2009 President's Report & Honor Roll of Donors

Merrimack College

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Merrimack

2009 PRESIDENT'S REPORT & HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
Message from the president

Dear Alumni and Friends,

A year ago when I wrote to you in this magazine, I was only three months into serving as president of Merrimack College. I shared with you my goals to revise our mission, create a collegial environment, develop a long-range plan, initiate an active alumni association, and work to keep a quality Merrimack education affordable and accessible for our students. I am pleased to say that we have made significant strides—and then some—in each of those areas during the past year.

Just recently we announced the formation of our new School of Education. The creation of the School, which builds on our existing Education Department, will enhance educator preparation as well as teacher preparation for the 21st century. We will work closely with public and private school leaders, Pre-K-12, to identify and implement solutions that meet the needs of educators today and in the future.

It is and will be a strong reflection of our new mission, which as you know was adopted by our community this year. It clearly reflects what we do at Merrimack: enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives. Also, work on our long-range strategic plan continues to make significant progress with the goal of presenting it to the Board of Trustees in June 2010.

Much progress, as well, has been made with our new Alumni Association that engages and represents our alumni all over the world. Regional chapters are being formed which will provide opportunities for the College to reengage with alumni and for alumni to connect with fellow alumni in their area. The Alumni Association adopted a new constitution which includes electing a representative to the Board of Trustees and establishing 11 committees which support the mission of Merrimack College and our Augustinian traditions. We cherish our alumni and enjoy traveling to reconnect and share with them how much Merrimack is transforming. Merrimack College will realize its dreams only with the encouragement and generous support of its many loyal alumni.

For our students, we were able to help them and their families this year by freezing our tuition, room and board at last year’s rates. We truly believe that we have helped to make an education as accessible as possible for them this year, and I am proud of our efforts to do so.

Thanks to all of you who have continued your support and dedication to Merrimack. I wish you and your loved ones all the best that the holidays have to offer.

Sincerely,

Ronald Champagne, Ph.D.
When North Andover resident Mary Anne Detora earned her two-year secretarial degree from Merrimack College in 1955, "Merrimack was a brand new school," she remembers. "Besides Sullivan and Cushing, the only building on campus was Austin Hall, the private residence. "Just down the road, she adds, the engineering department was housed in a Quonset hut, "where we every Friday morning marched to the Mass."

It's little wonder, then, that Mary Anne describes the changes on campus since then as "transforming." In her view, "Merrimack has phenomenal resources for the students now.

In addition to seek new lecture halls, cutting-edge science laboratories, and high-tech classrooms, today Merrimack offers "as much more diverse curriculum with many more majors than we had in the 1950s," Mary Anne says. "That's a good thing, too, because when I graduated from school, whatever field you chose was your career for the rest of your life. Things have changed so much now that college has to prepare you to do many things outside your chosen career path."

Mary Anne's other career trajectory took her from Merrimack to work as a legal secretary after graduation. She eventually joined Honeywell, handling benefits for many of that company's employees, who at one time numbered close to 10,000 around the state.

Since retirement, Mary Anne has gotten an insider's look at Merrimack by volunteering in the Office of Alumni Relations. "We met a lot of alumni through working in the office, she says." "It's great to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones this way."

"It's been great, coming back full-circle to volunteer at Merrimack College," says Mary Anne. "I feel like I'm part of a family."

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provided recognition that matters

For Anne Halley, Ph.D. ’67, it was her experience as a student at Merrimack College that led her to decide to offer a scholarship to Merrimack for minority students from the Lawrence area. Although she was a “solid student” in the Lawrence public schools, she found little challenge and inspiration in school. Since her parents could not afford to send her away to college, Anne attended Merrimack somewhat reluctantly. But, she says, “In the end, I found my education at Merrimack to be priceless. ‘I really came alive while I was there.’”

In particular, Anne, who is pictured above with Joseph Kilvey, vice president for institutional advancement at Merrimack, was captivated by history. The history faculty was excellent. Anne says, and she found a personal and professional role model in one of the “really brilliant” female professor. Studying with her was a life-defining experience. So much, in fact, that Anne opted to be a history major, the only female history major in the class. She went on to study for her master’s degree with a noted medieval historian at Hunter College, was awarded a research assistanship, and earned her doctorate in medieval history from the City University of New York in 1979. After teaching a number of years within the city university system, Anne made a career leap into advertising sales and ultimately, in 1997, into management. She was senior manager in classified advertising for the New York Times until her retirement in 2007.

But says now that she wouldn’t have waited so long to set up a scholarship if she had known how important it was. “I didn’t know if you needed millions of dollars to do something like that,” she says with a laugh. “It turns out you don’t.”

In fact, even when the New York Times recently announced that it would be ceasing its practice of offering matching skixions, Anne, true to her commitment, decided to continue the scholarship. “I want other students in Lawrence to be able to come to Merrimack for the same wonderful, educational experience that I had,” she explains. “I want others to have this experience and to know that there are many, many, many more people who should be involved in donating scholarship funds. Even giving just a small amount provides students with recognition that matters as well as a helping hand.”
A LONG TRADITION OF SUPPORT AND SERVICE

In considering the litany he learned at Merrimack College, John Kennedy ’68 is "always struck by how effective Merrimack was at reaching out to people, and how that translates into graduates being inspired to reach out in turn and give whatever they can." John, who grew up in Watertown, Mass., is a former member of Merrimack’s Board of Trustees and a long-time supporter of the College. He first found his inspiration as a struggling freshman. "I did poorly academically my first year and was toughing it out all around," he admits, "Bill Garrett, who at that time headed the Engineering Department, really helped me get through." John and Mary, his wife, stayed friendly with Bill and that relationship led them to donate money toward the College’s construction of Mendel Hall, the science and engineering building, where they saw to it that one of the rooms was named for Bill Garrett. Mary and John have also given money toward Merrimack Math-Science Partnership with the Lawrence schools.

Following graduation from Merrimack, John worked first as an engineer, and then as a contractor, earning his master’s degree in project management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology along the way. John and Mary have been blessed with three children and eight grandchildren over the course of forty years. John has started and developed a number of different companies, most of them in the construction field. He is currently teaching a course in entrepreneurship at MIT’s Center for Real Estate.

He also continues the outreach work he began at the helm of former Merrimack president Rev. John Despres, O.S.A. This November, John is headed to an Angolan mission in South Africa. This will be his fourth trip abroad to that country, where his tasks are varied. Typically, he meets with the Angolan volunteers, works at an AIDS hospice, helps deliver food, and repairs whatever can be fixed at St. Leo’s Primary School. This year, he will also be working in the church and community center at one of the outpost sites.

“Our commitment to the Angolan mission in South Africa includes money and time,” John says. "But, like most volunteers, we have discovered that you receive more than you give. That’s one of the ways Merrimack helped transform us."
Honor Roll

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Stephen F. Hayden
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Cathy Valeriy Loomis
Marillyn R. McCarthy (Jared)
Virginia M. Sheehy (McInerney)
Brian R. Murphy
Stephen P. Napolitano
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Sally F. O‘Reily (Seirr)
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W. Dave McMillan ‘72

GRATEFUL FOR INSPIRATION AND GUIDANCE HE RECEIVED

Probably the person most surprised to hear that W. Steve McMillan ’72 was one of this year’s finalists for a Community Leadership Award by InvestmentNews and the Invest in Others Charitable Foundation was Steve himself. “I simply made a commitment,” he says, and “I was determined to honor it.”

Steve’s commitment was to head up a capital campaign to raise the $7 million needed to renovate the Boys & Girls Club of Manchester, N.H., where he is president of the Board of Directors. “This place is my passion,” Steve says. “We serve over 500 kids a day, and we make a world of difference in their lives.”

Steve, who grew up in Concord, N.H., knows about passion—about how love for mentors can make a difference. His high school passion was basketball, where he coach, Frank Moonan, “essentially became my second father.” When Frank realized that Steve’s parents had no means to send him to college, Steve explains, “he made a call to Bill LaRochelle,” who was then coaching men’s basketball at Merrimack College. A week later, Steve came home from school and found his mother at the kitchen table. “Papers were spread out in front of her and tears were coming down her face,” he remembers, “because I’d gotten a scholarship to play basketball at Merrimack.”

Frank later became Merrimack’s head basketball coach. Steve majored in accounting and otherwise made basketball his focus, averaging 25 points a game and earning a place in Merrimack’s Basketball Hall of Fame. From there, “One of the biggest thrills of my life was being drafted by the NBA.”

Although Steve didn’t make the NBA, he had many opportunities related to basketball, but decided to take a different route entirely into the investment field. That, in turn, led him to join various public service organizations, including the Rotary Club, the Manchester Development Corporation, and the Boys & Girls Club. Today he is a financial advisor for the McMillan Group of Wells Fargo Advisors — and a regular supporter of Merrimack.

“I owe Merrimack a great deal,” Steve says. “The College gave me a scholarship and a good love for basketball. I opened a lot of new doors for me and prepared me for the business I’m in now, coaching people about money, and now I’m coaching men’s basketball at Merrimack College.”

A week later, Steve came home from school and found his mother at the kitchen table. “Papers were spread out in front of her and tears were coming down her face,” he remembers, “because I’d gotten a scholarship to play basketball at Merrimack.”
As president of Camelot Dairy, one of the nation's premier specialty dairy and non-dairy product manufacturers, Carmen Catanese '80 attended his 25th class reunion with a different perspective on Merrimack College than most of his classmates: "I can't help looking at Merrimack like a business," he says.

He points to the parallels between small, independent colleges and small, independent businesses. "We face many of the same issues in this tough economy, like keeping costs down while coming up with new market niches," he says. In the case of Camelot Dairy, which counts McDonald's, Smart Balance, and many other retail, restaurant, and food-service companies among its customers, Carmen and his two brothers have spearheaded company growth by constantly adding new liquid products with extended shelf life. "Merrimack has also found in market niches," he points out, "by offering practical knowledge that graduates can use in the workplace, along with a strong liberal arts foundation."

RECOGNIZING THE FULL VALUE OF A MERRIMACK EDUCATION

Carmine worked in his family's New Jersey-based business while attending Augustine high school. He applied to Merrimack at the suggestion of a friend who had chosen the College's engineering program. Catanese majored in business and says that he still uses the critical thinking, problem solving, and public speaking skills that he learned at Merrimack. In one business class, for example, he worked with a team of other students to come up with new products and present them.

"I often think back on those academic experiences and how much I use that kind of knowledge today," he said. "I wouldn't have had the same opportunities to interact with other students and professors if I'd been stuck in the back corner of some huge lecture hall at a big university."

Carmine took advantage of becoming involved in student government and served as class president for both junior and senior year. "Being at Merrimack gave me the opportunity to step out from my father's big shadow and be a leader in my own right," he says.

Recently named to the advisory board for Magellan Hill Technologies, a telecommunications and management company that serves businesses, government agencies and healthcare providers, Catanese's leadership abilities were also recognized in 2008 by the McDonald's Leadership Award, given in recognition of his work claiming that company's Supplier Advisory Council. In addition, Carmen holds leadership positions with various trade, community, and church organizations.

The values that were instilled by his parents were reinforced at high school and at Merrimack, and he is now passing them on to his children. Carmen and his wife, Dana, have three children: Rachel, 23, Nick, 21, and Rebekah, 16.

Now coming up on his 30th class reunion, Carmen looks back and says that he has found memories of his four years at Merrimack. "I had great professors and made some wonderful lifelong friends there," he says. "I didn't realize the full value of the education we were getting at the time, but now I know that Merrimack gave me the opportunity to really explore who I was and prepare for the future."

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SUPPORTER
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Angela N. Bishop (Patralia)
Stephen F. Curran
As a student, Kathleen (Enzo) Francesi ’83 never “in a million years” dreamed that she would one day return to help spread the word about Merrimack College.

“I love working in the Public Relations and Marketing Department at Merrimack and sharing stories about our really impressive faculty members and students,” she says. “They help to tell the story of Merrimack College – how it has transformed over the decades and how it has changed lives.”

After graduating as an English major, Kathleen went on to earn a master’s degree in publishing and writing at Emerson College while working in the administration office of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She then joined the public relations team at Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford.

It was there that Kathleen first recognized the importance of supporting the institutions she believes in when she teamed up with other hospital employees to raise money for a new piece of equipment each year. “From there it just started growing,” she explains, “because I saw firsthand how even small employee donations add up to help an institution achieve its goals.”

When she joined Merrimack as director in October 2000, Kathleen immediately signed up for payroll deductions, this time making contributions back to the College.

“It’s only a small amount that comes out of my paycheck so I really don’t even notice it. But I do know that my small donation, coupled with others, can really help. I would have done it even if I weren’t an alumna,” she says. “I want Merrimack to continue to enhance its ability to offer our students strong academic and experiential learning opportunities that will impact them in many ways for many years to come. I enjoy showing my pride in Merrimack by giving back.”

Class of 1993

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Thayer S. Warshaw

Class of 1995

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REWARDING—AND RECRUITING—ETHICAL DECISION MAKERS

When Matthew J. Boyle ’88 and his older brother, Tom ’87, were applying to college, both received academic scholarships from Merrimack. “We decided on Merrimack not just because it was the practical route, but because it felt right, and we never looked back,” says Matthew, a native of Everett, Mass., who saw the tremendous growth at the College since then as a positive development. “Merrimack continues to reinvent itself but stays true to its roots,” he notes. “The College continues to provide students with not only a quality education, but also with what they need to succeed in the working world and in life.”

A marketing major at Merrimack, Matthew also played intramural sports, led Campus Ministry programs, belonged to NPK/PK/TCP Internity and was actively involved in student government, serving as vice president of his class. By the time he graduated and finished his MBA at the University of Massachusetts Boston, he had worked in sales and marketing for Dan and Bradstreet Corporation.

“Merrimack’s dedication to educating the whole person is admirable and effective because it acknowledges the spiritual aspect of life as a critical component of well-rounded education,” he notes. Matthew now serves on the advisory board for Merrimack’s Grand School of Business and International Communities, and remains involved with the Alumni Association. He and his wife, Leitah (Ritz) Boyle ’88, have two children, Luisa, 12, and John, 9, and reside in Andover, Mass.

Today, Matthew is partner and chief marketing and sales officer at SFAI—Moffatt, Fagenhut, and Androscio, a CPA and consulting firm based in Taunton, Mass., that recently established an endowment for accounting majors at Merrimack. “Many of MA’s accounting students are Merrimack alumni—we are a family within a family. As a long-time proponent of the benefits of networking, I love it!”

“We are also big proponents of the Merrimack brand,” Matthew explains, “so we give the MBA the top award to the (GPA) junior accounting major every year.”

The award benefits the and Merrimack and its students, he adds. “This additional connection to Merrimack and the academic world helps MIA understand the future of the profession which we proudly represent. Ties between the academic world and industry need to be strong because both sides have great potential for enrichment.”

Why else did his firm decide to offer the award to the Accounting major? Because before he and three other firms hired line well prepared accountants, we first look for highly-ethical decision makers,” he says.

“The firm values people with high ethics, people who exposure to the liberal arts, and overall intelligence. Merrimack consistently delivers what we need so we keep going back for more.”

22 Merrimack.edu

We are all pilgrims on the road to not residents.

23 Merrimack.edu
In 1992, in a newly-minted graduate and new hire at Arthur Andersen, Michael Provenzano "92 couldn't help feeling nervous. He was astounding," he remembers. "I was starting at this big company along with a few dozen other fresh graduates, some from Ivy schools or big universities, so I couldn't help wondering if I'd be as prepared as everyone else.

He was, and then some. Mike passed the challenging CPA exam on his first try, a feat that helped distinguish him among his peers at Andersen. In addition, because Mike had taken advantage of Merrimack College's Cooperative Education Program, "I wasn't entirely on the job and had some real world experience in auditing and working with clients."

His early professional experiences taught Mike that he could overcome the best. "In fact," he says now, "Merrimack prepared me for the future even more than I realized at the time.

After a brief flirtation with electrical engineering his freshman year, Mike switched to the business program and discovered a talent for accounting. He also became involved in a number of activities, including playing tennis for Merrimack and running on the cross-country team, he joined the Phi Kappa Theta (now known as Phi Kappa Theta) and was president of the ski club. Perhaps his best decision, Mike adds, was to become a resident assistant in one of the dorms.

"That experience helped teach me a lot of the leadership skills that I carry forward today, like working with your peers through difficult situations, effective communications skills and the importance of building relationships," he explains. Mike seems to have fully mastered the art of leadership. He is executive vice president of finance and chief financial officer for Aspect Software. In July, he won the inaugural 2009 CFO of the Year Award for large, privately-held companies from the Boston Business Journal in recognition for the instrumental role he has played in crafting corporate strategy at Aspect Software. In particular, Mike managed Microsoft's recent equity investment in Aspect. Before that, Provenzano was also named by the Boston Business Journal editors to its annual "40 Under 40" list of business leaders to watch. In his nine years at Aspect's CFO, he has spearheaded the company's international expansion, successfully managed more than 10 merger and acquisition transactions and various debt and equity financings in excess of $2 billion.

Outside of Aspect, Mike continues to support community work, actively supporting the American Diabetes Association and the Benjamin Foundation, a nonprofit association to raise funds and awareness of spinal muscular atrophy. He has also supported the Boston C.H. Rotary Club and Merrimack College; a few years ago, Mike was a donor to the Anderson Technology Classroom to O'Reilly Hall.

"It's funny how much your decisions at certain times can impact the person you forever," Mike muses. "Choosing Merrimack certainly helped shape who I am today."

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"He was gone that fast," Pamela said. "Thank God we were there in April to have that last vacation together.""During Nick's ordeal, friends from around the world, "Collaborators," joined in "Facebook to show their support. Teachers in Lynn, where Pamela teaches, started a fund to help with medical expenses. Neighbors and friends began contributing; Nick's friends even held a fundraiser at Tri's on the Waterfront in Boston with raffles and a silent auction.

When Nick passed away, the Perretts transferred those funds to Merrick as a way of honoring his memory. "Soccer was such a big part of Nick's life that we decided to establish a soccer scholarship," Pamela explains. There was enough in the fund to award the scholarship this fall, with soccer coach Tony Martino, they chose student Gregory Mora as the first recipient of the Nicholas Steven Perrett '04 Memorial Scholarship.

Despite his short life, Nick "fit in so much," Pamela says. "We have postcards from him lining the entrance to our kitchen. I love looking at them, and thinking about all of the places Nick managed to go."
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Each year numerous friends support Merrimack through gifts that advance our mission. We are grateful for the sustained dedication of our friends and grateful that they play in enhancing the life of the Merrimack College community.
ESSEX COUNTY MENTOR FOUNDATION
RECOGNIZES VALUE OF ABA CAMP

More than 150 inner-city youths in Merrimack College’s Academic Basketball Awareness (ABA) Camp benefited from a generous $6,000 grant from the Essex County Mentor Foundation (ECMF) Greater Lawrence Summer Fund this past summer. The ABA Camp provides disadvantaged youth from Lawrence with a week-long summer residential academic and athletic experience. Now in its 27th year, the program is a collaboration between Merrimack College’s Men’s Basketball Team and the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, an organization that has been extensively promoting youth development in the Merrimack Valley for over a century.

“The ECMF is a strong supporter of programs, like the ABA Camp, that encourage at-risk youth to pursue lives filled with potential and hope,” said Julie Bishop, vice president of Grants and Services at the ECMF. “The program strengthens the confidence of at-risk youth by building their academic study skills, teaching them to live a healthy lifestyle, and encouraging discipline and teamwork, both on the basketball court and in the classroom — and they have fun.”

The ECMF’s Greater Lawrence Summer Fund provides support to programs that offer academic, arts, and athletic enrichment opportunities each summer to over 18,000 disadvantaged children and teenagers who might otherwise spend their summer on the streets.

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**Merrimack College**

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**TARGET**

TARGET FOUNDATION

TARGET FOUNDATION SUPPORTS RICHER FUTURE PROGRAMMING SERIES

The Rogers Center for the Arts received a $3,000 grant from the Target Foundation to support the Education Public Access Series. This program brings professional theatrical productions to young audiences and is designed to complement the educational curriculum in Greater Lawrence schools. Children are introduced to the remarkable sounds of the orchestra or the enchantment of a theater performance. The Rogers Center for the Arts celebrates its 10th anniversary this year with a diverse schedule of theater, music, art and dance performances for people of all ages.

Merrimack College was the recipient of an Arts Grant, which is awarded to programs that bring the arts to schools or make the arts accessible to children and families. The Target Foundation supports nonprofit programs that impact the arts, early childhood reading, family violence prevention, and social services.
Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

I write from a renewed Merrimack! This year, the College community fashioned a new mission statement under the leadership of Rev. Ray Dlugos, O.S.A., vice president for mission and ministry. “To enlighten minds, engage hearts, and empower lives” is the educational mission that guides and directs how our academic community prepares young men and women for their roles in leadership in the twenty-first century. You will find more information about our new mission, rooted in our Catholic and Augustinian heritage, on the College’s Web site.

Inspired by this mission, the college community renewed its strategic planning efforts. President Ronald Champagne charged every department to review its part in realizing the mission, to think boldly about new programs and initiatives, and to consider how we might reallocate resources in service of our strategic goals.

This fall, we welcomed 554 new first-year students from 20 states and 12 countries, as well as 72 transfer students. Merrimack continues to attract large numbers of qualified students, seeking an education that challenges them to grow academically, socially, and spiritually, even while they are prepared to be successful and ethical professionals. Five new faculty members, a new athletic director, and several new young professionals in student life and campus ministry have also joined the college community.

We also renewed the campus. In partnership with the Sodexo Corporation, the main dining room and the Warrior’s Den in the Sakowich Center were totally redesigned and restored to the look of a Boston restaurant. In addition, the townhouse bedrooms were completely renovated, and the ice rink and compressor in the Volpe Center were replaced. Also, the McAuley Library has a new carpeting throughout.

As you yourselves know, we are living through challenging economic times. Even elite institutions have confronted significant fiscal challenges. Yet this past year, more donors gave to Merrimack than in any recent year—well over 3,000 individuals. In addition, 4,000 alumni attended events on campus or around the country. Alumni, parents and friends of the College continue to support Merrimack because they believe in our educational mission to enlighten minds, engage hearts, and empower lives. We are very grateful for their commitment and dedication to Merrimack and our students.

In this issue, we honor you who have been so generous, and we are excited to share with you the improvements and advancements that continue to strengthen this institution.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Kelley, Ph.D.
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

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Donor Reception

In appreciation to our donors
Donor Reception, September 24, 2009
Andover Country Club

(left to right) Seniors Nicole Clarke, Kimberlee Harthorn and Gerald Duffy with Marybeth McNinnis, Esq., Merrimack College trustee and trustee of the James W. O'Brien Foundation; and her husband Stephen Boucher; Devon Robinson '13. The students are recipients of O'Brien Foundation Scholarships.

(seated left to right) Mary Damphousse, and Henriette McNiff Girard, (second row left to right) Roger Damphousse '62 and Frank Girard ’62, trustee emeritus.

(left to right) Dr. Josephine Medica-Napolitano, dean of the School of Science and Engineering, Mary D'Emanuele '69, past president of the Friends of Merrimack, and Nadia Koch ’10, recipient of the D’Emanuele Family Scholarship.

"We are all pilgrims on the road, not residents..."
ALUMNI ADMISSION PROGRAM

Your involvement in the Alumni Admission Program is one way you can help shape the future of Merrimack College. During the spring and fall months, many high schools sponsor college fairs designed to introduce prospective students to higher education. Our ambassadors speak to prospective students and their families, answer basic questions, talk about their own Merrimack experiences and hand out admission information. College fairs usually run approximately two hours.

If you would like to get involved in our recruitment efforts, especially if you are out of state, please call Pat Skelfington at 978-837-5072 in the Admission Office or email patricia.bowman@merrimack.edu.

ALL VETERANS—PLEASE JOIN US

The Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations is looking to put together a Veterans Memorial Committee. If you would like to be part of this exciting initiative, please contact Kathleen St. Hilaire at kathleen.s.thilaire@merrimack.edu or by calling 978-837-5107.

CALL FOR MENTORS!

We are looking for new mentors for the spring semester. This is a one-to-one mentoring relationship designed so that students can benefit from the alumni’s professional experience. For more information on the mentoring program, contact Kathy St. Hilaire at 978-837-5107 or kathleen.s.thilaire@merrimack.edu.

Alumni Trip to Portugal

MARCH 19–28, 2010

Merrimack welcomes 50 legacies to the Class of 2013

Fifty members of the Class of 2013 were honored as legacies who are carrying on a proud family tradition of education at Merrimack College. The legacies gathered with their families at a special Legacy Reception on Saturday, August 29, 2009, during move-in day. More than 70 alumni and family members attended.

Catching Up in Arizona

Arizona alumni gathered together in August.

Homecoming photos

Homecoming Family Weekend 2009 welcomed hundreds of alumni, families and friends to the campus. Smiles and laughter abounded from the tailgating areas to the Kids Korner to the many athletic events happening that weekend.

Upcoming Alumni Events

DECEMBER 3, 2009
Alumni Christmas Reception 6:30 p.m.
DECEMBER 6, 2009
Regional event, Chicago
JANUARY 14, 2010
Regional event, Boston
FEBRUARY 13, 2010
Alumni Valentine’s Mass and Reception
MARCH 14, 2010
Laetare Sunday
MARCH 10-15, 2010
Alumni and Friends events in Florida
MARCH 19-28, 2010
Alumni Trip to Portugal
MAY 1, 2010
Golden Graduate Mass, Dinner & “A Tribute to Ol’ Blue Eyes” at the Rogers Center
MAY 21-22, 2010
Reunion Weekend
JUNE 7, 2010
President’s Cup Golf Tournament

Check the alumni website for all upcoming spring events! For more information visit www.merrimack.edu/alumni/UpcomingAlumniEvents.

Secure your tee time now for the 29th Annual President’s Cup Golf Tournament.

Hosted by the Friends of Merrimack, the President’s Cup Golf Tournament is heralded as one of the most prestigious golf tournaments in the Merrimack Valley. Alumni, parents and friends enjoy a great day of golf while supporting student scholarships.

Mark your calendar for June 7, 2010. Contact Joanne Mermelstein at joanne.mermelstein@merrimack.edu or 978-837-5117 for player and sponsor information.

2010 PRESIDENT’S CUP

Reunion

SAVE THE DATE—REUNION WEEKEND

MAY 21-22, 2010
Visit www.merrimack.edu/reunion for the schedule of events, class pages, lost alumni, contact information and much more.

If you would like to serve on your reunion executive, contact Office of Development/Western MA at catherine.harding@merrimack.edu or 978-837-5201.
Class Notes

60  Donald Myeles received his master’s degree in social work (MSW) from Boston College Graduate School of Social Work in 1962 and received a Ph.D. in social work from the National Catholic School of Social Service, The Catholic University of America in 1970. Donald is a retired U.S. Army Colonel, after serving 28 years active duty. He served as planning and zoning commissioner and mayor of Windcrest, Texas. Donald was recently appointed lieutenant Governor. Zone B, South Texas District, Optimist International.

Tom Quintan ’64 participated in the Hyannis Sprint II Triathlon held in September. He crossed the finish line wearing a Merrimack College ABA t-shirt given to him for the race by Jim Hammell, head basketball coach.

62  David Faxon is a retired corporate and non-profit finance director. David wrote his first book, Cold Water Crossing, recounting the 1873 murder of two New England women, revealing new events that seek to explain the crime. Faxon is currently at work on his second book, a novel entitled Somewhere in the Rain Forest. He resides in Manchester with his wife Linda, near their four children and seven grandchildren.

Tim Samway ’63 celebrated with Johnny Pesky on his 100th birthday at Fenway Park.

69  Jim Cain retired as director of human services with the Middlesex County Sheriff’s Dept., Mass. During his 21 years with the department, he developed substance abuse, educational and mental health programs for the inmate population of the Cambridge Jail and the Billerica House of Correction. Jim also provided both administrative and clinical supervision to the staff in these programs. He spent a year with wife, Kathleen Shane Cain ’72, in Belfast, Northern Ireland after retiring. Kathy was a visiting professor at St. Mary’s University College in Belfast, and Jim spent time wandering around the city and writing.

Francis (Dorsey) Coulter is an English instructor at the Naval Academy Preparatory School.

70  Larry Bergeron has been married to wife, Elizabeth, since 1975. They have seven children and three grandchildren. Larry and Elizabeth started the 501(c)(3) non profit corporation, A Child’s Hope International (www.achildshopeint.org). Larry travels worldwide working with starting children and orphans.

71  Michael Bishop was ordained a deacon in September 2007. He also became an information specialist for Viatrac in May 2009.

75  Susan Burgess’ son, Matthew, is attending Daniel Webster College in Nashua, N.H. He will graduate this year with a B.S. in aviation flight operations.

76  Dave McErliver, BBA Boston Marathon race director, and DMSE (Dave McErliver Sports Enterprises), produced sixteen world-class sporting events across many states from June through November 2009.

78  Friends from the Class of 1978 reunite for a weekend of memories and laughs.

79  Tina (Bulgarian) Hagen has accepted the position of manager of the Nashua Office of Prudential Verani Realty. Holding a Mass. and N.H. real estate broker’s license, Tina’s primary responsibility is to recruit agents to the company, as well as coach agents to reach their potential. She welcomes any and all inquiries about a career in real estate.

80  Francis Harrigan is a senior project engineer at Global Federal Group, TetraTech.

David K. Mohnyin is Of Counsel with McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton, Professional Association, New Hampshire’s largest law firm. McLane opened its first Massachusetts office in the newly opened TradeCenter 128 building in Woburn, Mass. last year, and is currently expanding its offices there. David, who practices in the firm’s real estate and corporate departments and is licensed to practice law in Mass. and N.H., practices out of the Massachusetts office. David recently authored a two-part article on issues regarding landlord consents and waivers that was published in the New England Real Estate Journal. In addition, David was a principal speaker on September 18 at the Panagula Association of New Hampshire’s Annual Meeting where he will provide an overview of the formation of condominiums in N.H. and commercial leasing. David resides in Lynnfield, Mass. with his wife, Lila Zulalian-Mohnyin.

81  Sean McGowan teaches physics and computer science at Bedford High, Bedford, Mass. Sean is the advisor for the school’s chess and math teams. The chess team won the championship in the Northern New England Interscholastic Chess League for the first time in the eight years of membership. The math team repeated as Mass State Champions (medium sized schools) at the State meet. Also this spring, the UMass Lowell chapter of Sigma Xi named Sean their High School Math/Science Teacher of the Year. The College Board selected him to be a reader for the AP Physics B exam, and he spent nine days at Colorado State U. in Fort Collins, Colo. reading for the exam.


82  Ray Joyce has joined Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence as director of Development. Ray and his wife, Michelle recently moved to Action with their three children Henry (8), Sarah (4) and Alden (3).

David Anthony ’66

83  Edward V. Arsenault, a priest of the Diocese of Manchester, has been named the new president and CEO of Saint Luke Institute in Silver Spring, Md. Fr. Arsenault succeeds Monsignor Steven J. Rossetti, who stepped down in October. Ordained in 1991, Fr. Arsenault has spent the last 14 years in both pastoral work and diocesan administration, most recently as moderator of the Curia and secretary for administration in the Diocese of Manchester.

84  Edward V. Arsenault 94

Chick LeBlanc, who has long been involved in civic and educational organizations, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Greater Boston Chapter of the American Red Cross. Chick has been a long-time supporter of the chapter and a member of its Board of Directors.

85  Ben Plotkin’s book, Read This First: The Executive’s Guide to New Media—from blogs to Social Networks, is due out this fall. The book is written for executives and management. Details on the exact publishing date can be found on his blog located at http://ranokami.com.

86  David Anthony would like to thank everyone from Merrimack who sponsored him for his August 1 Pan Mass Challenge (PMC) 111-mile bicycle ride. The PMC is an annual bike-a-thon that has raised more than $240 million for cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in the last 30 years. Thanks to your help, over the last three Pan Mass Challenges, David’s rides have raised nearly $10,000 for cancer research and treatment.

87  Elizabeth Scott recently ran the 180–an–100 Heart of Vermont Relay with her five teammates, with each runner covering 16–17 miles of the course. This was the first of two races that she has run this year to raise funds for neuroblastoma research at the Sloan–Kettering Cancer Center. Next up, the NYC Marathon!

88  Chip LeBlanc was promoted to director of operations for Guarding Stars Licensing Company (GSLC) in the summer of 2008. The company
is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hannaford Bros Co. marketing and selling the Guiding Star nutrition guidance system to other retailers, food service providers and manufacturers.

Molly Burns is currently serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Botswana until May 2011.

Maria Mistretta-Gall started a new business called POP! Jewels. Accessories for the Bride. She styles brides with great, jewelry and handbags to match their look. The jewelry is designed by herself from all over the world. Maria works by appointment with brides in Naples, Florida. Visit her web site at www.popweljewelry.com.

Julie Swanson is an SAP project manager with Honeywell in Phoenix, AZ. and will work on the development of SAP to the worldwide sites of the Aerospace division. Julie has been with Honeywell (and in Phoenix) since October 2004. She also just completed her MBA at Arizona State University May 2009—summa cum laude—with an emphasis in international business. As part of the program, Julie studied at the University of Melbourne in Melbourne, Australia and at the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Scott Donahue graduated from Pace University with a B.S. in professional technology studies / telecommunications concentration magna cum laude. Scott has been working in the telecommunications field for almost 15 years.

Joseph Bradley is now director of sales with River Group Technologies in Lawrence, Mass.

Jessica (Holly) Flanagan recently accepted a new position as manager, talent acquisition with Stratus Technologies, Inc. in Maynard, Mass. Jessica and husband, Michael, have two daughters: Elia, 4, and Brena, 3.

Karl Infringer has been named head men’s varsity ice hockey coach for Natick (Mass.) High School. He is also entering his seventh year as a teacher for Medway High School and recently obtained his master’s degree in school administration.

John McLaughlin has been promoted to director of transfer admission at Merrimack College.

T.J. Lynch finished his MBA at the University of South Dakota in 2008 and is currently working on his doctorate at the University of San Francisco. After graduating from Merrimack, T.J. worked for Americorps as a volunteer for Red Cloud Indian School as part of the Catholic High School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He was hired on after that and has been there for ten years.

Andrea Karthis has a new job working at HBD as their in-house syndication coordinator.

Nicole Kelly started her own online boutique called, PRETTY Boutique, www.prettyty.com. PRETTY Boutique offers fun, trendy accessories and handbags for the fashionista without New York City prices! Visit www.prettyty.com, and use promotion code: MERRIMACK during checkout to receive 15% off your entire purchase.

Amy Ide (Garavac) Doucette recently received the Tomorrow’s Leader Award of the New England chapter of Meeting Professionals International (MPINE). Amy is a certified meeting professional (ICMP) and works as a meeting manager at PRRI with the American Association for Thoracic Surgery.

Kevin Finn became engaged to Jocelyn Stanick on June 4, 2009 and will be married on January 9, 2010 at Merrimack.

Angela I. Kuleusa was one of the first group of students at Regis College to earn a doctorate in nursing practice in May 2009.

Amy O’Connell recently received both a Ph.D. in immunology and microbiological pathogenesis and an M.D. from Jefferson Medical College/Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Penn. (May 2009). Mary moved to Burlington, Vt. in June and started a pediatric residency training at Vermont Children’s Hospital. She was joined to partner Amy Jo in a civil union ceremony in July.

Jason Allerdings was awarded an MBA, finance concentration, from the University of New Haven, West Haven, Conn. in May 2009.

Nick Cammarata is a sales manager of a private jet company called Pulse Aviation in Celebration, Fla.

Tim Fields recently wrapped a month-long shoot in Michigan for a feature called “Caught in the Crossfire,” starring John Goodman, Chris Klein (American Pie), Adam Rodriguez (CSI: Miami), and Richard T. Jones (The Sarah Connor Chronicles). Tim plays Detective Lerner who is part of the unit that works with Klein and Rodriguez searching for answers. “Crossfire” was produced by Randy Emmet (Ramba, Righteous Ki11, 16 blocks) and 50 Cent. The film should be released late fall or early winter.

Lindsay Bruno and Tom Principe are engaged. The wedding is planned for June 2010.

Betty works for Citias as a sales manager and currently resides in Raleigh, N.C. with wife Katie.

Colleen Ennis’ 15

Colleen Ennis recently became engaged to Ryan Bradford while on vacation in Cabo San Lucas, set for August 21, 2010 in Weymouth, Mass.

Christopher Palumbo was recently hired by the town of Saugus, Mass, as a full-time police officer.

Paul Piegors and Katie Powell were engaged on July 5, 2009. An April 2011 wedding is planned. Katie is currently a public relations specialist at The Boston Beer Company in Boston, and Paul is currently an audio visual sales consultant at Office Solutions of New England in Boston.

David Fretwell was voted as a Top Technology Communicator by the IT Journalism community. David is an associate at PAN Communications, a public relations firm specializing in technology, consumer and professional services. David has been with PAN Communications for over three years. He supports clients across the tech, consumer-tech and professional services industries. In his role, he drives media relations, social media strategy and event management for his clients.

Laura Nelson graduated magna cum laude in May from Colorado State University with a second bachelor’s degree in microbiology. This fall, she is attending the Mercy College of Health Sciences Clinical Laboratory Science Program in Des Moines, Iowa to become certified as a medical technologist.

Matthew Petaligrino and Caitlin Shanley are engaged. The wedding is planned for spring 2011.

Adam Shepard sold his second book, The Best Four Years, to HarperCollins for a May 2011 publication. It is a guide for not only surviving, but also for making the most of the college experience. Part autobiographical, part generic, and part anecdotal, TB4Y is set to encourage students of this generation to balance education, campus involvement, and the social scene, while dealing with never, it is perhaps more challenging issues than our parents have had to fend with.

Annie DiFranco is engaged to Jeff Ferron. A September 2011 wedding is planned.

Rebekah Poteat is currently living and working abroad in Angers, France (about 2 hours southwest of Paris) since October 2009. She works as an English (ESL) teacher in a high school,isque Jean Bodin, which is located in a small town called Ponts du C4. Her studies range from 14-19 years old. Joseph Terranova works at SPS New England where he works as a field engineer.

Nik Amicon is working at Joe Amiconio, a medium-sized brokerage service to the New England supermarktes.

Brandi Longtin was engaged in September to Rowad Saade.

Cassie Nowak is an emergency room crisis counselor and is attending their second year at Central Connecticut State University, majoring in marriage and family therapy.

Melissa Principi works at Woffler Estate Vineyard in Bridgewater, N.Y. doing domestic and international wine sales and shipping.

Kaitlin Roop is employed by The Hanover Insurance Group as a service operations associate.
WEDDINGS

Karen Nadeau '97 and Eric Barnes, October 11, 2008, Portland, Me. Alumni in the wedding party included Jean Lavoie '98, Katie (Bastille) DeFrank '97, Lauren Coma '97, Alumni attending included Lakhayne Bullivant Manzi '96, Al Manzi '96, Heath Stone '97, Adam Modie '96, Chris Modie '97, and Justin Caillon '97. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and now lives in Buckta, Me.

Karen Nadeau '97 and Eric Barnes

Christine (McDonald) Naroian '99 and Philip Naroian '02 were married September 6, 2008 by Rev. Richard Piust, O.S.A. at Merrimack's Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher. The reception was held at the Granite Rose in Hampstead, N.H. Alumni in attendance were: Heather Price '99, Michael Caruso '97, Joie Thomas '98, Kerri (0levy) Terss '97, David Lemay '02, Richard Vedelius '84, Both Good '02, Jeff Kucukakengolu '02, Jason Naroian '02, not pictured, Stephanie (Leigmar) Girad '98 and Mark Quellette '00. Philip is currently employed as an IT specialist at Baybrum in Tewksbury, and Christine owns and operates her own photography and design company. The couple is expecting their first child in November.

Christine McDonald '99, Philip Naroian '02 and Merrimack friends


Jared Emond '99 and Merrimack friends

Julie Kramer '00 and Jason Gracieri, June 2009 at a beautiful ocean side wedding in Gloucester. Julie is the gallery director at the North Shore Arts Association in Gloucester, Mass. They are expecting their first child in March 2010.

Julie Kramer '00 and Jason Gracieri

Patrick Bergin '01 and Melanie Jackson '01. November 11, 2008, Dover, N.H. Alumni in attendance included (1st row l to r) Nicholas Fleming '01, Jacobson Fleming '00, Kim Norris '00, Stephanie Pellegrino '96, Bryan Pellegrino '96, Sean Ryan '03, Adam Leo '01, (2nd row l to r) Jessica Shea '01, Christopher Yurkson '00.

Patrick Bergin '01, Melanie Jackson '01 and Merrimack friends

Norse '00, Andrew McDavit '01 Melanie Jackson Bergin '01 (last row l to r): Chris Murphy '00 Meghan McDavit '02, Karen Lilly '01, Patrick Bergin '01, Paul Pettelier '02 and Dan Roeder '01.

Norse '00, Andrew McDavit '01

Michelle Carvalho '92, Steve Delaney and Merrimack friends.

Michelle Carvalho '92 and Steve Delaney

Julie Kramer '00 and Jason Gracieri

Kirsten Goulet '03 and Roberto Covello, May 30, 2009, Wedgewood Pines Country Club in Stow, Mass. Alumni in the wedding party included bridesmaids Maria (Covello) Polite '99 and Johanna (Krinak) Grossi '03, and groomsman Jason Palumbo '03. Additional alumni in attendance were Kate McCabe '03, Lauri Marshall '03, Jamie Grossi '03, and James Rather '03.

Kirsten Goulet '03 and Roberto Covello

Danielle Partola '04 and Michael McCabe on September 6, 2009 at St. Patricks in Stoneham. Alumni in attendance included Chris Tarley '05, Katie Cabral '03, Amy (Culivana) Czelata '04, Nancy Canha '05, Chris Peterson '04, David Jay '04 and Kim (Juczak) Sapienza '04.

Danielle Partola '04 and Michael McCabe

Sarah Bouquiselle '08 and Jan Quiles, August 16, 2009, Indian Ridge Country Club, Andover, Mass. Alumni in attendance included Peter Doppola '08, Christopher Wood '09 and Jenna (Pierce) Wood '07.

Sarah Bouquiselle '08 and Jan Quiles

PJ McCarty '05, Cailey McDonald and Merrimack friends

PJ McCarty '05 and Cailey McDonald, April 18, 2009. Rev. Jim Wenzel, O.S.A. '52, came to celebrate the ceremony. Alumni in attendance included Mary Blais '05, Christina (Doherty) Edler '05, Taylor Edler '05, Cailte Gilmore '05, Kurt Carlson '05, Andy McCarthy '11, Becky (Buckley) Fleming '05, Mary Kate Padis '05, Amy Barry '05, Rob Defratiis '05, Carly Bixl '05, Adam Van Buren '06, Sarah Cleveland '05, Scott Nicholson '09, Matt McCarthy '07, Chris Palumbo '03, Mike MacNeil '04, Meg Ferrar '04, Anna Sabella '05, Michelle (Ferrara) Zizzo '05, Frank Zizzo '05, Kevin Elms '05, Kristan Fava '05, Kayla Geiger '04, Brendan Hamilton '05 and Joe Wilson.

PJ McCarty '05 and Cailey McDonald

Andrew Rodger '05 and Meghan Mahoney, August 8, 2009. The father of the bride is Walt Mahoney '82.

Andrew Rodger '05 and Meghan Mahoney

Send us your news!

alumnirelations@merrimack.edu

NEW ARRIVALS

Russell Ahern '82 and wife Gaylaine, a daughter, Madelyn Anne, June 26, 2009.


Mark Trodden '93 and Jennifer [Harrington] Trodden '93, a daughter, Claire Catherine, February 26, 2009. She joins big sister Abby, 7, and brothers Casey, 5, and Tyler, 20 months.

Jennifer [Terwilliger] La Flam '94 and Thaddeus Larry, a daughter, Isabella Grace, July 24, 2009.

John Cutting, '95 and Kerrie [Lindsay] Cutting '98 welcomed a preemie miracle born 12 weeks early, a daughter, Addison Grace, October 27, 2008. She joins proud big sister Olivia, 4.

Class Notes


Nico (Charbonneau) Girard ’00 and husband Jamal, a daughter, Emerson Nicole, November 5, 2009. Emerson joins older brother Buster, the bulldog.

Katie (Bastille) DeFrank ’97 and husband Jeff, a son, Benjamin Michael, June 19, 2009. Benjamin was welcomed home by his sister, Chloe, 2.

Tricia (Geswell) LaFauci ’97 and husband John, twins Marc Joseph and Isabella Patricia, May 4, 2009. The twins were welcomed by big brother John, 2.

Greg Cassidy ’97 and Aiyah (LeGault) Cassidy ’98, a son, Desmond Keelin, May 19, 2009. He was welcomed home by big brother Donovan, 3, and sister Lyli, 2.

Mary and husband David, a daughter, Molly Elizabeth, May 21, 2009. She joins big brother Matthew age 2.

Meghan (Tewey) Bronson ’00 and husband David, a daughter, Audrey Jane, June 9, 2009.

Kimberly (Clappi) Silva ’02 and husband Rob, a daughter, Audrey Jane, June 9, 2009.

Christine (Michaels) Rogers ’05 and husband Harold, a daughter, Abigail Constance, April 27, 2009.

Stacy (Diamandis) O’Neil ’00 and husband Jerrod, a son, Nicholas James, April 28, 2009.


Coleen (Heddington) Labadie ’00 and Chris Labadie ’00, a daughter, Cate Elizabeth, January 14, 2009.


Rosa L. T. (Rosa) Lee ’01 and husband Colby, a daughter, Audrey Jane, June 9, 2009.

Sandra König ’01 and husband Thomas, a son, Mason, March 7, 2009. Mason joins big brother Thomas, 3.

John Callacy ’53, June 3, 2009. John worked for the greater part of his life as a regional supervisor for the First National Stores in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. After his retirement, he also worked for the Essex Company in Lawrence. He was an avid stamp and coin collector and also served with United States Air Force. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Josephine R. (Caraballo) Callacy.

Joseph F. McCormack Sr.’51, August 10, 2009. At Madagascar, he was a member of the Notre Dame team and coached the football team for two years. He returned to Madison with his wife and three children, 7 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Steven M. Ruscio ’72, of North Troy, Vt., July 25, 2009. Raised in N.Y., he graduated from Merrimack as a deacon in his class with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. He received an international fellowship award from Rotary International for a year of study abroad in biomedical engineering at the University of St. Andrews, in Scotland. He stayed with his wife and his beloved wife, Helene Couvreur, in Latino Park, a special care center in Ashburnham, Mass., where they raised their family for over 20 years before moving to Vermont in 2001. Steven was a master woodworker who, as the sole proprietor of Christian Steward Co. in Gardner, Mass., crafted many different types of toys, decorative and household items. Notably he provided the wooden shingles for the restoration of both the Rosevelt Carriage House in Hyde Park and Mark Twain’s boyhood home. Steven loved to travel and always relished the challenge of finding things. Among his hobbies, he enjoyed model building, gardening, and antiquing.

Jeffrey Williams ’54, August 10, 2009.

Kathleen McDonald Williamsen ’71, August 10. She was happily married to her husband John, a retired Douglas Williamsen, for seven years. Kathleen taught elementary classes at Alma School in Mesa, and was a wonderful homemaker, loving mother and cherished wife.

Charlie Wesson ’54 of Andover, September 3, 2009. He was the beloved husband of 51 years to Mary P. (Plass) ’53. Loving father of Paula Lamagno and her husband Larry, Dana Lano ’86 and her husband Vic, Mary Ellen Mover and her husband John, Anne Marie Vazemrski ’88 all of Andover, Elie DaCosta and her husband Ed of N.J., Kathy ’O’Conner ’88 and her husband Stephen of Merrimac, Mass. Dear brother of Robert M. Wesson ’56, his wife Michele and their children Bobby and Kerry, all of Fla. Brother-in-law of Paul and Pat Piazza of Andover, Richard Tibak of Lawrence and the late Joanna (Piazzal) Tibak. Devoted and cherished son of Alice and Michael, Joseph 13, Lauren Lamagno, E.J., Emily DaCosta, Vic, Kara Lano, Steve, Michaela, Matthew Mover, Michael Vazemrski, Kajga and Jake O’Conner. Charlie was a former two-term president of the Merrimack College Alumni Association. He was also a veteran of the U.S. Army, Korean Conflict, a former selectman of Andover for 12 years, and a member of the Andover Finance Committee. He was a member of Andover’s St. Augustine Parish Council and a volunteer of Andover Youth Programs and Elder Services. Charlie retired after 38 years at John Hancock Ins. Co., Boston. Donations can be made to the Charles, Helen and Henry Wesson Family Memorial Scholarship Fund at Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover, MA 01845.

J. Michael Fralingr, Sr. ’79, president of Fralingr Engineering, one of the most successful and respected civil engineering firms in New Jersey, died suddenly on September 16, 2009 at the age of 52. Mike was struck and killed while cycling along Route 77 in Upper Pittsgrove Township, N.J.

A graduate of Woodland Country Day School, Bridgton, N.H. and St. Augustine Preparatory School, Richmond, N.J., Mike earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Merrimack College in 1979. Upon graduation he joined Fralingr Engineering, serving as a design engineer and municipal engineer for several municipalities. In 1986, Mike was appointed to the executive board and held professional registrations as an engineer, land surveyor and certified municipal engineer. He assumed the duties of president of the firm in 2000.

Mike was the father of 27 years, Kimberly, and their children, J. Michael Fralingr Jr. and Nathan Fralingr. Mike was a son of Donald H. Fralingr, Jr. and Rosaleen S. (Thibault) Fralingr, a daughter of John and Alice (Thibault) Fralingr, Jr. Mike was a son of Donald H. Fralingr, Jr. and Rosaleen S. (Thibault) Fralingr, a daughter of John and Alice (Thibault) Fralingr, Jr.

J. Michael Fralingr, Sr. ’79

Fralingr. In addition, Mike is survived by his parents, Albert A. and Caroline Fralingr; his five siblings, Albert A. Fralingr III ’77 and his wife Estelle ’78; Frances F. Farrelly and her husband Thomas P.; Caroline Lecako and her husband and George Lecako, U.S. Army (Ret); Patrick F. Moore and her husband Kick, and Charles “Chuck” Fralingr and his wife Shelley.

Mike was a member of the St. Teresa of Avila R.C. Church in Bridgton and served as a director for the Bridgton Area Chamber of Commerce. In 2000, he was admitted to the "Hermit Hall of Fame—Cultural Division" for his contributions and involvement at St. Augustine Preparatory School.

In his role, Mike’s brother-in-law, Thomas Farrelly, best described Mike as a “Christian gentleman.” Friend Donald J. Weinbach ’69, a Merrimack College trustee, said, “For those of us who loved Mike, including his roommates, Don Ricco ’77 and Scott Saunders ’79, there are no words that more appropriately express the admiration Mike’s unassuming personality, his strong family, faith and profession. He was an extraordinary man, raised in the Anglican tradition by a superb Augustinian education. To Kim and her children, we extend our sincere sympathy from the entire Merrimack College community.”
Merrimack News

Merrimack Announces Formation of New School of Education

With the goal of educating students in new and different approaches to becoming teachers for the 21st century, Merrimack College has created a School of Education.

The School, which builds on Merrimack’s existing Education Department, will enhance teacher preparation for educating in the 21st century, with an emphasis on those skills that have become and will continue to be in demand and, ultimately, contribute to a highly-skilled workforce in the future. In collaboration with local public and private school districts Pre-K–12, the School of Education will identify and implement solutions that meet the needs of educators today and in the future.

“With education reform a top priority in the United States, and the challenges of strained infrastructure, teacher shortages, lean state budget and performance standards, it is imperative that we work together with Pre-K-12 school districts to identify needs and implement solutions that are cost effective while delivering the strongest education for the 21st century that we can,” said Merrimack College President Ronald Champagne.

“Merrimack College will work to foster partnerships with our local school districts, provide educators with high-quality academic and practicum experience, and contribute to the overall improvement of the public school system whenever we can.”

One of the expected long-term outcomes of Merrimack College’s School of Education is to improve teacher training, and to attract and retain teachers to academic fields where educators are underrepresented, such as special education, science and mathematics.

In its 62-year history, Merrimack has produced more than 2,500 primary and secondary level teachers. At present, Merrimack College offers undergraduate teacher preparation, several master of education degree programs and the Graduate Institute for Teachers.

Butin Named Founding Dean, School of Education

Community Engagement in Higher Education, Dr. Butin’s research focuses on issues of educator preparation and policy and community engagement. He has a Ph.D. in Social Foundations of Education from the University of Virginia and has been a faculty member at Gettysburg College. (Full bio can be found at www.merrimack.edu click education.)

“I look forward to the opportunity to lead the school of education and bring together the strengths of the undergraduate and graduate education programs,” said Dr. Butin.

“Educational policy and practice are at a critical crossroads in America, and Merrimack College should have a place at the table, locally, regionally, and nationally. Our goal is to prepare educators who make a difference in their classrooms, schools, and communities. I welcome these exciting developments and joining a thriving community of students, faculty, and administrators at Merrimack.”

Following a nationwide search, Dan W. Butin, Ph.D. has been named founding dean of Merrimack’s new School of Education.

Dr. Butin comes to Merrimack having served as assistant dean, Department of Educational Leadership, for Cambridge College’s School of Education. He is the editor and author of over fifty books, articles, and book chapters, including the books Teaching Social Foundations of Education and Service-Learning in Theory and Practice: The Future of Renovated Dining Hall Named for Long-Time Employee

Her constant smile and friendliness have lit up the College’s dining hall for years—nearly 30—so much so that she has the nickname Sparky. Now, in honor of Cynthia Guilette, Merrimack’s new dining hall now bears the nickname Sparky’s Place, a subdivision made during a student naming contest.

Merrimack College and Sodexo Food Services partnered to bring major changes to the College’s main dining hall and the smaller cafeteria, Warner’s Den. Reminiscent of city restaurant dining, Sparky’s Place offers visitors a variety of seating including modern tables and chairs, soft contemporary booths, and a new menu. For photos and more information on the new dining hall changes, visit www.merrimack.edu and click on News.

Merrimack Recognized in Rankings

U.S. News & World Report recognized Merrimack College among the nation’s top regional liberal arts colleges in America’s Best Colleges Guide. US. News has consistently ranked Merrimack among peer institutions for more than a decade. Also, The Princeton Review recently acknowledged Merrimack as one of 218 institutions in its “Best in the Northeast” section at www.princetonreview.com which features the 2010 Best Colleges Region by Region, and in the book The Best Northeastern Colleges, 2009 Edition.

New Dean, Science and Engineering Announced

Merrimack College President Ronald Champagne recently named Josephine Modica-Napolitano, Ph.D. as dean of the School of Science and Engineering at Merrimack College.

Dr. Modica-Napolitano has served as interim dean since March 2009, working with her colleagues to identify and pursue strategic goals and sharing the vision of excellence for the School of Science and Engineering.

Under her guidance this year, Merrimack opened a new Center for Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences (last spring which provides high quality educational experiences for students majoring in the life sciences while supporting workforce development in a growing life science industry.

Grad Rates Among Athletes Earns Honors for Merrimack

For the second consecutive year, the National Collegiate Scouting Association (NCSA) announced Merrimack College as a top-live school in the Annual NCSA Collegiate Power Rankings. Merrimack is ranked fourth among Division II schools in the seventh Annual NCSA Collegiate Power Rankings.

NCSA’s Collegiate Power Rankings rate colleges and universities comprehensively based on student-athlete graduation rates, academic strength and athletic prowess of the university. The institutions posted in the 2009 Power Rankings are in an elite group of less than 6% of colleges and universities across the nation.

Academically, Merrimack College Athletics is coming off its best year in school history. Sixty-eight student-athletes, up from 44 a year ago, earned a grade-point-average of 3.5 or better. In addition, 34% of the student-athlete body finished the year with a 3.0 GPA or better.

Find and follow us!

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facebook: by searching Merrimack College.

send in your photo(s) wearing Merrimack apparel and tell us who and where you are. We'll post to the College’s Flickr account and show the world that Merrimack is everywhere!!

Check out all our photos at www.flickr.com/photos/merrimack.
Help support the renovation of the J. Thom Lawler Rink in our Volpe Center

With a new ice bed system now fully operational, Merrimack is moving forward with plans for additional renovations and improvements to Lawler Rink, highlighted by:

• Installation of premium chairback seats throughout the arena
• Creation of a new bleacher section for Merrimack student seating
• Two new scoreboard complexes with graphic capability and a new sound system
• Renovation of the arena lobby

To learn how you can buy a seat—or an entire row of seating—to help the project, visit http://www.merrimackathletics.com/sports/mice/2008-09/lawler.

Study-Travel Course Explores Cultures of Jews, Christians and Muslims

A unique study-travel opportunity this spring will explore the cultures of Jews, Christians and Muslims in Medieval Spain. "Convivencia: How Jews, Christians and Muslims Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain," a four-credit undergraduate Humanities course (HUM 3750) to be taught by Dr. Lynn McGovern during the spring semester, combines pre-departure seminars with study abroad. This year’s trip, from May 24- June 3, will also offer participants the option to extend the course abroad to participate in the Moroccan Exchange Program.

To help make that possible, the Center for Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations will award four $750 scholarships to students who travel to Spain and wish to travel to Morocco.

Merrimack alumni, faculty, and staff may participate in the experience without completing the course—work and earning credit. Visit www.merrimack.edu/studyabroad for additional information and application. The application deadline is rapidly approaching.

Labyrinth Dedicated

By Marie DeMers

A copy of the 13th century labyrinth in Chartres Cathedral in France, Merrimack’s labyrinth consists of granite stones and bricks placed in a pattern to lead the walker to a central Augustinian symbol.

“A labyrinth is very Augustinian in its purpose of inviting and encouraging people to engage in a journey to their heart while walking the path,” said Fr. Wenzel. “One of the hallmarks of St. Augustine’s spirituality is what is called ‘intimacy’, a challenge to enter one’s center, believing that one will encounter God. The labyrinth is a metaphor offering an outer path to lead a person on an inner journey.”

Funds to construct the labyrinth were made possible by the contributions and gifts on the occasion of Fr. Wenzel’s 50th anniversary of his ordination in May 2006.

Calendar Winter / Spring 2010

dec ’09
3 Annual Christmas Party, Sakowich Campus Center
6 Alumni Regional Event—Chicago, Ill., with Rev. James Wenzel, O.S.A. ’52

jan ’10
28 “Jesus, Christians and Muslims: Together in Prayer,” 7 p.m. (Cassia Hall)

feb ’10
4 City of God Lecture: “Augustine on Jesus the Jew,” with Prof. Paula Fredriksson, 7 p.m. (Cassia Hall)
6 National Marionette Theatre presents “Hamlet and Grelle,” 2 p.m. (Rogers Center)
10 Silent Film Festival: The Son of the Sheik, 7 p.m. (Rogers Center) free. Commentary at 6:30 p.m.
11 Open House—School for Advanced Studies, 5:30 p.m.—7 p.m. (Shine Lounge)
12 Alumni Valentine’s Mass and Reception
19-20 Annual Tambake Film Series: Touch of Evil, 7 p.m. (Rogers Center) free. Commentary at 6:30 p.m.
21 Tambake Film Series: The Band Wagon, 7 p.m. (Rogers Center) free. Commentary at 6:30 p.m.
25 Rogers Center for the Arts, Celebrating 10 years, 6 p.m.—8 p.m.
26 Forbidden Broadway, 7:30 p.m. (Rogers Center)

mar ’10
3 Tambake Film Series: Touch of Evil, 7 p.m. (Rogers Center) free. Commentary at 6:30 p.m.
4-13 Alternative Spring Break
6-13 Alumni Regional Event—Naples, Italy, with Gwen Holman
13 Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Naples, Fla.
14 Laetare Sunday
16 13th Annual Merrimack College Passion Server with Rabbi Robert Goldstein presiding, 7 p.m. (Cassia Hall)
19-29 Alumni trip to Portugal.
24 Silent Film Festival: Four Classic Short Comedies, 7 p.m. (Rogers Center) free. Commentary at 6:30 p.m.
25 Rogers Center for the Arts, Celebrating 10 years, 6 p.m.—8 p.m.

APRIL
22 June 30, 2010 Student Show Opening reception, Thursday, April 22, 2010, 3 p.m.—5 p.m.

MCCOY ART GALLERY

JANUARY 29
March 5, 2010 Duncan Hewett: Sculpture Opening reception, Sunday, February 7, 2010, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.
MARCH 15
April 14, 2010 Christina Colman: Paintings Opening reception, Sunday, March 21, 2010, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.
APRIL 22
June 30, 2010 Student Show Opening reception, Thursday, April 29, 2010, 3 p.m.—5 p.m.

may ’10
1 Golden Graduate Mass, Dinner and "A Tribute to El Blue Eyez," 7:30 p.m. (Rogers Center)
21-22 Reunion Weekend
23 Commencement

jun ’10
1 Summer Session 1 begins
7 President’s Cup Golf Tournament
28 Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Please consider a gift.

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.

Giving before December 31

The end of the calendar year can be a good time to review charitable gifts you would like to make before December 31. Federal tax laws and those of many states make it possible to save taxes on funds you donated for charitable purposes. You can take advantage of the opportunity to make charitable gifts in ways that reduce your tax liability while also helping Merrimack College.

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/gift

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 Annual Fund
978-837-5021