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Alumni & Students: Building Community, Building for the Future

Merrimack College
SUMMER 2006

Alumni and Students: Building Community, Building for the Future
Message from the President

Community service has long been an extremely valuable and critical aspect of a Merrimack education. It is our obligation and our mission to prepare students for citizenship and service. It is our hope that they will continue to contribute to society long after they leave the college.

You, our alumni, have proven that the seed of service is deeply planted. So many of you have continued the legacy of giving back to society and, in turn, have inherently become role models. Our students look to you and your accomplishments, professionally and civically, and choose to emulate them. Each year the number of our students engaged in service learning and MerrimAction grows. These programs took root decades ago, thanks to the efforts and contributions of so many of you.

As you read through this issue, you will see that Merrimack alumni, faculty, and students are engaged in projects and programs that bring true value to children, business owners, and residents and town leaders of cities and towns. They are truly making a difference in the world around them and they are ensuring that the lessons of St. Augustine and the messages of Merrimack College are shared.

Thank you for helping us – and our students – carry on these important messages and thank you for your continued allegiance to Merrimack College.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Santagati
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continued from previous page

She shared many words of advice with the graduates, including one of her favorites: “What we do for ourselves will die with us; what we do for others lives on.” She encouraged them to “walk out of here knowing that there isn’t anything you can’t accomplish and you will change the world. You will do something greater than the rest and you can look back and know the world is better because you lived in it. I hope you all go out and do amazing things.”

“From here on out - the name of the game is preparedness - responsibility - and service. I have every confidence that you will carry on the tradition of personal excellence that you have achieved at Merrimack. I have confidence that you will rise to every challenge that meets you in life, and I have confidence that you will work to make our world a better place - in your own unique way.”

— President Richard J. Santagati, Commencement address

Matthew Lovett

In his speech to his fellow graduates, Lovett spoke of looking ahead with “cautious optimism.” “We are the future leaders of this world, a world that is involved in war and uncertainty. We must be abreast of the ideas of health care, education, and politics, not to mention the idea of beginning a family,” he stated. “We are prepared for it, though.”

He continued, “Our time at Merrimack has instilled in us precious values that will enable us to make this transition.”

Lovett has already used these values to give back to Merrimack and to the Merrimack Valley community. He served as a tutor for the football team and at Bellesini Athletics; Lovett received the Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts Scholarship and was a Coals volunteer; he also served as treasurer of the Sports Medicine Club in his junior year. Lovett received the Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts Scholarship and was a finalist for a national NCAA post-grad scholarship award. He will attend graduate school in the fall.

FitzPatrick Named Outstanding Teacher

Dr. Kathleen A. FitzPatrick, associate professor of biology, was named the 22nd Dr. Edward G. Roddy Jr. Outstanding Teacher of the Year at this year’s Commencement. Nominated by her students and her colleagues, Dr. FitzPatrick is a well-respected scholar dedicated to the academic success of her students at Merrimack College since 1977. She previously led the Biology/Allied Health Programs. Currently, she serves as director of Allied Health Programs.

In introducing FitzPatrick, Dr. Joseph Kelley, provost, said, “Nominations by students and by faculty colleagues commend this professor’s dedication to student learning and innovative pedagogy, continuous and selfless service on countless faculty and other committees of the college, and scholarship.”

Matthew Lovett, Groveland, Mass., was chosen as the 2006 student speaker at the 56th Commencement. A sports medicine major with a concentration in athletic training, Lovett is a Presidential Scholar. He was co-captain of the Merrimack College varsity football team, a four-year letter winner and the Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

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Time Hasn't Changed the Power of Class Gifts
By Heather Notaro

The 2006 class, led by Joshua Blaszak ’06, president of the class council, raised more than $8,000 to leave their legacy on one of the well-known meeting places on campus, Cascia Hall.

The 2006 class gift will be heard around campus for many years to come. The class donated chimes for Cascia Hall which will play at various times to note special events throughout the year.

“We wanted the Class of 2006 to set new standards for future classes in terms of participation,” said Blaszak. “This was our first chance to give back and hopefully it is just the beginning. It feels great to leave a piece of our class behind on campus.”

It was Merrimack’s Class of 1992 who were able to encourage more than 85 percent of their senior population to contribute toward a Victorian clock which still stands on the quad between the Sakowich Campus Center and the McQuade Library. The fixtured-embossed landmark, which adds both utility and charm to the campus, represents the desire among students to leave their footprint for future classes to follow.

Wayne Bishop ’92, president of the class council in 1992, led the one-and-a-half year fundraising effort to purchase the clock. “We thought of innovative ways to appeal to the students and I was truly impressed with how much the campus community came together for this purpose,” said Bishop. “Students understood that it wasn’t how much you gave, but just the act of contribution itself.”

The concept of a class gift demonstrates the desire for soon-to-be alumi to stay closely affiliated with the college while leaving behind a tangible memory. Now, as current students look to the clock to determine when their next class begins or hear the chimes from Cascia Hall, they will be reminded of the concept of a class gift demonstrates the desire for soon-to-be alumni to stay closely affiliated with the college while leaving behind a tangible memory. Now, as current students look to the clock to determine when their next class begins or hear the chimes from Cascia Hall on special occasions, they will be reminded of the connection and dedication that so many alumni feel for Merrimack College.
Convocation Honors

Eighty-six exceptional men and women were honored as Presidential Scholars at the 2006 Honors Convocation held in April at the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher. A Presidential Scholar achieves a minimum of 3.5 cumulative grade point average, based on a 4.0 grading system. Students must have completed 34 courses and 102 credits by the beginning of the spring semester to be so designated. Several academic awards and student leadership awards were presented to a number of outstanding students during the convocation event.

Convocation Day

Dean of Faculty for Science and Engineering Dr. Russell Pinizzotto addressed those present on the subject, “Is Merrimack College a High IQ Community?” He spoke about the three values he believes to be the most important: Integrity, Quality (hence IQ) and Community. He asserted that:

- Integrity is the ability to be ruthlessly honest, both with yourself and with others.
- Quality implies doing the best you possibly can in everything, and being willing to do what it takes to improve.
- Community means that we all belong to various groups and must be able to include each member of the group in all its activities.

O

n the banks of the Merrimack River in Lawrence lies an old mill building that once functioned as a power plant, relying on natural resources such as river water and coal to keep the mills running efficiently.

Today, the former power plant is the focus of an incredible structural and economic undertaking by local businessman Sal Lupoli (owner of the Sal's Just Pizza chain) and a group of 2006 Merrimack graduates. Students gain knowledge while businesses gain talent.

Local businessman Sal Lupoli (far left), owner of the Sal's Just Pizza chain, talks with (left to right) Nick Scenna '06, Steve Mallory '07, and Jim D'Angelo '70 about the status of the renovation project.

Alumnus Leads Upcoming Engineers on Community Project

By Heather Notaro

Dr. Russell Pinizzotto, dean of faculty of Science and Engineering

Local businessman Sal Lupoli (far left), owner of the Sal's Just Pizza chain, talks with (left to right) Nick Scenna '06, Steve Mallory '07, and Jim D'Angelo '70 about the status of the renovation project.

“Academic Excellence”

By Heather Notaro

Dr. Russell Pinizzotto, dean of faculty of Science and Engineering

“Merrimack provides an education with balanced lessons in the technical and the ethical,” said D’Angelo. “From my own Merrimack experience, I knew that these students would have a greater understanding of how engineering skills acquired in the classroom can translate into a real, human environment. The power plant project seemed like a perfect opportunity to benefit everyone involved.”

D’Angelo developed a plan specifically for the students. Once they were given the rundown about what Lupoli wanted to accomplish with the 40,000 square feet of space the former power plant offered, the students were charged with identifying the most efficient way for the structure to be re-used.

Under the guidance of Merrimack Civil Engineering Professor Anthony DeLuzio, the students conducted a structural analysis of the facility, determining how the original building was constructed and how the space could be restored. Ultimately, through the students’ data, it was determined that the most reasonable plan would be constructing a building inside of a building.

“The students worked with my firm and Sal Lupoli directly to conceptualize and design the building inside-of-a building plan,” said D’Angelo. This plan will preserve the historic exterior look of the building while creating a modern structure for future businesses to call home.

Six months later the project is well underway and D’Angelo has hired Nicholas Scenna, a 2006 Merrimack graduate, to work full time and a Merrimack junior Steve Mallory as a cooperative education student. Scenna was one of the students who worked on the original design.

D’Angelo views his consistent involvement with his alma mater as a means for continued growth. Students gain knowledge while businesses gain talent.

“My hope is that the college will continue to reach out to its alumni and see them as a source of connection to professional practice and likewise, that other alumni see the college as a resource, creating opportunities for both students and graduates,” said D’Angelo.
Students Bring Skills to Town Parking Dilemma

By Heather Nataro

Third-year civil engineering students at Merrimack College were banded a daunting task last semester - the challenge of helping to design better parking for the Stevens Memorial Library in North Andover. The existing 33 spaces are not enough to accommodate library patrons, and as a result, overflow parking has been infringing on neighbors of the library.

After being briefed in February by the North Andover town manager, the fire chief, police officials, library trustees, and a member of the town improvement society, the students toured the library grounds to observe their canvas and take notes on the existing conditions.

The class of 22 students, under the guidance of Merrimack Assistant Dean and Civil Engineering Professor Dr. Gary Spring, split up into three groups and each produced a separate parking proposal. In order to successfully draft a design plan, each student team needed to consider concerned stakeholders, including affected neighbors, as well as significant spatial constraints.

In May, the student groups presented their proposals to the involved parties and the feasibility of each design was explored. Students dedicated approximately 1,300 to 1,500 man-hours to helping the town of North Andover solve this problem.

"This project was unique in that it exposed students to the need for considering opposing stakeholder viewpoints, unlike the typical academic exercise," said Dr. Spring. "Once they graduate, these future engineers will incorporate certain energy-saving concepts into their design."

Under the guidance of Civil Engineering Associate Professor Dr. David Weserling, the students surveyed the existing condition of over three acres of property with significant spatial constraints.

"We had the privilege of working with professionals who were willing and able to give us advice whenever it was needed and they gave us an idea as to how things really work," said Homem.

Ultimately, the students wanted the owners to gain LEED (Leadership in Energy Efficient and Environmental Design) certification through the U.S. Green Building Council, the nation’s foremost coalition of leaders from across the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. Such a designation would bring both financial and health benefits to the residents.

Each of the five team members had specific responsibilities for the project. For example, Matt Stanley was responsible for exploring roof system options, while Matt Aldinger looked at drainage possibilities for the house. Within each area, the student referred to LEED guidelines in order to determine whether or not that portion of the project could be more energy efficient. Each item had a point value - the higher the points, the closer the project was to LEED certification.

Sean Homem, the student project manager, led the team in a technical and managerial capacity. Though collectively they found the greatest challenge to be staying within strict guidelines for their design, they enjoyed the process.

"Ultimately, we feel as if we gave the client some very useful information and they will use that to decide what they will do from here on in. We were pleased with the outcome," said Homem.

All involved parties were present for a detailed presentation delivered by the civil engineering seniors. Supporting materials for the project on display included an intricate design plan and a 3-D model of the proposed residence.

The student presentation was part of the coursework and focused on engineering communications and public speaking. Each student was evaluated on his presentation content and delivery style. The family is taking the students' design plan into consideration throughout their home planning and construction process.
Dr. Walter E. Maxey Award Names 2006 Recipient
By James E. Henderson, B.S., C.S. 1991

“Did you get to meet the Maxey Award recipient?” Dr. Michael J. Bradley, new chairman of the Department of Mathematics asks me. He’s obviously excited that a math major has received the award. When I arrived at the 2006 Presidential Awards, I end up sitting in the rear since it was a full house so I wasn’t able to see her too well during the ceremony. He ushers me through the crowd of faculty, staff, parents, and award recipients to a young woman taking a photograph for another group of people. “This is Amy!” introducing the photographer, clearly proud of her achievement. She reveals a warm smile as we shake hands.

Amy Rowe, a third-year mathematics major, was the first recipient of the Dr. Walter E. Maxey Memorial Award at the 2006 Presidential Awards Ceremony on April 25th. She works as a tutor at the Math Center on campus, is an active member of the Math Club, and has been elected to various positions within the Student Government Association. Most recently, Amy was selected to serve as V.P. of the Student Government Association during her senior year.

Why did you decide to become a math major? I had a passion for mathematics all throughout high school. I took every honors and AP course that was offered at my school for math and was a member and captain of the Math Team my senior year in high school. I really wanted to continue pursuing this passion and wanted to help others develop the appreciation for math that I have. As I decided to major in mathematics and minor in secondary education in hopes of becoming a high school math teacher.

What is it that attracts you to becoming a high school mathematics teacher? I really want to help students to develop an appreciation and passion for math. I have always pictured myself in a profession where I would be helping people. I have also always loved working with students. My job at the Math Center gives me insight into what teaching will be like. After tutoring someone I feel very good that I was able to help a student understand a problem they were working on or a theorem they were working with; this is how I want to feel every day as a teacher.

Dr. Walter E. Maxey Award is an academic award that alumni have established in memory of Dr. Walter E. Maxey, an associate professor at Merrimack College from 1977 until 1999. The award provides financial assistance to a third-year student majoring in computer science, mathematics, or electrical engineering excelling in his or her area of study and demonstrating leadership qualities.

For more information please visit www.maxevaward.org or e-mail info@maxevaward.org.

Professor's Traffic Expertise Helps Increase Safety
By Heather Notaro

At one time or another, all drivers have sat in gridlock wondering why and how traffic happens. Most importantly, they want to know how the congestion can be alleviated.

Dr. Gary Spring, assistant dean and civil engineering (CE) professor at Merrimack College, has made a career of analyzing and identifying traffic problems concerning today’s highway systems. Spring’s specialty is in applying advanced technologies and creating new systems to improve traffic safety.

“We are an auto-centric society; we are dependent on cars," said Spring. “Our country has an incredible transportation system, but it is also aging. My work has focused on applications of advanced systems to provide safer highways. It’s incredibly rewarding.”

Though there are many sub-topics within the transportation realm, Spring dedicates the majority of his time to the highway system. Aside from teaching graduate and undergraduate level transportation courses, he has acquired impressive experience through consulting and funded research that has resulted in his system designs being implemented in Missouri and North Carolina.

Through the use of geographic information technologies and artificial intelligence methods, Spring continues to assist towns and cities with traffic-related issues and creates workable systems for corporations.

Spring’s interest in the field of transportation was sparked accidentally. A family friend was working for the MassHighway Department; Spring joined this friend and became a draftsman and a member of the survey crew for MassHighway. Since that time, he has been hooked, serving in various locations as a civil engineer, a traffic consultant, and an instructor.

Spring’s professional affiliations are extensive. He holds leadership roles within many of these organizations: the Transportation Research Board (TRB); the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE); the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE); the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE); and Tau Beta Pi.

Dr. Spring holds an A.S. in civil engineering technology from the University of Massachusetts Lowell, a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in civil engineering from the Universities of Massachusetts Amherst. He is a registered engineer.
New Concentration in Criminology and Law offered

A concentration in criminology and law is now offered through Merrimack’s Sociology Department for those interested in careers in the area of criminal justice. Many Merrimack students who graduated with a degree in sociology have attended graduate school, obtaining degrees in law, criminal justice, social work, business and public health. The sociology program provides students with service learning opportunities to work in various community, human services, criminal justice, and health-related agencies where the student is expected to apply some form of sociological reasoning to their supervised field work experiences. Students can experience possible career interests, to learn from those already working in the field, to consider the need for further education, and to establish valuable contacts that may be helpful in acquiring full-time employment.

“Opportunity to stay abreast of current developments in their field of expertise. It can lead to a new perspective that can be brought into the classroom and bring this newly-adopted knowledge back to Merrimack College students. Dr. Fernandez has been teaching at Merrimack since September 2000. He holds a B.S. and a Ph.D. in chemistry, both from Boston University, and he completed his post-doctoral studies at the University of Toronto.

“His research will begin in June 2006. A presentation of his research is planned for the Murray Symposium in fall 2007. By Marie DeMarco

Meet our Class of 2010

Approximately 350 freshmen will be welcomed to campus in early September to begin their Merrimack college experience. More than 3,500 students applied to Merrimack. Welcome to our future alumni!

51% male – 49% female
22 states and 4 countries (Aruba, Canada, Venezuela, El Salvador)
G.P.A. – 3.3
Average SAT score - 1130

D. Raymond Shaw, assistant dean of liberal arts and psychology professor at Merrimack, loves numbers. His passion for everything numerical translates perfectly into the classroom as a statistics professor for psychology students.

“The practice of statistics has changed over time... students need to be equipped with the most up-to-date methods,” said Shaw.

Fortunately, Shaw is in on the secret that not all students look forward to statistical analysis. Within this reality he saw an opportunity to possibly implement change.

After much research, including scanning a waist-high stack of existing student statistics books, Shaw discovered that the actual textbook might be the culprit concerning student apprehension regarding statistics. If the books are confusing, the students will ultimately become confused.

In uncovering this textbook knowledge, Shaw decided to begin writing a student-friendly statistics textbook which would use a first-person voice rather than a third-person scenario. Also, the pages would include more graphics, comparable to the visuals of a web page - a more modern approach all around.

“The practice of statistics has changed over time,” said Shaw. “Students need to be equipped with the most up-to-date methods.”

Most importantly, Shaw is utilizing student comments to facilitate this project. Several of his current psychology students volunteered to read 230 journal articles throughout the spring semester and complete a survey for each article indicating what type of statistical approach was used and how comprehensive the material was in their opinion.

The articles are from 1985 and 2005 to indicate how much the field of statistics has changed in the past 20 years. Shaw will also survey other statistics instructors in the field to better understand what is being taught elsewhere. Collectively, the feedback will help Shaw determine the content of the book.

“Whether it is a poll or even health information, we are surrounded by statistics and numbers – it is important to have the ability to decipher what something means,” said Shaw. Though it is mandatory for psychology students to take statistics in order to read and understand articles in research journals, Shaw realizes a much larger purpose for possessing statistical analysis skills.

“Whether it is a poll or even health information, we are surrounded by statistics and numbers – it is important to have the ability to decipher what something means,” said Shaw. ‘Knowing how to make sense of messages from the media can lead to a better life.”

The textbook project is currently ongoing. Shaw holds a B.S. in psychology from Georgetown University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Toronto.

Assistant Dean of Liberal Arts and Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Raymond Shaw is looking for a more modern approach to teaching statistics.

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Communication Goes Beyond the Word, Spoken or Written

By Heather Notaro

It is often said that life experience can dictate one’s interests. This belief rings true for Dr. Deborah London, a communication studies professor at Merrimack who has dedicated close attention to two topics that inevitably affect all human beings.

London defines “intercultural communication” as transmitting messages to people of different cultures, socioeconomic situations, ethnic backgrounds, genders, races, etc. Her interest in this topic developed over the years as she took up residence in five countries, visited thirty others, and participated in an exchange program when in high school where she spent time in Sri Lanka.

London has taught in the United States, China, Malaysia, Korea, and Sri Lanka, which enables her to bring actual experiences to the classroom at Merrimack to demonstrate the importance of understanding others, regardless of their cultural status.

“This is a global economy and there are very few work situations that would not require having skills in intercultural communication,” said London. “The students eventually learn the concept of something not being wrong, but just different.”

As a final exam, London’s “Intercultural Communication” course headed into Boston for a scavenger hunt where students are required to divide into teams and build a model of what they would envision as an ideal doctor’s office. “The results are interesting, especially if the health care industry hasn’t touched their lives yet.” Designs included anything from separate sick rooms, to designated play areas for children.

London has also invited many alumni back to Merrimack and into her classroom to talk with students about their career choices and what they have encountered since they graduated from Merrimack.

Another topic that captures London’s passion is health communication - the transmission of messages throughout the healthcare industry - from patients to administration. In college, London was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) and through her regular dealings with all levels of healthcare, she witnessed the importance of having the ability to understand one’s medical situation in detail.

“Even the healthiest person will eventually need to communicate with the healthcare industry in some capacity,” said London. “It is very important for all generations, including college students and recent graduates, to have a working knowledge of all aspects of an industry that can easily become confusing.”

As an assignment in London’s “Health Communication” course at Merrimack, students are required to divide into teams and build a model of what they would envision as an ideal doctor’s office. “The results are interesting, especially if the health care industry hasn’t touched their lives yet.” Designs included anything from separate sick rooms, to designated play areas for children.

London has also invited many alumni back to Merrimack and into her classroom to talk with students about their career choices and what they have encountered since they graduated from Merrimack.

Issues concerning intercultural communication and health communication also provide fuel for London’s research. As a published author, consultant, and professor, she has been able to share her experiences with varying audiences.

London earned a post-baccalaureate degree in secondary education and English from John Carroll University, a master’s degree in speech communication from Emerson College, and Ph.D. from Ohio University. She received a B.S. from Syracuse University.

Merrimack College: National Wins

Merrimack College Collegiate Chapter of the American Marketing Association has won a National Award in the American Marketing Association 28th Annual Collegiate Awards Program.

This award is for “Outstanding Communications” and is presented to chapters that effectively communicated to their members, officers, college/university community and other audiences throughout the academic year. Chapters receiving this award implemented promotional programs, provided an evaluation of their efforts and success, and realized notable participation and chapter involvement.

Students who serve on the executive board attended the Leadership, Career and Networking Conference in Orlando, Florida. Accepting the award were Christina Ramos, McKenzie Hogan, Alicia Cafarella, and Sheena Brackett with Faculty Advisor and Professor Catherine Rich-Duval.

College’s Career Services Offers Tools for Success

By Marie DeMarco

Historically, Merrimack College graduates have enjoyed full-time employment soon after graduation and many are hired before they even walk at Commencement.

Ninety-two percent of Merrimack graduates are employed full time and 6.5% attend graduate school within six months of graduation, according to statistics gathered by the college’s Career Services and Cooperative Education Department. These impressive numbers don’t just happen; they are indicative of the tools and connections available to Merrimack students, including the all-important alumni network. It is also a process that begins in their freshman year, but is primarily focused on juniors.

In March of their junior year, students are encouraged to attend a resume workshop as part of junior orientation. From this first opportunity through March of their senior year, students are offered 75 to 80 resume workshops and have an opportunity for individual resume critiquing.

According to Susan Brien ’00, technical coordinator/corporate liaison in Merrimack’s Career Services, there are usually two to three meetings per student to get his continued next page
In addition to resume workshops, each student is offered an interview workshop where he or she can discuss what to wear to an interview; how to behave; what is expected of them; eye contact; the importance of thank you notes to interviewers; punctuality and handshake - all tools to make a good impression.

After the resume workshops and the interview workshops are completed, students have access to a web-based program, Advantage, which enables them to submit their resume and apply to any posted jobs. Advantage is a customized, on-line job program specifically created for Merrimack College. Recruiters at companies that work with Career Services can view the resumes of students who are interested in job openings they may have. Merrimack students are encouraged to use Advantage AND any and all other avenues available to them such as job postings in the newspaper; Monster; Job Finder, Career Search, and all other avenues available to them.

Merrimack does a great job in preparing students in these areas. Brien added that many companies are looking for a well-rounded employee. "Companies are getting more and more involved in volunteer programs, sponsoring bike rides, walk-a-thons, etc.," she said. "They like to see that students have been involved in volunteer work, that they have done something other than school and work." Coincidentally, this trend has long been a part of Merrimack's legacy.

Director Jim Greeley believes one of the reasons Merrimack College students have such success in their job search is because of Merrimack's strong reputation in preparing students. "Much of the success has to do with co-op, a program which started in 1972," said Greeley. "Many seniors receive job offers from their co-op jobs even before graduation." According to Greeley, businesses who hire Merrimack co-op students have a very high opinion of the Merrimack students and their preparedness to handle co-op positions.

Greeley reported that this year has been the best job market for grads since 2000, with many entry-level positions needing to be filled. According to Greeley, the five things every employer is looking for are: communication skills, leadership, time management, team players and technology skills.

"Alumni have played a big role in helping our new graduates year after year by agreeing to come to campus and talk to our students, offering them advice and guidance. We are always thankful to them for the many ways in how they assist our students," said Greeley.

When signing up for a middle-school mentoring program at Merrimack College, students Heidi van Gennev and Ryan Masciarelli had no idea that ten to fifteen-year-olds could dictate such a large part of their lives - and, ultimately, their career aspirations and their understanding of the world.

Heidi and Ryan began volunteering two hours a week for the college's Merrimack Academic Partnership (MAP) program. It made such an unmistakable impression on them that they built their academic schedules around their volunteer time so they would be sure they wouldn't miss time with the youngsters in Lawrence.

While at Merrimack, Heidi was the site coordinator for St. Mary of the Assumption Parochial School in Lawrence, Mass. "We offer advice, listen to their problems, and talk with them about what happened at school on any given day. When report cards are issued, we will go over their grades with them and help them figure out where they would like to improve," she explained.

The Merrimack student volunteers are deployed to four different locations in the city of Lawrence: St. Mary's School, Bellelesini Academy, Bruce School, and Guilmette School.

"The relationships and bonds that are formed are what make this program so important," said Ryan. "I get as much out of the program as the kids do. Once you develop the patience and compassion to work with the kids, it is something that you never want to forget to do." Heidi and Ryan are not education students - not even close. Heidi graduated this year with a double major in economics and political science, and Ryan is a junior political science major and history minor.

After working face-to-face with the students and observing their various difficulties, both Heidi and Ryan became very interested and developed a "need-to-know" attitude about where public education dollars actually come to rest in a lower income environment.

"Due to my work with the MAP program, I am very much interested in public finance on a local level and the quality of education that a child receives in a public or private school in a lower income versus a higher income area," said Heidi. "I want to know how a child ultimately benefits after all the budgeting is finished."

Ryan has become interested in education reform. "Working with these kids has opened my eyes to the issues facing inner-city children. Education will be a part of what I do after graduation and, at the very least, I hope I can create more awareness for education as a whole."

For Heidi and Ryan, their service learning time opened their eyes to the world of communities volunteering and perhaps broadened their future career goals.

Mentoring Opens Eyes to Possible Career Paths

By Heather Notaro

...
Students Forego Dorm Life, Choose City Living

By Heather Notaro

A unique group of six Merrimack College students made the decision to forgo living the campus life to voluntarily reside in one of the poorest cities in the state, Lawrence, Massachusetts. In an older Victorian home called the Hennigan Center, these students are required (and are happy) to interact with the neighborhood and volunteer weekly.

The Hennigan Center houses those students wanting to simulate authentic Augustinian living which focuses on self, community, and God. Hennigan is not “Easy Street.” It is simple living with a full schedule of learning and giving. Students must qualify based on their grade point average, a submitted essay, and their community involvement.

RefideiUs of the Hennigan Center in Lawrence embrace Augustinian living by volunteering in the community.

Students living in the Hennigan Center commit to:

- Six to eight hours of weekly volunteer service in the local community
- One group service project each semester
- Bi-weekly community dinners
- One retreat experience
- Monthly reflections on volunteering, life experiences, justice issues, and faith
- Basic house chores and upkeep.

The students participate in many local events and feel very connected to the neighbors and the community. Jennifer Salamone, a junior, volunteers her time at the American Red Cross. Dan Roderick teaches kung fu to Latino children at the Adelante! Youth Center nearby and also volunteers at Lawrence General Hospital. All the students are involved in similar work while staying connected to Merrimack College life.

The Hennigan Center was named in 2001 in honor of the late Augustinian Rev. Thomas R. Hennigan, O.S.A. The 10-room house has been part of Merrimack’s legacy since the founding of the college in 1947.
Fr. James Wenzel Celebrates 50 Years as Priest

by Heather Notaro

In May, Fr. Jim commemorated a half century of service that officially began at his ordination as Cardinal Richard J. Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, welcomed him into the priesthood at the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher at Merrimack College. More than 500 people were on hand to honor Fr. Jim and celebrate with him.

Though as a young man he thought from time to time about committing himself to God, today, when asked how he was sure the priesthood was the right path for him, he would simply say, “I ultimately became the first Merrimack student to join the Order of St. Augustine.”

As a newly-ordained priest, Fr. Jim’s first assignment was as a teacher at Villanova University. He then moved on to stay for over a decade at St. Augustine’s parish in Andover. Three other parish assignments as pastor followed at St. Augustine, Lawrence; St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Jamaica, N.Y.; and St. Mary, Lawrence. For nine years he ministered in the Augustinian House of Formation in Washington, D.C., as a member of the formation team and as a professor at the Washington Theological Union. The next location was at an international Augustinian Friary in San Gimignano in Tuscany, Italy.

Four years later, in 1999, Fr. Jim found himself back at Merrimack where he has become a prominent and trusted figure over the past seven years. He is currently the director of the Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy.

Fr. Jim works regularly with students, faculty, staff and alumni to encourage a better understanding of St. Augustine and the Augustinian tradition upon which the college was founded. Each year, he teaches three freshmen seminars focusing on Augustine and the Augustinians and a course on the life and teachings of St. Augustine for the Department of Religious Studies and Theology.

Throughout his journey, in his interactions with all walks of life, in a variety of locations and under sets of varying circumstances, Fr. Jim has always found that working with people is the most rewarding aspect of his chosen path.

Raytheon Supports Merrimack’s Lawrence Math and Science Partnership

Raytheon Company recently presented President Richard J. Santagati a $10,000 check, the first installment of a three-year commitment to the Lawrence Math and Science Partnership program. The program assists Lawrence middle school children to further develop their math and science skills through after-school programs as well as the Lawrence Math and Science Partnership Summer Camp.

Raytheon’s support for the Math and Science Partnership program continues the company’s emphasis on math and science education, as well as strong community support in the Lawrence, Mass. area.

Merrimack College, through the Stevens Service Learning Center, has partnered with the Blessed Stephen Bellesini Academy, the Asian Center of Merrimack Valley, ¡Adelante!, Lawrence Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, and Spar and Spindle Girl Scout Council to encourage the exploration of math and science by inner-city children through fun activities, tutoring, and positive learning relationships.

Director of the Lawrence Math and Science Partnership Dr. Linda Foote is grateful for the support. “The program serves both the community-based needs and the college’s goals to promote an academic culture for our undergraduates through experiential learning opportunities,” said Foote.

She added, “In most cases, the middle school youth participants in the Partnership are introduced to college students and a college campus for the first time. They become aware of their options and set their sights on their future course selections that now may include science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and dream of their futures in higher education. All participants, the youth and the undergraduates alike, develop scientific inquiry, literacy and communication skills. The undergraduates recruited to this program are additionally challenged and changed by this experience. ‘Serving these youths changes their attitudes and in many cases awakens their desires to dedicate themselves and their futures to community service.”
November Club Awards Student Scholarship

Katie Seero, a member of the class of 2007 at Merrimack College, is this year’s recipient of a scholarship awarded by the November Club. The club, which has its roots in Andover, was established in 1889 by a group of fifteen women looking to advocate for social and literary advantages in Andover.

Seero is the fourth recipient of the November Club scholarship, which is given to a female Merrimack student who is a graduate of Andover High School. She was recognized at the November Club’s annual scholarship luncheon, held recently at Merrimack College. The club’s relationship with Merrimack began in the early 1980s when it endowed a generous amount to the college for the use of scholarship.

The Merrimack College Warriors celebrated another season of success within the extremely competitive Northeast-10 and Hockey East Conferences and finished out the spring portion of their season on a high note.

The year was highlighted by two national statistical leaders, four all-Americans, a coach who won his 300th career game, several conference and regional honorees, a handful of all-star game participants, and a sport-specific sweep of regional coach, rookie, and player of the year.

Warrior teams won nearly 50 percent of their contests, including 51 percent of their conference contests. Nine teams qualified for the Northeast-10 Conference playoffs in their sport, with two teams advancing to the championship game. The following is a recap of the spring sports:

**BASEBALL**

The baseball team concluded its season with an 18-23 record, more than doubling its win total from one year ago and marking the largest turnaround of any program at Merrimack in 2005-06. The Warriors’ four primary starting pitchers combined to win 15 games while none of them had an ERA higher than 3.52.

**SOFTBALL**

The softball team posted a 17-27 overall mark and a 13-13 mark in the Northeast-10 Conference games in overtime and advanced to the conference championship game for the first time since 2001. Northeast-10 Rookie of the Year Greg Rogowski led the nation (all divisions) in scoring with 108 points on 71 goals and 37 assists. Chris Eliu and Rogowski were honored as the Player and Rookie of the Year, respectively, by the New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association.

**MEN’S LACROSSE**

The men’s lacrosse team posted an 11-5 mark, including a 10-1 mark in the Northeast-10 and a season-ending No. 8 national ranking. The Warriors won four of their games in overtime and advanced to the conference championship game for the first time since 2001. Northeast-10 Rookie of the Year Greg Rogowski led the nation (all divisions) in scoring with 108 points on 71 goals and 37 assists. Chris Eliu and Rogowski were honored as the Player and Rookie of the Year, respectively, by the New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association.
MERRIMACK ATHLETICS

Introducing The M Club

The Merrimack College Athletics Department is embarking on a new project that will change the face of the student-athlete experience. The focus of the department is the establishment of a scholarship fund which will provide aid to future student-athletes. Second, it is to raise money that will allow the Merrimack College Athletics Department to continue to upgrade and build athletics facilities.

> What is The M Club?
The M Club is an opportunity for supporters of Merrimack College Athletics to come together under one membership umbrella and contribute to the advancement of the athletics department.

> What is the Function of the M Club?
The priority of the M Club is twofold. First, it is to create additional scholarship opportunities for our current and future student-athletes. Second, it is to raise money that will allow the Merrimack College Athletics Department to continue to upgrade and build athletics facilities.

> Who can join?
The M Club is open to anyone and everyone.

> How does the club benefit the athletics department? The college?
Financial commitments will make it possible for our student-athletes to compete at the highest level in NCAA Division I and II as well as provide opportunities for our students to gain access to a wider variety of higher education opportunities. The college will continue to benefit from the great tradition and esprit de corps that athletics brings to the campus and the recruitment of quality student-athletes.

> What advantages/benefits do the fans get from the club?
Some of the many benefits include an athletics newsletter, M Club pin, M Club t-shirt, media guides, ticket packages, and invitations to team banquets.

> Why institute such a club?
To provide an opportunity for family, friends, alumni and fans to come together and support Merrimack College athletics at multiple levels and to further strengthen the bond between the Merrimack community and the Merrimack College Athletics family.

> How does one join?
An interested donor can join simply by completing the information in the M Club brochure and selecting a membership level. You can find a membership brochure by clicking on the M Club link on our Web site at www.merrimackathletics.com or by contacting our department directly at 978-837-5341.

MackChat

The following are some individual highlights with the athletics department during the 2005-06 season:

• Hockey assistant coach Darren Yooyk recently completed his doctorate in psychology at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, emphasizing student-athlete academic performance.

• Hockey head coach Mark Denney was recently appointed to the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) Board of Governors.

• Justin Goulet is the new strength and conditioning coach.

• Women's soccer head coach Gabe Mejail captured his 300th career win last past fall. He is the all-time winningest active head coach in Division II for total career wins (348).

• Men's basketball head coach Bert Hammel just completed his 26th year with Merrimack College, and was honored for his service at the faculty appreciation luncheon.

• Sports medicine major and football player Matthew Lovett delivered the senior speech at this year's commencement exercises.

www.merrimackathletics.com

REUNION 2006

Hundreds of alumni, including those from 17 states and three countries, attended Reunion 2006 to catch up with former classmates and celebrate Merrimack College's successes and growth in the time since their graduation. One alumni flew in from London, England to attend, while others in the U.S. flew from as far west as California and as far south as Florida and Texas. Other states represented were Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia and Vermont.
2006 ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

Two outstanding alumni, Edward C. Collins '56 and Mary D’Emanuele ’56, were recognized at this year’s reunion for their dedication and service to Merrimack College.

Collins earned his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Merrimack and went on to become president of Morse Diesel International. He retired from Morse as vice chairman. Collins has been an active alumnus since the 1960s, having served as president of the alumni council in 1960. He was a founder of the President’s Cup Golf Tournament and he received the college’s St. Augustine Award in 1988. Collins served as a college trustee from 1993-1999 and 1999-2003 and was the co-chair of the Steering Committee for the college’s most successful capital campaign to date from 1997-2001.

Ed and his wife, Rita (Bonnano) ’54, are committed to furthering the educational opportunities for Merrimack College students; they have endowed scholarships: the Edward C. and Rita M Collins Cultural and Performing Arts Scholarship and the Maria and Joseph P Bonanno Memorial Scholarship (in memory of Rita’s parents). A new scholarship made in honor of Ed and Rita’s 50th reunion will benefit an incoming freshman from Methuen (Mass.) High School.

Mary D’Emanuele earned her bachelor of science degree in biology from Merrimack in 1956. After graduating from Merrimack, she became a scientific researcher and subsequently enjoyed a successful career in management.

Mary is passionate about Merrimack and feels strongly that Merrimack gave her the education which prepared her for a successful career. Mary became involved with The Friends of Merrimack College to help raise funds for scholarships for deserving Merrimack College students. She has served on the board since 2002 and became president in 2005. Mary is the first alumna to serve in this capacity.

In honor of her 50th reunion, Mary has established the D’Emanuele Family Scholarship in honor of her parents, Michael and Ann, to benefit a freshman from Lawrence High School.

Q & A with Chuck Mollor ’84,
Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Q: As an alumnus, how does it feel to be back at Merrimack College helping to build its future?

A: As a Merrimack grad I have tremendous pride and confidence in the Merrimack mission. I wanted a role that provided me the opportunity to enhance the future of the college. I also wanted to answer the question “Why Merrimack?” The on-campus residency rates, the average SAT scores, academic accomplishments, and the general competitiveness of Merrimack are climbing yet my impression is that not enough alums and friends are aware of this, and once people learn of these advancements they will be able to answer this question for themselves - why you would be involved, stay connected and support Merrimack as an alum or friend.

Q: What are some of the main goals you would like to achieve for Merrimack?

A: I would like to get members of the alumni body more involved. In order to remain competitive and increase our stature amongst peer colleges, it is imperative to work on increasing the value of a Merrimack degree. The value of our Merrimack degree only increases as Merrimack becomes more competitive. We all benefit from this.

Future plans with alumni will:
- Enhance alumni programs and events that appeal to the interests of our graduates;
- Develop additional alumni advisory councils to be governed by an Alumni Board of Directors;
- Increase career and networking opportunities for Merrimack graduates through a mentorship program and targeted value added services;
- Add services and benefits available to Merrimack alumni such as merchandising, affinity programs, etc.

Q: What can Merrimack alumni do to assist the college with current and future plans?

A: Any donation is considered a generous contribution toward the mission of strengthening the vitality of the college. However, peer colleges of Merrimack have seen an average donation rate of 26-35% where Merrimack currently stands around 15%. In order for Merrimack to continue to attract top students we need to be competitive with the levels of scholarship and financial support we provide. We are significantly behind peer colleges in scholarship dollars raised as well. In order to remain competitive with other institutions, our academic buildings, the library, and athletic facilities need to be modernized and properly equipped for the needs of incoming generations. This means that we, as an alumni body, need to improve our giving participation level. It’s my objective to communicate and educate the alumni and friends of Merrimack College on what our needs are and what it will take to achieve them.

Q: Overall, how do you feel about where Merrimack is going as an institution?

A: I believe we have a real opportunity to further advance Merrimack College - to continue its legacy, our legacy, as alumni. As Merrimack becomes more successful, the reputation and stature of the institution, will grow regionally and nationally. Our ability to invest in the college is an investment in our future and in the future of those following in our footsteps. We have much to be proud of as alumni and friends of Merrimack.

Q: How can alumni get in touch with the Office of Institutional Advancement?

A: All Merrimack grad interested in contributing funds, sharing a recent professional or personal accomplishment, and/or wanting to get involved at Merrimack can e-mail me at charles.mollor@merrimack.edu or they can call the department directly at (978) 837-5104. We look forward to learning as much as we can about members of our alumni body.
New Alumni Relations Director for Merrimack
by Heather Notaro

Nancy Sardella recently joined Merrimack College as the new director of alumni relations. She brings a wealth of experience and expertise to Merrimack which includes almost five years as the associate director of alumni relations and volunteer management at Tufts University, and most recently as the manager of donor engagement and stewardship at the Museum of Science, Boston. Nancy has also been active in her own community, serving on the North Reading School Committee where she was elected chair for two terms.

In my new position, I plan to strengthen alumni engagement through programs that foster a life-long relationship with Merrimack," said Sardella. "It is our goal - our commitment to provide opportunities for alumni to stay in touch with the college and fellow classmates through reunions, regional programs, career networking, and other social and cultural events. This is a wonderful opportunity and I am excited to be at Merrimack.

Nancy earned a B.A. in communications and economics from Boston College. She is an active member of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and a member of the District I CASE Leadership.

WEAR YOUR COLORS!

Show our pride in your alma mater by showcasing Merrimack's colors. We are pleased to provide you with the opportunity to purchase apparel bearing the Merrimack logo. The insert contained in this magazine offers items from jackets to shirts and blankets to scarves with easy ordering. A portion of your purchase goes right back to Merrimack College to help support important initiatives.

Wear your blue and gold at Homecoming, reunion, sporting events - everywhere you go! Visit weareyourcolors.com.

Alumnus Shares Awe-Inspiring Life Stories at Business Breakfast
By Heather Notaro

Not many people can claim running across the country, competing in the Boston Marathon over thirty times, or raising millions of dollars for worthwhile causes. Dave McGillivray 76 can check "yes" to all of the above and much more.

McGillivray, a world-class athlete, entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and philanthropist was the keynote speaker for this spring's Alumni Business Breakfast held on campus in the Blue Line Club.

Thirty years ago, McGillivray spoke at Merrimack College as the valedictorian of his class. Now, with many accomplishments under his belt, he talked about the factors that encouraged his life-long desire to perform.

Beat the starting center of a basketball team as a "vertically challenged" young man, clenched his decision to become a runner where he could focus on the individual and didn't have to worry about getting cut from a team or being picked last.

Since that decision, McGillivray has run across the United States twice, has competed in 118 marathons (including 34 Boston Marathons) and several iron-man competitions, and raised over $50 million for a variety of causes. On his birthday every year he runs the same number of miles as the number of years he is turning; he has done this since the age of twelve.

Currently, McGillivray is the race director for the Boston Marathon which won him the prestigious honor of "Race Director of the Year" in 2005. As director, McGillivray is unable to run the marathon during the day with the other competitors so he runs it at night when his duties are complete, something he has done for the past nineteen years.

"I am passionate about life," said McGillivray. "Eating and sleeping is overrated. I make 36 hours out of a 24 hour day."

His advice to those in attendance was simple, "There are no mistakes - only lessons and learning experiences. The only one that has to deal with you is you. Ignore the standards and surround yourself with good people."

Help us build on your success – Alumni Referral Program

Do you know a prospective student who would benefit from a Merrimack College education?

No matter how many publications, e-mails, telephone calls and visits the Office of Admission has with prospective students, we hear many times that the first contact with Merrimack is through a friend or an alumni of the college. And truly, isn’t that the best way for them to come to the decision that Merrimack may be the best choice for them?

There have been so many changes on campus - academic programs, facilities, cultural events - and we hear your approval when you visit. By spreading the word on these improvements to high school students, parents of prospects and even your daily contacts, you are helping to strengthen the image of Merrimack. The possibilities of continued growth in enrollment and enhanced diversity and strength of our student body will benefit tremendously by your referrals and supportive comments.

But most of all, speaking of your own experience at Merrimack and the success you found after graduation based on your time at the college, speaks louder than anything we can do from recruiting efforts. It is your affirmation that encourages students and parents to take a closer look at Merrimack.

You can make a difference in the future of Merrimack by taking time to refer a student or two to the Office of Admission. We will make sure that they receive the right information to help them make the choice you did and enroll at a great college - Merrimack.

Please share the enclosed application in this magazine with someone you know.
M31 Bill Daly is chairman of the 72nd Assembly District in California.

M38 Donald F. Shea retired on May 6, 2006, from Overwatch Systems, LTD.

M63 J. Ronald Gaussetre recently retired as president and CEO of Huntington Hospital in Long Island, N.Y., after 41 years of service. Under his guidance, the hospital expanded several times and broadened its clinical services, serving the entire 200,000 residents it served. He helped in the formation of the North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System. He was an active member of the American Hospital Association and the American College Health Care Executives. He was the chairman of the Board of the Healthcare Association of New York State in 2005 and past chairman of the Nassau Suffolk-Hospital Council. He is a former adjunct professor and clinical associate at Suffolk College/ Washington University, the University of Long Island, and Long Island University. He received his master's degree in health and hospital administration from the University of Iowa. He continues to serve the professional healthcare community as a consultant and a hospital trustee and in the public health arena.

Wednesday audience and Papal Blessings given by our Pontiff, Benedict XVI.

M66 Anne (Perreault) DiChicco has owned & operated Jody's Chick Preschool in Amherst, N.H. for the past 31 years where her grandchildren, Meghan, 10, and Lucas, 7, both attended. Anne's daughter Karen currently teaches there. In 1996, Anne received a master's degree in mental health counseling at Rivier College in N.H. and four years ago opened her private practice in Bedford.

M67 Mary (Heapy) LeVangie was chosen Outstanding Woman of the Year for the state of Massachusetts for 2006.

M71 Matthew D'Agostino recently retired as assistant principal of the Parham School in Lawrence, Mass. Matthew taught for 34 years in the Lawrence Public Schools. Matthew plans to fill his time with his insurance business, offering high school and college softball, and using his children: a son who lives on South Beach Miami, and a married daughter who lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

M72 Ron Poskus was recently awarded the "Spotlight on Excellence" award by the Holstein Education Foundation, the local umbrella group that supports the public schools in Holstein. Ron has taught in Holstein since he graduated from Mertinnick. The award was chosen by fellow faculty members and is intended to shine the spotlight on Ron for his enthusiasm, devotion to making math accessible to all his students and his commitment to relating to all his students; and making them feel at home at the high school. Only one teacher is chosen each year for this special award.

M73 Steve Alexander has been selected president of the Medical Board of California, becoming its first public member president in seven years. He is a public affairs communications strategist and a member of the International Association of Facilitators and the International Association of Public Participation. Steve was re-elected by the board to the board by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in July 2004.

M76 Marie (Herbert) Boyd was elected "culty Lecturer of the Year" by her peers at Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga, California. She has been an instructor and reference librarian at the Chaffey College Library since 1999. Her talnted "Clay Taviles to Flash Drives: U.S. Urbanology and Humans Valu" was enthusiastically received by a packed house in the college theater on April 7, 2005.

M78 Daniel Meyers has been promoted to vice president of Sales at Neuroscience at Pfizer, Inc., in New York City.

M81 John T. Boyce is the senior vice president for institutional investments of the General Electric Asset Management in Stamford, Conn.

M86 Carl Francone has been appointed vice-chairperson of the Northeastern Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Cheri Pereira has started a halfway house for troubled youth struggling with drug addiction.

M87 Stephen Howey is the senior vice president and assistant controller of financial operations at AIG in Dulles, Va.

Ken Taylor, along with his wife Sandy, raised Rome and raised with Rev. Joe Farrell, O.S.A. in Vatican City. They visited the sites and had lunch with Fr. Farrell following the closing mass Sunday evening.

M30 In the months before her retirement, after 33 years in the field of professional mental health services, Barbara DiCocco ‘66 wanted the opportunity to do volunteer work. “I had a practice in Maryland, and then opened up a practice in Florida when I moved here ten years ago.” She began taking pet therapy classes with her maltese. “I thought that in my retirement I would let my dog do the therapy,” she joked.

One month into her retirement, DiCocco’s community needed her help after Hurricane Charlie devastated Charlotte County, Florida in August 2004. She offered her services and headed up Project Hope, an organization started by FEMA to assist victims of disaster. DiCocco and a team of 40 mental health professionals knocked on every door in the county ensuring that the residents were okay.

People were living in homes that were half gone,” she explained. “Their roofs were blown away. Walls were caved in. They had to make do until FEMA arrived with trailers.

Thirty-seven percent of the residents in the county are over the age of 60,” DiCocco said. “The veterans likened the devastation to a war zone.” The team didn’t arrive in the neighborhoods until three months after the destruction. There was still so much debris, we couldn’t drive down the roads,” she explained. “People were just beginning to decide what they were going to do.” Through Project Hope, she offered victims counseling and connected them with practical resources such as food, water, and adequate shelter.

Project Hope’s crisis counseling continued for a year. The next phase, Project Recovery, continues until November 2006. “With Project Recovery, we deal with the long-term issues, such as stress reactions and trauma,” said DiCocco. Project Recovery also helps victims with long-term case management and connects them with resources to rebuild. “There are many faith-based agencies down here,” DiCocco explained. “The churches get funding and we connect them with the survivors.” Many of these agencies can assist with overdue bills and insurance issues.

Although her work with Project Recovery will be completed this fall, retirement is still not on the horizon for DiCocco. In January, she became the victim assistance minister with the Venice (Florida) Diocese, aiding victims of church abuse. “I am on-call and respond to someone who has come forward with allegations,” DiCocco explained. DiCocco’s role is to take the information, listen, talk, and support the victim. “She asks what the victim is looking for, whether it is to inform the church or seek counseling. She then reports to the review board, which advises the Bishops on how to proceed.

DiCocco’s retirement may be on hold, but living in southwest Florida provides her with a relaxing getaway. “I love to golf,” she said; “and I live on a golf course in golfing mecca. Every day I go out to work and get to come home to a vacation home.”
In Life, as in Basketball, Have a Game Plan

By Cara Parker

“I tell people all the time that my involvement in athletics has been a tool to help me in different situations,” says Curtis Nelson ’91.

“Life is just like basketball. You can have a game plan set up, but once you start playing, you run into different obstacles.”

While at Merrimack, Nelson developed a strong relationship with Men’s Basketball Coach Bert Hammel. “Coach Hammel was tough on me,” he said, “but it helped me with life and work situations.” Fifteen years after graduation, Nelson still speaks with Hammel on a regular basis.

Merrimack’s men’s basketball team has long been recognized for its close work with the Lawrence Boys’ Club and Nelson was a part of that. “At first, we went down to the Boys Club and local schools and read to the boys,” Nelson explained. “After a few times, I told Coach that I wanted to talk with the kids. I wanted to let them know that I grew up in an area like them.” Nelson’s lessons was one of hard work, “I told them about my life experiences and how with hard work their lives could be different. I told them to do well in school, stay away from drugs, and listen to their parents.”

Nelson’s message was heard. Two of his mentees are brothers who are considered leaders in the Lawrence community, with one running the Boys Club and another working for the Department of Social Services. Both boys attended college.

His connections to Lawrence are still strong. His college roommate and teammate Paul Neal coaches the Lawrence High School basketball team. From time to time, Neal asks Nelson to call a player and give him guidance. Nelson expects to return to the area in the fall to speak with Neal’s high school team. “It’s important for kids to understand that the things that you do now can have long-term consequences.”

Nelson graduated from Merrimack with a bachelor of arts in political science and went on to earn his master’s degree at American International College in one-and-a-half years while also coaching the basketball team. Nelson had always wanted to work for the Secret Service. “I’ve been fascinated with the Kennedy assassination since I was a kid,” he said. “I was always determined to try and get into the Secret Service.”

Nelson’s newest assignment with the Secret Service’s Criminal Investigation Division affords him the opportunity for a 9-5 job. “My wife Alyssa put in a lot of hours with our three boys while I was working for the presidency,” Nelson admitted. For the past seven months, he has spent most of his free time playing Dad. “I have spent a lot of time at home. We go fishing and we just hang out. It’s time for me to help out with the kids.”

And that could be his most important assignment ever.
NEW ARRIVALS

RAY JOYCE '82 and wife Michelle, a son, Roman, May 2, 2006. They were married at St. Francis Xavier, South Boston, Mass. In attendance were: Michelle O'Neill '04, Nicole Gregoire '01, Kendra Stetson '01, Stephanie Worisman '01, Brian O'Neill '07, George Gilpin '01, Michelle Gavagnino '03, Darcy (Morin) Jackson '01, Jason Ball '04, Michael Harrington '01, Stacy Diamantides '00, Anne Marie (Driscol) Rox '00, Robin (Stec) Trauner '00, Joanne Bazzarin '00, Sean Murphy '96, Allison (Murtagh) Murphy '97, Paul McDonough '82, Sheila (Callahan) McDonough '82, and Crystal O’Keefe ‘04.

MICHAELO LOIACANO '95 and wife Susan, a daughter, Sophie Elizabeth, March 25, 2006. Sophie’s uncle is JOHN LOIACANO ’99.

MICHAEL LOIACANO ’95 and wife

LAURA (COSTA) GRAUDONS ’96 and husband John, a son, Jakob Costa, February 23, 2006.

LAUREN (LARSON) DEHL ’87 and husband Scott, a son, Cameron Lee, August 5, 2005. Cameron joins sisters Dakota, 5, and Senna, 3.

BRADLEY KITCHER ’87 and KIMBERLY (OPPENHEIM) KITCHER ’88, a son, Nicholas Steven, August 18, 2005. Nicholas joins brother Michael and sisters Jacqueline and Caitlin.

JOHN LASKOWITZ ’97 and wife Robin, a daughter, Olivia Wynne, March 30, 2006.

LINDA (DOUGHTY) BURGESS ’87, and husband Phil, a son, Tucker Edward, March 26, 2005.


KAREN (SWAIN) CAREY ’92 and husband David, a daughter, Margaret Josephine Maggs, June 5, 2006. She joins brother Aiden and sister Alexandra.

KARIN (COOGAN) DONOHOE ’92 and Kevin, a son, Jack Martin, April 7, 2006. Jack joins big sister Katie.

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN ’94 and wife Jennifer, a daughter, Haley Silva Martin, May 9, 2006.


continued on page 35
AUGUST
30 Women's Soccer First Home Game vs. Bentley @ Warrior Field, 4:00 p.m.
30 Men's Soccer First Home Game vs. C.W. Post @ Warrior Field, 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER
3 Field Hockey First Home Game vs. Bloomsburg @ Warrior Field, 11:00 a.m.
3 Student Orientation
3 Academic Convocation Day
6 First Day of Classes
6 Volleyball First Home Game vs. Bentley @ Volpe Athletic Center, 3:00 p.m.
6 Men's Soccer First Home Game vs. C.W. Post @ Warrior Field, 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER
30 Women's Basketball First Home Game vs. St. Thomas @ Volpe Athletic Center
27 Sha Na Na, Rogers Center
27 Tambakos Film - "Double Indemnity," Rogers Center
29 Admission Open House, Cascia Hall, 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER
1 Tambakos Film - "Double Indemnity," Rogers Center
3 A Cappella Night, Rogers Center
4 Marynard Ferguson Orchestra, Rogers Center
5 Admission Open House, Cascia Hall, 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.
9 Bullock Memorial Lecture, "Preaching and Peace Among Religions," Cascia Hall, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations
9, 10 Merrimack College On-Stagers, Rogers Center
17, 18, 19 Pentucket Players "Beauty & the Beast," Rogers Center
26 Men's Basketball First Home Game vs. St. Thomas @ Volpe Athletic Center
27 Tambakos Film - "It Happened One Night," Rogers Center
30 Alumni Christmas Party

ATHLETICS
For the complete schedule of athletic games, as well as athletic news, visit www.merrimackathletics.com

ROGERS CENTER
event listings and tickets, visit www.merrimack.edu/rogers or call the box office at 978-837-5335

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

The next time your phone rings, Marki may be on the other line. Marki is one of the dedicated student callers representing the college, calling our alumni, friends, and families.

"When I speak with you on the phone, I feel like I am keeping you connected to the college. It would be great if I had the chance to talk to each of you, to let you know that your gift to the college makes a difference to me!"

A gift to the Merrimack Phonathon is your commitment to the success of students like Marki. Next time you see Merrimack College pop up on your caller ID, it could be a student caller. Give them the chance to thank you!

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Did you know that gifts to the Merrimack Fund...

- Support student scholarships and faculty development?
- Enhance student life programming?
- Allow us to utilize cutting edge technology in the classroom?
- Provide valuable resources for the McQuade Library?
- Enable our sports teams to enhance the leadership skills of our athletes?
- Continue programming to support our Augustinian heritage?

A gift to the Merrimack Fund is a vote of confidence in the college's future. Its impact will be felt throughout campus. You can truly make a difference in a student's life. The time is now, please consider a gift to the Merrimack Fund today!

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