices and philosophies such as service-learning, civic and community engagement, public scholarship, and community-based research. Service-learning, the most prominent and well-known of these, is traditionally understood as the linkage of community service with academic coursework.

Students learning about poverty in a sociology class, for example, will work in a homeless shelter; undergraduate business students in a non-profit management class will work with a local, family-owned business to develop a more user-friendly website. Such linkages of theory with real-world practice—done within the context of respect and reciprocity with the community and within the academic model of relevance and reflection on the academic content—stand at the epicenter of a powerful and meaningful college education. In fact, a wide variety of research suggests that service-learning is one of only a handful of "deep impact" practices that occurs on a college campus that students will remember far after graduating.

Today, community engagement has become an assumed and expected part of the higher education landscape. According to national surveys, for example, more than half of all faculty believe that instilling a commitment to community service is a very important or essential aspect of undergraduate education. And over 1,000 institutions are members of Campus Compact, a national organization of college and university presidents committed to civic and community engagement in higher education.
Yet even as the public face of community engagement becomes ever more embraced, there are troubling signs, as scholars have begun to openly talk of a movement that has "stalled." While the reasons are a complex mix of demographic trends, economic malaise, and the changing nature of higher education, a key point is that community engagement has been promoted and practiced as something "a mile wide and an inch deep." Volunteering and community service and service-learning are wonderful and potentially powerful and important practices, but they do not and cannot live up to the transformational power hoped for and promised by advocates. It is really hard to impact poverty in a local community or truly ensure the success of a small non-profit, especially within the context of a one-semester course that requires just two hours a week of volunteering.

Scholars and activists have thus begun to look for other ways to deepen and strengthen the partnerships and collaborations between colleges and communities. One fascinating and promising example is the rise of academic programs—concentrations, minors, and majors—that focus on community engagement. There are forty or so such programs across the country, including one just launched at Merrimack College in the 2011-12 academic year, that offer students and faculty the chance to engage with the academic and community issues in a long-term way with opportunities to delve deeply and carefully into critical and complex issues. This is especially relevant given that community engagement is a complex practice that has real-world ethical, legal, and political implications as to what our undergraduates actually do out in the world. It offers, in an academic context, the chance—for students and faculty alike—the space and the opportunity to foster and strengthen the very qualities we are looking for in the community partnerships we espouse: deep, sustained, and impactful reflection, engagement, and action.

Community engagement is thus at a seeming crossroads. How do we continue to nurture and promote civic engagement and outreach, and do so in a meaningful way that embraces our deepest values without shortchanging our community partners? How do we stay true to the vision of linking theory and practice and colleges with communities, without falling too far to one side or the other of this delicate balance?

Colleges and universities are searching for these answers such that, a generation from now, we can continue to be proud of the connections and linkages that make our students and our partners truly better.

"More than half of all faculty, according to UCLA’s ongoing American College Teacher surveys, believe that instilling a commitment to community service is a very important or essential aspect of undergraduate education."

From "When Engagement is Not Enough: Institutionalizing the Next Generation of the Engaged Campus," by Dan Butin, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Education, Merrimack College

So Much More Than Educating the Educators
Merrimack’s School of Education—Immersed in Education Preparation and Community Engagement

Community engagement is a concept that has long been embraced by Dr. Dan Butin, and one that is evident in the development of the emergent school.

"The School of Education has to embody education preparation and community engagement—service-learning and civic education," says Butin. "You can’t understand schools today in our society unless you understand the communities they are in. You need to understand the local churches, the YMCA, the grocery store, the police station—all these parts are integrated into local schools. Teachers have to understand the community within which the kids live."

Merrimack College’s School of Education aims to prepare educators who understand that schools play a key role in a diverse and democratic society. Beyond the traditional role of educating the future generations, the School of Education seeks to instill in its students a commitment to service and engagement with the broader community.

Merrimack’s School of Education offers a variety of academic programs that focus on community engagement, from minors to full majors. These programs aim to prepare students to be active and engaged citizens who are committed to making a difference in their communities. The School of Education connects books with classrooms and ideas with actions. This philosophy is embodied in the College’s new fellowship programs, which provide opportunities for full-time professionals in varied capacities in their respective placement sites. All fellows graduate in a year with an M.Ed.

"Whether it is physical therapists, school nurses, or someone working in family services trying to make a difference in the public sphere—all of these professions are interlinked," explains Dr. Butin. "All of the human services, social service fields are linked with the School of Education. The strategic vision is to create a school of education that is deeply linked to its partners. All students, regardless of their major, have real hands-on field experience, interlinking theory and practice."

MARIE GALINSKI, Ed.D. ’70, Superintendent of Beverly Public Schools

Impacting Students’ Lives Every Day
Heading up a public school system during a time of economic challenge demands not only the prerequisite administrative skills and education expertise, it also requires a fortitude to continue moving forward, despite increasing mandates and decreasing budgets.

"I just balanced the budget for next year and had to make more cuts," says Marie Galinski, Ed.D. (B.A., English Education, Merrimack College '70). "It's not easy to do that and still provide quality education, but you find a way to make it work."

In July 2010, Dr. Galinski was named Superintendent of the Beverly Public Schools. Her career as an education administrator began to take shape during her time at Merrimack. She explains, "I look back at my time at Merrimack as important in shaping my life. It was the start of my interest in literature and the arts that I was able to pursue my interest in literature and the arts very rewarding."

Like any good educator or school administrator, Dr. Galinski is committed to continually developing her professional skills and expanding her education knowledge. She has learned, in order to be a successful administrator, you must have good organizational skills, interpersonal skills, and a vision.

To keep pace with the latest trends, Dr. Galinski attends workshops and participates in other types of professional development activities. She also reveals she has learned the most by being present in the classroom. She says you can become more knowledgeable about trends in education by watching teachers teach.

**The Challenges of Today's Classroom**

Dr. Galinski has seen significant changes in education since she first began her career. "The students in school reflect society," she says. "As society changes so does the student in the classroom. Students today represent more of a challenge in the classroom." The focus of the past decade has been preparing kids to perform well on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exams.

"Dr. Galinski says the emphasis is now shifting toward preparing kids for the twenty-first century workforce and higher education. For teachers, leveraging technology is key. But it's not just about using technology to make content accessible for all kids. Dr. Galinski recommends prospective teachers become double certified in an area like special education or reading. "It's not okay just to know your content anymore. It's about how you interact with the student and the content.""}

More importantly, she advises education students get as much on-the-job training as possible.

**Advice for Aspiring Teachers**

Dr. Galinski is very supportive of Merrimack's Education Fellows program, in which Beverly Public Schools will be participating for the first time this coming fall. "I think this Merrimack Fellows program is fabulous," she asserts. "It gives people the opportunity to get their feet wet without having all the responsibilities for the classroom. They come into the job in a much more confident position. It's a win-win. We get the opportunity of having a certified grad student working in the classroom for a full year. There are people who can come in and be extremely supportive of what we're doing and be on the cutting edge, rather than someone who has just been in school. We are looking forward to this exciting opportunity!"
STUDENT PROFILES

Writers from Merrimack’s student newspaper, The Beacon, highlight some of the College’s accomplished students.

By Joan Corcoran, Staff Writer, The Beacon

NICOLE ZAFFINI

GAINING DRIVE AND FOCUS TO SUCCEED

Nicole Zaffini, a recent Merrimack graduate, was a stand-out student and member of the Merrimack community. She made a name for herself participating in many campus clubs and winning prestigious awards.

A double major in Psychology and Education with a concentration in Elementary Moderate Disabilities, Zaffini was recently named the recipient of the Annual Joseph and Ruth Sheehan School of Education Teacher Excellence Award. Zaffini was a student teacher as part of her practicum for the past three semesters.

“I knew I wanted to teach because one of my first jobs was as a dance teacher. I love working with kids because of their energy and enthusiasm,” Zaffini said.

Zaffini has proven to be an incredibly well rounded student and will undoubtedly find success in her future endeavors.

She has been on the Dean’s List for seven consecutive semesters and with a 3.93 GPA graduated summa cum laude. She is a Presidential Scholar, has earned many academic merit scholarships, and is a member and the vice president of the Psi Chi International Psychology Honor Society.

In addition to all the academic success, Zaffini was a member of the Merrimack College Dance Team since 2007. Not only was she busy with academics and clubs, but she also held many jobs. While in college, Zaffini worked as a dance instructor, served as a summer camp counselor, babysat, tutored, worked as an office assistant for Merrimack’s Office of Financial Aid as well as for the Merrimack College McQuade Library.

“My college experience taught me how to be a team player and how to be more collaborative, who will help me as a teacher. It also taught me to have more drive and focus in order to succeed,” Zaffini added.

LIAM HOARE

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY

Liam Hoare, a member of the class of 2012, takes advantage of every program and opportunity at Merrimack. A finance major, he is a member of the Girard Mentoring Program for students majoring in business, and has participated in Merrimack’s Cooperative Education program, working at MFS Investment Management.

Liam’s passion for business started with his father, and his hands-on experiences have only further developed his interest in the field. Hoare can often be found working out and training with the varsity tennis team. As a captain and leader of the team, he takes his athletic endeavors seriously, and, in fact, won a round in the NCAA tournament during his sophomore year.

Hoare is more than just a student-athlete. He also finds time to be a student ambassador and he is a member of SAAC. He attributes his success as a balanced Merrimack student to time management and just getting things done before they build up too much stress.

After Merrimack, Liam has plans to pursue a career in the field of investment analyst trading and investment banking. Leaving Merrimack will be bittersweet for him, as it is exciting to see all the changes around campus start to happen. Merrimack and its future growth and development will be just one more thing to be proud of in the future.

As he said, “Merrimack turned out to be the best choice for me.”
Both Computer Science majors and seniors who graduated in the top of their class, Jeff Titus and Chris Wilkins have reflected upon their experiences at Merrimack and their plans for the future.

Hailing from Groveland, Mass., Titus said he is most proud of graduating summa cum laude with a 3.89 GPA and having been named a Presidential Scholar.

Titus’s favorite aspect of Merrimack, he said, is the learning environment. “The professors are all very helpful to the students and teach their subject matter well,” he said, adding, “Students, for the most part, are encouraged to work together and assist each other to solve difficult problems, which is ultimately important in the learning process.”

As for what the future holds, Titus is going to work full time as a software engineer/web developer at Schneider Electric in North Andover. He said he is enjoying what he is doing and is planning to work there for a while.

Coming from nearby Haverhill, Mass., Wilkins said his greatest accomplishment while attending Merrimack was managing his team in the Software Engineering class. He and Jeff worked together with their team to develop an Android Mobile Application called “MintTrack”—which allows those with Android phones to manage where they are spending their money. Chris was most proud of being able to organize the project and its implementation in a short period of time.

At Merrimack, Wilkins said, “I don’t feel like a number. Outside of class, my teachers have always been able to guide me and to answer any questions I might have about the subject I was working on.”

After graduation, Wilkins hopes to start his career as a software engineer, designing and applying innovative software.

If there is anyone who can truly represent what an ideal Merrimack student is, it’s Cara Perkins. Perkins, a Physics and Math major in the Class of 2011, not only excelled in the classroom, but also immersed herself in the Merrimack community, becoming extremely involved.

As the first Physics major in 12 years to study abroad, Perkins traveled to Ireland, becoming involved in an experience like none other. While much of her time was devoted to her studies and working, she still had time to travel to other parts of Europe, making her experience much more enriching. As if her dossier isn’t strong enough, Perkins also completed an internship with the United States Department of Energy at Stanford University where she took part in Particle Accelerator research.

It never stopped at academics for Perkins. She was very involved on campus as an Orientation Leader, a member of Merrimack Programming Board, the Physics Club, as well as being a Merrimack Ambassador. Perkins also became an advocate for International Studies, often speaking with other students about its programs.

Perkins holds big plans in her near future, as she heads off to Rochester Institute of Technology to pursue a Ph.D. in Imaging Science. Perkins hopes to work with ultrasound and medical imaging to help in cancer research, as well as radiation therapy.

Surely not alone as she speaks about what she likes best about Merrimack, Perkins said, “My favorite part of Merrimack is the sense of community, and seeing everyone smiling.”

“I love Merrimack; I don’t want to leave,” Perkins added.
School-Based Physical Activity Increases Health and Science Learning

Health Sciences Assistant Professor Kevin Finn and several Merrimack students participated in a novel research study this spring that focused on combating the growing problems of inactivity and obesity among children.

The study took place at the Esperanza Academy School of Hope for Girls in Lawrence, Mass. Students there used pedometers, heart rate monitors and accelerometers that transmit signals about their activity levels to recording devices worn on the wrist and in sneakers. The students uploaded the data from their digital devices onto a website to track their activity. “It’s a fun way to get kids active while also learning more about math and science,” Finn says.

The study stemmed from previous work conducted by UMass Boston Professor Kyle McNissi who was one of the first researchers to use interactive digital devices and video games that incorporate player movement as a way to help kids get active. McNissi also participated in this current study at Esperanza, which was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Merrimack students visited the science classrooms of 5th and 6th grade students at Esperanza Academy to conduct the “activity-based” science lessons. They assisted in teaching important principles of science and math by engaging the 5th and 6th grade students in activities that included using interactive computer programs, in addition to taking class games that incorporate player movement as a way to help kids get active. McNissi also participated in this current study at Esperanza, which was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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The study at Esperanza, which was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is important to the girls of Esperanza to the study. They are invaluable to the success of this project. The goal of the Merrimack Valley Sandbox is to develop and enhance an innovation ecosystem in communities across the Valley, with emphasis on Lawrence, Lowell and Haverhill. Believing that the Merrimack Valley has all of the components that make Silicon Valley the hub of technology and innovation that it is, the main objective is to help the area transition from an industrial to an innovation economy by funding and fostering entrepreneurs who will build businesses, non-profits, and other networks that fuel regional economic development.

Twentieth student proposals at Merrimack College—more than any other participating college or university in the region—were funded to tackle a community problem or start a business.

The Deshpande Foundation was founded in 1996 to invest in social ideas, innovation and entrepreneurship as a driver of economic development that is locally relevant, supported and sustained. The Foundation’s investments are designed to help organizations and individuals develop an innovation mindset and the infrastructure to enable innovation. The Foundation seeks to partner closely with organizations and use its philanthropic support to create innovation ecosystems between and among like-minded organizations, leaders and entrepreneurs.

As part of its Sandbox, the Deshpande Foundation will launch several programs, including support for innovative non-profit organizations, such as Teach for America, and leadership development for young professionals and entrepreneurs starting businesses in the area.

One of the signature programs is the Campus Catalyst, a seed grant opportunity for students to tackle a community problem or start their own business. Over 75 Merrimack College students joined teams and submitted 22 proposals, with 20 of them being funded with initial grants of $500 each this spring semester—more than any other participating college or university in the region.

Next step is for the students, along with Professor Finn, to analyze their own data to determine what is needed to develop larger research studies that evaluate scalable, cost effective strategies to increase school-based physical activity.

Playing in the Sandbox

Sponsored by the Deshpande Foundation of Stoneham, Mass., the Merrimack Valley Sandbox is a five-year, $25 million philanthropic initiative that represents transformative opportunities for Merrimack College and the communities across the region.

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Campus Catalyst Project I: Cups for Change

Sustainability at Merrimack College is a hot topic among students, faculty and staff, and Team Cups for Change saw the Campus Catalyst program as a chance to make a sustainable difference on campus. Through Assistant Professor of Management Dr. Jane Parent’s Girard School class, Ethics and Social Responsibility, students Alyssa Wertz ‘12, Samantha Sarkisian ‘12, Peter Early ‘11 and Brian Osterman ‘11 developed a project to address the “coffee cup epidemic” as they fondly call the use of paper coffee cups by the Merrimack community.

Their solution: to offer a Merrimack mug that students and others can use for their daily purchases or during meals at Sparky’s Place.

Their incentive: to offer a discount at the Warrior’s Den and other locations on campus for each purchase made with their Cups for Change.

From the start, Sodexo, Merrimack’s partner in food service, was excited about the opportunity this partnership represented, since it served as a catalyst for the promotion of Sodexo’s long-standing policy of offering a discount on purchases using your own mug. In two days, students sold their entire quantity of cups and made enough profit to donate $200 to the non-profit Lazarus House in Lawrence. Learning how to innovate as entrepreneurs brought classroom knowledge into real-world practice through an entrepreneurial endeavor, an experience that will help them immensely in the business world.

Campus Catalyst Project III: Women’s Path to Employment

First-year student Sabrina Boggio ‘14 initially got the idea for her Women’s Path to Employment project after seeing firsthand the challenges that unemployed and economically-disadvantaged women face in re-entering the workforce, including language and skills barriers that are hard to overcome.

Recognizing the many organizations out there already addressing these barriers, Sabrina saw a gap—helping women with their professional dress—a very real, but often unaddressed barrier to employment for thousands across the Merrimack Valley. With her Campus Catalyst grant, Sabrina and her teammate, Milagros Castillo ‘14, undertook a successful clothing drive and have begun forming partnerships, both on campus and off, that will help her build her organization over the next three years at Merrimack.

With a marketing campaign scheduled for this summer and fall, you will be seeing more of the Women’s Path to Employment.

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"This type of project is important to the girls of Esperanza because it gives them the opportunity to participate in a unique initiative incorporating technology, exercise and science," said Rebecca Cuits, 5th and 6th Grade Science Teacher, Esperanza Academy. "Most importantly the girls are being exposed to exercise and its importance to their overall health. I am also extremely impressed with the Merrimack students who visit the school for their friendly interactions with students and dedication to the study. They are invaluable to the success of this project."

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With a marketing campaign scheduled for this summer and fall, you will be seeing more of the Women’s Path to Employment.
Merrimack Names Chief of Staff

Merrimack College recently welcomed Jeff Doggett who has joined the senior leadership team and the President’s Office as Chief of Staff. He has responsibility for local, state and federal government relations, assisting the president with the board of trustees, and managing the College’s work with various national, state and local trade associations such as the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, American Council of Education, and the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Jeff assists the president with responsibilities related to the senior leadership team and the President’s Cabinet.

Jeff joins Merrimack after successfully managing Congressman John Tierney’s 2010 re-election campaign. He has been a part of numerous campaigns, including advance and coordination efforts with Senator John Kerry’s and former Vice President Al Gore’s presidential campaigns.

In addition to his government background, Jeff also has experience in higher education. He has partnered with organizations such as the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to advance higher education policy regionally and nationally. Additionally, he worked with Senator Kennedy’s Office and the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Senate Committee on a variety of higher education issues that are important to Merrimack’s future.

Previous to his campaign work, Jeff served as the vice president for Government Relations and Community Affairs at Northeastern University.

School of Education Offers New Graduate Programs

Several new graduate programs are now accepting enrollments and have enhanced the growing options offered by the Merrimack College School of Education.

The Master’s in Education in Higher Education prepares students to be educational and administrative leaders and professionals in colleges and universities. Areas of concentration include Student Affairs, Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, and Leadership, Theory and Policy.

The Master’s in Education in Community Engagement prepares students to make a difference in local and global communities. Areas of concentration include K-12 Education, Higher Education, and Community-Based Organizations.

Merrimack College Receives National Recognition for Community Service

Merrimack College has been honored by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), 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 its students, faculty and staff in meaningful service that achieves measurable results in the community.

Merrimack College is one of 641 colleges and universities named to the 2010 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for its impact on issues from literacy and neighborhood revitalization to supporting at-risk youth.

Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors, including the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service-learning is embedded in the curriculum, the School’s commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships and measurable community outcomes as a result of service.

“We are very proud that all of the community-based work our students, faculty and alumni perform locally, nationally and internationally has been recognized by the Corporation for National and Community Service,” said Mary Ann McHugh, executive director, Stevens Service Learning Center, Merrimack College. “This achievement is shared by all members of the Merrimack community and we take great pride in our commitment to service that is central to the spirit of the College.”

Community service has been a long-standing commitment at Merrimack College and it devotes the resources of its faculty, students and staff to continued cooperation and collaboration with many community initiatives. To learn more, please visit Merrimack College’s Engaged Learning website, http://www.merrimack.edu/academics/EngagedLearning.

Campus Enhancements

The 2010-2011 academic year has been an incredibly exciting time at Merrimack College. New leadership has brought significant and exciting changes taking place on campus, starting with the completed renovation of the J. Thorn Lawler Rink. The on-ice success of the hockey team served as a catalyst to reunite alumni and friends off the ice, with nearly 3,000 alumni and friends coming together for hockey playoffs in March alone.

Other enhancements to campus include the new Welcome Center and the renovated first floor of the McQuade Library. The Merrimack Club also opened in February, offering a space on campus for staff, faculty and alumni to gather as one community. The Merrimack Club is used for evening and weekend alumni events, including the new Illuminations dinner speaker series, and serves as a place for faculty, staff, alumni and guests to enjoy a continental breakfast or buffet lunch on campus during the academic year.

For more information, call the Alumni Office or visit www.merrimack.edu/merrimackclub.

This is a truly exciting time in Merrimack’s history. Indeed, we are already seeing the impact of these changes, enabling Merrimack to be a competitive force in a global higher education market. These enhancements, as well as those planned for the future, are possible through the help and support of our alumni. Your gifts to the Merrimack Fund ensure that current and future generations of students will have the opportunity to enjoy the Merrimack experience—where academic excellence, athletic pride and Augustinian values culminate as one community. We welcome you back on campus to enjoy these new facilities and connect with your Merrimack roots.

MERRIMACK NEWS

www.merrimack.edu
Tau Kappa Epsilon Annual Softball Tournament
Tau Kappa Epsilon hosts several fundraising events over the course of the year to fund the Kenneth T. Mockalis Memorial Scholarship, including a recent poker tournament. The next event will be the annual softball tournament on August 6, 2011.

Valentine’s Mass
Over 30 couples celebrated their marital union at the annual Valentine’s Mass, including Kay ‘56 and Gil DeBurro. During the ceremony, presided by Reverend William Waters, O.S.A., couples renewed their vows and toasted the occasion with champagne and chocolates.

Mentoring Program
Francis E. Girard ’62 was the guest speaker for the Mentoring Program closing event, held in May. The Mentoring Program matched over 50 students and alumni—for more information or to get involved, contact Kathy St. Hilaire at kathleen.sthilaire@merrimack.edu.

Alumni Career Series
Dave McGillivray ’76 launched the new alumni Career Series in March, speaking on developing a personal brand. The Career Series is presented both on-ground and online, and has been attended by alumni across the nation and the globe.

Hockey East/Hockey NCAA
Thousands of alumni, friends and Warrior fans rallied to support the Merrimack Warriors in their quest for the Hockey East title at TD Garden’s Legends Bar. Over 500 fans then joined together to enjoy the pre-game festivities in Manchester, N.H. for the NCAA face-off against Notre Dame.

Naples
Jim Gordon ’61 and classmate Paul Bradley ’61 reunited at a reception in Naples, Florida in March, to meet President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. and get together with fellow alumni. The event was hosted by Ed and Rita Collins ’56.

St. Patrick’s Day Parade
The annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Naples, Florida was attended by thousands, including our own Merrimack alumni who represented the College in the parade.

Phi Kappa Theta
Nearly 40 members of PKT fraternity enjoyed a mini-reunion and night of hockey, joining President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. for a photo opportunity at the renovated J. Thom Lawler Rink.

New York City
Alumni professionals in New York City enjoyed an evening reception with President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. in February, hosted by Lee Slattery ’81.

A Legacy Continues
Bob Quinn ’51 (center) presented his grandson, William Walker (right) with his diploma at Merrimack’s 61st Commencement on May 22, 2011. William’s parents, Pam and Greg, are both from the Class of ’78.
26

55
Ellie Poole continues to volunteer and devote her time, talents and energy to the organization, “Mothers Helping Mothers.” Ellie is one of three women who work together to improve the lives of teen moms and their babies.

61
Sally Ann (Freedman) Connolly recently published Matters on My Mind (MOMM), a collection of columns published locally and nationally during 2008-2010. Her previous works include: A BOY FROM LAWRENCE: The Collected Writings of Eugene F. Connolly; and, Never Better. All Things Considered. She retired as a counselor from North Shore Technical High School, and since 1995 she has devoted her time, talents and energy to the organization, “Mothers Helping Mothers.”

72
John DiRico retired after 33 years and one month from the Federal Aviation Administration. During his career, John held positions as air traffic controller, area supervisor, traffic management supervisor, operations manager, and subject matter expert at the FAA Technical Center.

74
Mary-Ellen Shonyn recently retired as a deputy clerk of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department, one of the busiest appellate courts in the country. She worked with the Second Department for nearly 30 of her 34 years as an attorney, starting as a court attorney, until she became the law secretary for the late Hon. Spill Hart Kooper upon that Justice’s nomination to the Court. She served for many years as the head of the Court’s motion department, and as the supervisor of the Court’s Decision Department, until she was named as one of the Court’s three deputies in 2002. She and her husband, Myron Martynetz, still a practicing attorney, live in South Orange, N.J., and have four children: Daniel, an architect; Tatiana, a mechanical engineer; and Markian and Alexander, students at Fordham University and George Washington University.

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William Fitzsimmons has recently been appointed by Cox Communications, Inc. as senior vice president of corporate finance and chief accounting officer.

Robert Sneider recently received his doctorate in psychology from California Southern University. He was a graduate of the New York City Fellows organization and had worked for the NYC Department of Education for the last six years where he was a mentor/historian for the Teaching America History program. He has also authored three books. Dr. Sneider is currently teaching and counseling students in New Hampshire where he lives with his family.

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Jason Radzевич was recently announced as Milton Hospital’s new vice president of financial services. Jason has over 15 years of financial experience at Milton, most recently serving as the hospital’s controller.

100
Michael Roberts is living in the Washington, D.C. area and is now a consultant for the State Department.

We’d love to hear about what is going on in your life. Send us the latest news—and photos—by visiting www.merrimack.edu/alumni.
Weddings

99

00

01

02
Kevin Finn and Jocelyn Stanick, January 9, 2010 by Father William Waters, O.S.A., Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, Merrimack College. The reception was held at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, Mass. Alumni in the wedding party included Brendon Miller ’03, Jeremy Roy ’03, and Joseph Raymond ’02. Other Merrimack alumni in attendance included Keith Mailloux ’02, Paul Kelley ’02, Kevin Gerstel ’03, Chris Shields ’03, Dan Kinsella ’02, Dan Mancini ’03, and Kristen Travis Roy ’02. Kevin and Jocelyn currently reside in Bedford, Mass.

03
Kristin Scott and Gregory Keough, October 30, 2010, Marshfield Hills.

04

05

06
Joanna Adams and Robert West, November 14, 2010, Orlando, Fla. Alumni in the wedding party included Krispy (Pothier) ’06, Lindsay Sheffield ’07, Brian Sanborn ’06, Adam Rotsitaille ’06 and best man Ryan West ’07. Additional alumni in attendance were Sarah Moquin ’06, Matt Lovett ’06 and Stephanie Alliette ’07. The couple honeymooned in Aruba and now live in Manchester, N.H.

07
Jeffrey McKee and Caitlin McCormick, November 13, 2010. Alumni in attendance were Mark Bilotta ’07, Gregory Santino ’07, Jeffrey McKee ’07, David DeNuccio ’59, Tiffany Yip ’07 and Peter Chaloner ’07.

08
Kelly Healey and Shawn Hussey, November 13, 2010, Atkinson, N.H.

09

10
Colleen (Bredding) Labbadia and Chris Labbadia, a son, Brendan Patrick. Brendan joins big sister, Gate.

11

12
Jessica (Stygles) Murray and husband Patrick, a son, Sean Patrick Murray, March 4, 2010.

13
Phillip LoFave and wife Danielle, twin siblings a girl, Addison Teresa, and a boy, Aidan Joseph, September 1, 2010. They join big sister, Kaleigh.

14
Kevin Finn and his wife Jocelyn, a son, Braden.

15

New Arrivals

90
Kevin Rouke and wife Megan, a son, Liam Delaney Rouke, August 12, 2010. His big brother, Kieran, can’t get enough of him.

91
Matthew Colarusso and wife Theresa, a son, Taygen Vincent, November 10, 2010.

92
Michael Shea and wife Katelyn, a daughter, Gabriella Alessia, November 23, 2010. She was welcomed home by big sister, Alessandra, 2.

93
Robert Marino and wife Katelyn, a daughter, Alexa Charlene, February 9, 2011. Alexa joins big sister, Kendra, 2.

94
Jocelyn (Finess) Fleming and Nicholas Fleming ’01, a daughter, Avery Jocelyn, November 16, 2009. Avery was welcomed home by her big brother, Guinness, the English Bulldog.

95
Colleen (Reddington) Labbadia and Chris Labbadia, a son Brendan Patrick. Brendan joins big sister, Gate.

96
Kevin Finn and his wife Jocelyn, a son, Braden.

97
Phillip LoFave and wife Danielle, twin siblings a girl, Addison Teresa, and a boy, Aidan Joseph, September 1, 2010. They join big sister, Kaleigh.

98
Alexis (Bugani) Kovacs and husband Jeremy, a son, Dylan Mark Kovacs, May 14, 2010. He is one happy boy!

99
Carolyn (Michaud) Battista and husband Carmine, a daughter, Gianna Cathryn, March 23, 2010.

100
Tennille (Thivierge) Mignone and husband Jason, a son, Keagan Pasquale, January 15, 2011.

101
Robert Marino and wife Katelyn, a son, Alex Charlene, February 9, 2011. Alex joins big sister, Kendra, 2.

102

103
Kevin Finn and Jocelyn Stanick, January 9, 2010 by Father William Waters, O.S.A., Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, Merrimack College. The reception was held at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, Mass. Alumni in the wedding party included Brendon Miller ’03, Jeremy Roy ’03, and Joseph Raymond ’02. Other Merrimack alumni in attendance included Keith Mailloux ’02, Paul Kelley ’02, Kevin Gerstel ’03, Chris Shields ’03, Dan Kinsella ’02, Dan Mancini ’03, and Kristen Travis Roy ’02. Kevin and Jocelyn currently reside in Bedford, Mass.

104
Todd Lowe and Katie Fulton, June 16, 2011, Puntarenas, Dominican Republic.

105

106

107
Jeffrey McKee and Caitlin McCormick, November 13, 2010. Alumni in attendance were Mark Bilotta ’07, Gregory Santino ’07, Jeffrey McKee ’07, David DeNuccio ’59, Tiffany Yip ’07 and Peter Chaloner ’07.

108
Kelly Healey and Shawn Hussey, November 13, 2010, Atkinson, N.H.

109
Passages

Alfred Januszewski ’32, January 28, 2011. He is survived by his two sons, two daughters, four grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Nicholas Alaniello ’53, December 31, 2010. Nicholas and his wife Dale relocated to Carmel IN, in the spring of 2015 to be closer to family and friends. Nicholas has two sons and many nieces and nephews located in the Merrimack Valley and surrounding area.

Robert DeMarco ’60, October 23, 2010. Bob worked for 36 years at General Electric as an engineer, and in 1990 retired as manager of the Commercial Medium Steam Turbine Department. Bob left a wife, son, and three grandchildren.

Edward Thomas Kelley II ’41, April 9, 2010. Ted was an alumni supporter, both financially and in spirit. He often attended the New Alumni gatherings and came to as many reunions as possible.


Colin MacDonald ’71, February 20, 2011. Colin is survived by three children and three grandchildren. He was an active member of many clubs and organizations, including Mount Pleasant Golf Club in Lowell where he was most Sunday mornings ready to “tee it up.” He coached hockey, tennis, and soccer for many years in the Merrimack Valley, as well as officiated baseball, soccer, and hockey throughout the Greater Lowell area.

Joseph Russo ’71, Windham, N.H., Saturday April 9, 2011. Following a sudden illness. He is survived by his wife, Mitzi Kocsis of Windham; his daughter, Kimberly Russo of Londonderry, N.H.; his mother, Antoinette Russo of No. Andover, Mass.; his brother, James Russo and wife Rebecca of Pelham, N.H.; and his two nephews, Jimmy Russo and Nicholas Russo. He was employed as vice president of business development for Eckman Construction Co. in Bedford, N.H. Joe was a member of the Commercial and Investment Board of Realtors. He was also a member of Advertising Specialties, Inc. and served as a member of the board with NeighborWorks.

Richard Whelton ’73, December 27, 2010. For many years, Richard was very active in the Merrimack College community, serving on several alumni committees. He was a graduate and class president of Arlington Catholic High School, and went on to earn a Political Science degree and was a member of Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity.

Richard Lee ’76, February 27, 2010. A lifelong Medford resident and former Medford city manager and director of personnel and budgets.

Robert Ellis ’82

Michael Austin, Jr. ’89, February 6, 2011. An avid sports fan, he coached youth league sports in North Andover and his former residence in Washington, D.C. He had a passion for Boston sports teams, especially the Red Sox. Michael was employed as a manager for Delta Management Corporation.

Thomas Linn ’89, July 9, 2010. A native of Danvers, Mass., Tom was employed by H.J. Ritter as an architect.

Robert Cannon Chaloner ’90, March 19, 2011. A lifelong resident of Lowell, he was employed as a state trooper for 26 years with the Massachusetts State Police.

James McCarthy ’90, December 31, 2010. James was an active member of the Pleasant Coif Club in Lowell where he was most Sunday mornings ready to “tee it up.” He coached hockey, tennis, and soccer for many years in the Merrimack Valley, as well as officiated baseball, soccer, and hockey throughout the Greater Lowell area.

"We are proud of and excited for Stephanie,” said Merrimack head coach Mark Dennehy, who was named the Co-College Hockey Coach of the Year and the all-New England Coach of the Year for the second straight season. “He is a special player, but just as important a special person who had a huge effect on our program, the College and the community.”

 Athletics News

The Merrimack softball team captured the 2011 East Sub-Regional 1, advancing to the Super Regional for the first time since 2004.

Softball Completes Historic Season

Picked to finish ninth in the Northeast-10 Preseason poll, the Warriors were one of the final 16 teams playing across the country, reaching the NCAA Super Regional and the Northeast-10 Championship. Posting a 31-21 record, Merrimack finished the regular season in a three-way tie for second and marched to the Northeast-10 Championship behind victories over Adelphi, Southern Connecticut and New Haven.

Then Merrimack earned the eighth and final spot in the NCAA East Regional, qualifying for the NCAA Tournament for the 13th time in school history but the first since 2002.

Behind the pitching of sophomore Keli Jo Deardorff and the hitting of Tawny Palmieri and Monique Gosselin, the Warriors stunned top-seat and host Dowling in the first round with a 2-1 victory and defeated Southern Connecticut 1-0 in the semifinals. After falling to the Owls in game one of the regional final, the Warriors rallied for a 2-1 victory in game two to advance to the NCAA Sub Regional Championship, where they lost to C.W. Post on May 20–21.

The NCAA appearance was the first for the softball team in the seven-year tenure of head coach Elaine Schwager, while the team’s 31 wins are the most since the 2004 season.

Da Costa Signs NHL Contract with Ottawa; 3 Others Play Professionally Following Historic Season

The Merrimack Division I hockey program is looking to build upon the program history since 1999.

This season, Da Costa anchored Merrimack’s best in its Division I history, picking up 31 assists and 65 points, as Merrimack won a school-record 25 games, advanced to its first-ever Hockey East Championship, and was selected to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since joining Hockey East.

Da Costa attracted NHL general managers and top scouts to Merrimack games all season and was hailed as the top undrafted college free agent by TSN and the Hockey News.

Three seniors, Chris Barton, Joe Cucci, and Adam Ross all signed Amateur Tryout Contracts following Merrimack’s season.

Barton signed with Bridgeport, the AHL affiliate of the New York Islanders, appearing in one game. Cucci inked a deal with South Carolina, the ECHL affiliate of the Washington Capitals, and registered an assist in three games. Ross appeared in two games with Victoria of the ECHL, the affiliate of the Vancouver Canucks.
Volpe Center Expansion to Benefit Health Science Programs and Athletics

Merrimack College has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Middlesex Islanders LLC and New England Junior Huskies Hockey Club to expand the Volpe Athletic Center to include new facilities for health science programs and athletics.

The first phase of the project involves the creation of a 10,000 square foot health science and sports medicine facility and a new weight room. The project will include enhanced sports medicine labs and a new training room that will expand clinical educational experiences for undergraduate athletic training and health sciences students. In addition, the facility will offer access to premiere care, rehabilitation and health services to Merrimack’s 350 student athletes.

"The expansion of the Volpe Athletic Center is the latest example of Merrimack’s commitment to making strategic investments that serve students' needs and support our goals for advancing the College," said Dr. Christopher E. Hopey, president, Merrimack College. "What's more, this project gives us a unique opportunity to partner with and have a beneficial impact on our local community."

Merrimack offers programs in health science, sports medicine and athletic training. These are among the fastest growing programs at the college and prepare students for a wide variety of careers including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physical therapists and athletic trainers. Students combine classroom work with internships and practicum courses to gain clinical experience.

The new sports medicine and health science facility will significantly enhance our current academic offerings and allow us to better train and treat our student athletes," said Dr. Josephine Modica-Napolitano, dean, School of Science and Engineering. "The larger and improved facility will also provide opportunities to expand our academic and athletic programs as we prepare for future growth at Merrimack College."

Building a Hockey Destination

The second phase of the project includes the addition of a second full-sized ice hockey rink, a mini-rink for shooting practice, an off-ice shooting area and new locker rooms. It may also include space for a pro shop, expanded concessions and additional conference and meeting rooms.

"The Athletics Department is excited to be part of the invigorating development the College is experiencing," said Glenn Hofmann, director of athletics. "The addition of the second rink will help us in our continuing efforts to be a hockey destination for area youth and the community."

The partnership agreement gives the Middlesex Islanders and its youth hockey leagues access to more ice time at Merrimack College. Area families and youth will also have opportunities to use the facilities during hockey games and to attend many of the functions that will take place there.

The expansion of the Volpe Athletic Center continues the momentum Merrimack has created over the last two years with a range of improvements to its facilities and intercollegiate programs. The College renovated Lawler Arena, installing chair-back seats throughout the arena. A new student section behind the goal was added, as was a tunnel from the visiting locker room to the visiting bench. Additional renovations included a graphics board, a new press box, a new ice bed and compressor, a new entrance way to Volpe, a new speaker system and significant imaging additions.

Planning Your Legacy

"I feel I owe Merrimack for the outstanding education I received. It prepared me extremely well for graduate school and over 25 years' experience in college administration. I want Merrimack to inherit a portion of my estate. To me, this is a great way to give back. I am also an employee of Merrimack in the School of Science and Engineering and I witness firsthand, on a daily basis, the caliber of students that attend Merrimack: their qualities, their competence, and their commitment. I am proud to know that they will represent our college in such a positive way. I truly love Merrimack."

ELIZABETH HUNTLEY COLE '67 has already indicated that Merrimack will receive a portion of her estate in her will.

Secure your legacy to a future generation of Merrimack students. A Charitable Gift to Merrimack College, for example a bequest or other type of planned gift, provides you with the opportunity to impact the future of the College by helping to ensure that the academic excellence you have come to expect is passed on to the next generation of committed scholars. Please consider joining The 1947 Society. Contact the Office of Planned Giving for specific language that you can use to get started with your attorney.

For information and questions about bequests to Merrimack, as well as for information about Charitable Gift Annuities and the current payout rates, please visit www.merrimack.edu/plannedgiving or contact Carla Byers, Senior Advancement Officer, at 978.837.5012 or byersc@merrimack.edu.
You can make a difference in the lives of our students with your gift to the Merrimack Fund!

Your gift to the Merrimack Fund helps to create an environment that is conducive to learning and to inspiring excellence. It's both an investment in quality education and a measure of your continued confidence in the mission and Augustinian heritage of Merrimack College.

When you give to the Merrimack Fund your contribution will:
• provide scholarship support
• maintain and improve campus facilities
• enhance curriculum
• support student services such as career, health, counseling and activities

A high rate of alumni participation is also seen as an endorsement of the education you received at Merrimack. It helps secure grants from corporations and foundations, and it influences local and national rankings relative to peer institutions. Your gift of any amount helps in numerous ways!

Easy Payment Options
• Checks made payable to Merrimack College (for your convenience we have included a postage-paid envelope inside)
• Online securely at www.merrimack.edu/glft

Did you know that your gift could be doubled or even tripled? Check with your Human Resources Office or go to www.merrimack.edu/matching to see if your employer participates.

Thank you!
Abby Beauparlant
Director of the Merrimack Fund