Summer 2004

Merrimack College

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Message from the President

What makes Merrimack College distinctive? It is a question I am often asked by parents who have a son or daughter thinking about coming to Merrimack, and by corporations, foundations, and individuals who are contemplating supporting the college with gifts or grants. As alumni, you are probably often asked this question as well.

When answering, I share with them the college's core values and the key attributes that make Merrimack distinctive, and which powerfully connect students and others to us. I tell them that Merrimack is a college that empowers students to actively explore their interests and refine their strengths, to discover their vocation and spiritual calling, and to acquire the tools and skills to live a life of personal integrity, professional success and service to others.

One of our biggest strengths, as you know as a graduate, is that learning does not only happen in the classroom and the lab, but also in the field and in the real world. Our students are not simply learning spectators - but instead, are active participants in the pursuit of knowledge and essential skills. Our strong co-operative education and internship programs provide students with unparalleled opportunities to expand their learning environment and develop their careers long before they leave Merrimack.

The pursuit of knowledge and wisdom in mind and heart is the mission of Merrimack College, and the source of our commitment to learning, our focus on human engagement, and our service to the community.

As alumni, I hope you will carry our message forward. Please share Merrimack's strengths and distinctiveness, as well as your own experiences when you were here, with a young person you know who is beginning to explore his or her future educational choices. Excite a young person’s mind about the possibilities that may await him or her.

Richard J. Santagati
President

Faculty-Student Relationships Enhance Science and Engineering Curriculum

Before Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering, Russell Pinizzotto, Ph.D., on the job now for approximately six months, took the position at Merrimack, he carefully researched his subject as a good scientist would. He learned as much as he could about the college, and more importantly, about the faculty at Merrimack who would soon become his colleagues.

He liked what he saw. He was impressed with the breadth and depth of the research they were doing and he took note that the faculty represented a good cross-section of educational and cultural experiences.

What impressed him most, however, was what he believes is the strength of the Division of Science and Engineering at Merrimack - the relationships between the faculty and their students.

"The significant mentoring, research and real-world training that occur among our faculty and our students is something that does not often happen at other institutions, especially larger public institutions," noted Pinizzotto, whose career includes stints at the University of North Texas and Sigma Xi, and are presenting papers at national conferences with their professors.

"Students are winning regional awards for the quality of their research, including one this semester from the American Chemistry Society and Sigma Xi, and are presenting papers at national conferences with their professors," he said. "This close collaboration between faculty and students is a real strength at Merrimack."
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Science and Engineering

noted Pinizzotto, when on sabbatical they very often go to learn or work at prestigious locations. "They come back to campus energized about their fields, and excited to bring what they have experienced into the classroom to their students," he said. In his short time at Merrimack, Pinizzotto has also noted what he believes to be another important dimension of the faculty. "The professors at Merrimack, and within the Division of Science and Engineering specifically, want to move forward. They have a desire to advance in many areas - pedagogically in their classrooms, in their research, and to move the college forward as a whole," he said. "They are so interested in and excited about science and engineering that they just simply want to share it with others. They are good ambassadors for their fields and the college."

Many faculty in the science and engineering division, and indeed across the divisions, are also involved in community service and service-learning initiatives. "Lots of people think that scientists and engineers are disconnected and aloof from society, but that is absolutely not true," says Pinizzotto. "Many of our faculty members are involved in community programs, such as the Lawrence Math and Science Partnership, which help our students grow strong personally as well as academically. Personal contributions to society are as important as the technical contributions that scientists and engineers can make."

Looking to the future

As for the future of science, engineering, technology, and mathematics at Merrimack College, it is Pinizzotto's aim to increase the number of students who enroll in the science and engineering majors. He is confident that as more students, and their parents, understand the many strengths of the division and of Merrimack College and the kind of student it graduates, perspective students will choose to pursue their degree at Merrimack. In the future, he also hopes to form more partnerships with corporations and businesses. "The support of corporations, such as we currently receive from Merck for our summer undergraduate program and from YAS Corporation for our faculty and senior research projects, really makes a tremendous difference in the education of our students. Their support is crucial since it makes it possible for our students to engage in direct research and/or applications. We, in turn, can offer our corporate sponsors skilled interns, co-op interns, and future employees."

The division is working together to create a strategic plan and vision, in parallel with the college's strategic plan. "As a community of scientists, engineers, support staff, students, and the many other individuals who make significant contributions to our division, we will as a team strive to move in the same direction."

Students and faculty work closely together.

Gregor Johann Mendel, O.S.A. Center for Science and Engineering (bottom)
By Kathleen Franzese

Dubus Advises "Find the Thing That Makes You – You"

A s he addressed the college's graduates, novelist Andre Dubus Ill told them about how his New York Times best seller House of Sand and Fog came to be. Nearly every day for three years, he wrote in his car, near a graveyard, on notebooks, in freezing weather and in stifling heat.

While he held various other jobs in his life, including acting and construction, Dubus said about his writing, "All those days, all those weeks, all those months, all those years, writing that story in my car was probably the happiest and most intense I have ever been, in addition to the joy of, of course, having my kids."

In light of that, he urged the students to "look for that thing, spend the rest of your life doing it if it takes that long, to find that thing or those things, that when you are doing them, you are simply more you than when you don't."

"That inner voice it tells you, this is your fate, your true role." Dubus' House of Sand and Fog is published in 25 countries and is a major motion picture that earned three Oscar nominations this year. It was a fiction finalist for the 1999 National Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the L.L. Winship/PEN New England Award, Book sense Book of the Year, and was an Oprah Book Club selection.

His other works include The Cage Keeper and Other Stories and Illusions. His work has been included in the Best American Essays of 1994, the Best Spiritual Writing of 1999, and The Best of Hope Magazine.

He has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, the National Magazine Award for fiction in 1985, the Pushcart Prize, and was a finalist for the Prix de Rome Fellowship from the Academy of Arts and Letters. He is a native of Massachusetts.
Are you a Strong-Hander or a Mixed-Hander?
By Julie Kivetsky — The Eagle-Tribune
May 2, 2004

Human handedness was the topic of this spring’s annual Dennis L. Mclaughlin Memorial Lecture sponsored by Merrimack’s Department of Psychology in memory of Professor Mclaughlin who taught for 29 years at the college. The guest lecturer was Dr. Stephen D. Christman, professor of psychology at the University of Toledo, who presented “Left-Handed, Right-Handed: Mechanisms, Measurement, Musicians, Memory and Modularity.” Assistant Professor of Psychology at Merrimack College has been researching this subject as well. The following is an article reprinted with permission from The Eagle-tribune on that lecture.

It’s a concept so deeply ingrained in popular culture that few even question it: Right-handed people are more analytical and logical while left-handed people are more creative and visual.

Best-selling books have been written, self-help programs created and educational theories developed based on the idea that some people — generally right-handers — are ruled by the linear, intellectual left hemisphere of the brain that controls the right side of the body, while others — mainly lefties — are ruled by the holistic, emotional right hemisphere.

It boils down to this: “Whether you write with your right or left hand is not really important,” said Stephen D. Christman, a psychology professor at the University of Toledo in Ohio.

“What’s important in handedness is the degree of handedness, the strength of your hand preference,” according to his theory, how you use your hands has a lot to say about how you use your mind.

Some people use the same hand for everything, from throwing a ball to opening a jar to holding a broom. Many others, however, have only a mild preference for right or left.

These people, to whom Christman refers as “mixed-handers,” appear to have a smaller connection between the two hemispheres.

This strength of hand preference appears to be connected to such wildly different activities and abilities as playing a musical instrument, sleeping patterns, the vividness of a person’s early childhood memories and even a person’s belief in creationism or evolution.

Yet as Christman and others put their theory to the test, it seems to hold up.

“I’m surprised that they’re getting the interesting results that they are,” Hellige said. “Their work is quite interesting and it’s novel and it’s starting to get a fair amount of attention.”

Merrimack experiments
Ruth Propper, an assistant professor of psychology at Merrimack College, has collaborated with Christman on several journal articles on how hand preference relates to sleep and memory.

In one intriguing line of research, she has found that mixed-handers tend to have better memories of everyday personal experiences than strong-handers.

In an experiment, she asked Merrimack undergraduates to record a few noteworthy occurrences each day in a journal: a stubbed toe, seeing an old friend, going shopping at an unusual time, attending a funeral.

A week later she gave them a surprise memory test.

“The mixed-handers were much better at remembering the items from their journals,” Propper said. Not only did they remember these events, they were also more likely to recall events that didn’t actually happen.

The explanation for this difference, Propper believes, can be traced back to understanding how our brains make memories. In most people’s brains, language, verbal information and word meanings are controlled by the left hemisphere. Spatial information and visual images tend to be controlled by the right hemisphere.

“A person who has good cooperation between the two hemispheres, she said, probably has more skill at putting together a memory out of words and images.

“In order to have an episodic memory, you really need to include a narrative with the visual picture in your head,” Propper said. Another experiment backed up this idea. Propper and other researchers asked mixed-handers to recall their first childhood memory, which they then confirmed with the family.

Merrimack undergraduates could remember, on average, to when they were 3 years and 10 months old. Strong-handers’ first memories are on average dated to age 4 1/2.

“Not only can they remember life better, Christman said, “they can do it for more of their life, it appears.”

Believe it or not
Christman and other colleagues have taken the theory beyond memory. One of the most interesting implications they have found is how hand preference relates to beliefs.

The left-brain hemisphere is where most people maintain their core beliefs about how the world works.

Concentration in Forensic Science Added
I may have begun with the television show Quincy Jones, M.D. years ago, but with science courses such as CSI still all the rage, many students are contemplating forensic science as a career.

A new concentration in Forensic Analysis is now one of five curriculum options within the chemistry major at Merrimack.

Students selecting the forensic analysis option will be prepared to work in analytical laboratories that investigate evidence from crime scenes. All students pursuing the Forensic Analysis concentration will be required to do a minimum of a one-semester internship in a state crime lab or other related criminal service agencies.

In addition to completing the college’s institutional and distribution requirements, students interested in pursuing this option will complete the core program in chemistry plus the courses in forensic analysis, two semesters of biochemistry, Forensic Internship, coursework in criminology and penology, and criminal law. The curriculum requires that courses in criminal law be taken at Northern Essex Community College located just miles from Merrimack’s campus.

One of two forensic courses offered is Chemical Principles of Forensic Science, an introduction to the characterization and analysis of evidence by physical, chemical, and biological means. The history and precedence of scientific evidence will be outlined and the course will concentrate on topics such as fingerprinting, blood typing, fiber analysis, and dye chemistry.

The second course is Advanced Forensic Analysis, which will focus on the techniques currently used in crime labs today for the processing of items of evidence.

The American Chemical Society’s Committee on Professional Training has approved the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry degree program at Merrimack College.

Merrimack Bound
• Merrimack received a record number of 3,525 applications for admission this year
• Fifty-one percent (51%) of the entering class are women
• Students represent 19 states and nine countries, including Argentina, Japan; the Congo, and France
• Forty-nine percent (49%) are men.

• Students represent 19 states and nine countries, including Uruguay, Japan, the Congo, and France.
• Fifty-one percent (51%) are interested in liberal arts.
• Twenty-three percent (23%) are interested in science and engineering.
• Twenty-six percent (26%) are interested in business.
index and compared perception to reality. Strong-handers’ beliefs about their bodies were more out of whack than mixed-handers.

Another experiment, though, showed this updating of beliefs may go too far. Researchers devised an experiment in which they tried to persuade undergraduates that a massive tuition hike was a good idea. They used what they considered weak arguments, such as “we need money and you’re the student,” and more principled arguments about quality of education and the prestige of the school.

The stronger a person’s hand preference, the less likely they were to buy even the stronger arguments. Students whose hand preference was most mixed, even bordering on ambidexterity, bought even the weakest arguments.

“They’ll update their beliefs at the drop of the hat, for better or for worse,” Christman said.

Theories of evolution

In one study that pushes the theory to the limit, a researcher found that mixed-handers were more likely to believe that humans evolved over millions of years from single-celled organisms while strong-handers were more likely to believe humans originated wherever it may lead.

Christman said, that there were a fair number of mixed-handers among the young people in the 1960s who experimented above and beyond that required by the major curriculum and are made possible by the generosity of entrepreneur Rouzbah Yassini, founder and chief executive officer of YAS Broadband Ventures, LLC of Andover, Mass.

More than 30 Merrimack seniors representing each division presented their senior projects at the fourth annual YAS Corporation Senior Project Awards. The YAS Awards recognize academic initiative, originality, and achievement above and beyond that required by the major curriculum and are made possible by the generosity of entrepreneur Rouzbah Yassini, founder and chief executive officer of YAS Broadband Ventures, LLC of Andover, Mass.

WINNERS INCLUDED:

First Place, Liberal Arts Division: Stefano Sardioli for “Appropriation: A Historical and Artistic Project.” Project Advisors were Associate Professor of Fine Arts David Sears; Chair and Professor of Fine Arts David Raymond, and Professor of Fine Arts Ellen Longo.

First Place, Business Division: Russ Byrne for “Chaos in Financial Markets.” Project Advisor was Assistant Professor of Accounting and Finance Michael Santos.

First Place, Science and Engineering Division: Nathan Magill for “A Forty-Year Mystery Solved.” A Novel Synthesis in Chemistry. Project Advisor was Assistant Professor of Chemistry Cynthia McConan.

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Art of Paper Folding Opens World of Mathematics

By David Rattigan

Several pieces of colorful three-dimensional geometric artwork line up Associate Professor Thomas Hull's office, as befits a person who is expert in both mathematics and origami, the ancient art of paper folding.

"I believe math is best learned in discovery mode," Hull said, talking about how origami can be used to teach principles of mathematics. "Someone can just stand at the board and look at the crease pattern, you unfold it, and they learn something about the real world. They tell us about mass and acceleration and their interaction."

"Any flat origami model has this property," he said. "If you unfold it and look at the crease pattern, you can two-color it."

"I can take any group of students, give them some paper, show them how to fold it and start asking questions, or ask them to figure things out," Hull said. "To do that, they've got to think like a mathematician.

Hull started practicing origami as a young child, and he has been incorporating it into his mathematical career for the past 14 years. "In addition to helping artists design more complex origami models, this kind of research has been of interest to scientists. For example, biologists who study protein folding have used origami methods to design solar panels for space satellites that are small when placed in a rocket capsule and unfold into large panels in outer space. Educators are also interested in this as an exciting and hands-on way to teach math," explained Hull.

Origami is an art form that started in Japan ("ori" means "fold," and "kami" is "paper") and has been refined through the ages by practitioners around the world. By folding the paper in intricate ways, masters of the art can create animals, flowers, masks, and decorative pieces that can evoke emotion and -- in much of Hull's work -- convey ingenuity. His work has a distinctly geometric look. For example, one of his signature pieces is the "five-intersecting tetrahedra," described in the book "Origami in Mathematics." This intricate crease pattern forms the blueprint of the fold, he says. When a student figures out an origami design -- "proving" it mathematically -- he or she is able to mentally bridge geometric theory with an actual end result.

"What math is really about is finding patterns in nature," he said, using the example of Sir Isaac Newton's Three Laws of Motion. "They're mathematical equations, but they tell us something about the real world. They tell us about mass and acceleration and their interaction."

"By playing around with it, they can discover the origami for themselves, they say, 'Wow, this is cool.'"

Origami is about patterns and the equations that create them, said Hull, who is writing a textbook spun partly from his popular upper-level Continuum Geometry course teaching geometry and graph theory using origami models. In this way, half the panels are red, and half are white, and nothing on the crease lines. Folding the crane back together, he notes that everything on one side of the model is colored red, and everything on the other side is colored white.

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Hull started practicing origami as a young child, and he has been incorporating it into his mathematical career for the past 14 years. "In addition to helping artists design more complex origami models, this kind of research has been of interest to scientists. For example, biologists who study protein folding have used origami methods to design solar panels for space satellites that are small when placed in a rocket capsule and unfold into large panels in outer space. Educators are also interested in this as an exciting and hands-on way to teach math," explained Hull.

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Solidarity with Africa

By David Rattigan

Solidarity with Africa will be the theme of the 2004 Thagaste Symposium, Merrimack’s annual gathering of scholars and students to discuss the life and thought of St. Augustine on ideas and issues of interest and concern to contemporary scholars.

“Relationships with Africa will be a theme for the next few years,” said Joseph Kelley, Ph.D., D.Min., director of Merrimack’s Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy, who noted that Thagaste now Southwestern Algeria was Augustine’s birthplace and was also the site of Augustine’s first community of faith, contemplation and study in A.D. 390. Augustine’s current presence in Africa, working with those in great need. This year also marks the 1,600th anniversary of St. Augustine’s birth.

This year’s symposium, scheduled for Sept. 29, is Human, Social and Spiritual Development: Augustinian Solidarity with Africa. Approaching topics from an ecumenical, inter-religious and interdisciplinary perspectives, members of the faculty, students and visiting Augustinian scholars will present and respond to prepared papers, which will help to elucidate and explore a range of problems faced by Africans today.

Invited guests include Rev. Jussi Guzman, O.S.A., of the Augustinian non-governmental organization at the United Nations; Rev. Lucian Borg, O.S.A., provincial of Malta Algeria; and Rev. Patrick Akinnrimi, O.S.A., provincial of Nigeria. Faculty speakers include professors Dr. He Li (political science), Dr. George Heffernan (philosophy) and Dr. Marcia Walsh (biology).

In addition to presenting her paper on the AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, Walsh plans to forge a new relationship between Merrimack College and a Nigerian clinic and school this fall. She will include in her thesis learning component to her clinical microbiology class, having Merrimack students assist in establishing an annual campaign to raise awareness and funds to support prevention efforts, in partnership with the Augustinian Order in Nigeria. Students will try to collect pledges of $4 per person from those in the Merrimack community. The $4 will pay for a dose of the drug Nevirapine, which helps prevent transmission of HIV from a mother to her baby.

“This is an opportunity to do something in a concrete way for those people who are suffering,” Walsh said. “This is a very small project, to make a difference to the Augustinian community in Africa.”

Lectures and discussions during the symposium are open to all members of the college and to visitors. For more information, call the Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy at 978-837-5218.

Thagaste Symposium 2004

Wednesday, September 29
Merrimack College
Cascia Hall

Human, Social and Spiritual Development: Augustinian Solidarity with Africa

Remarks and presentations will include:

• Augustinian Solidarity with and Promotion of Africa
  Rev. Patrick Akinnrimi, O.S.A.,
  Provincial of Nigeria

• Augustinian of Africa: Lessons from His Postcolonial Struggle
  with Roman Imperialism and Donatist Exclusion
  Dr. George Heffernan,
  Department of Philosophy

• Paths to Development: A Comparative Study of East Asia and Africa
  Dr. He Li,
  Department of Political Science

• Care and Hope for a Dying Continent: AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa
  Dr. Marcia Walsh,
  Department of Biology

• Augustinsians Without Borders
  Presentation of a new relationship between Merrimack College and a clinic and a school affiliated with Augustinians in Nigeria

• African Development: A Meeting Place for Christians and Muslims?
  Rev. Lucian Borg, O.S.A.,
  Provincial of Malta Algeria

Students Group Joins Pellegrinaggio V Trip

By Julie Jackson Flynn

After five years, there was an added dimension to this year’s symposium, which is the college’s annual Pellegrinaggio trip. This year 14 students traveled to Italy on their first Amici Studenti Pellegrini Agostiniani (ASPA) trip during spring break. Much like the annual Pellegrinaggio trips taken by faculty, administrators, alumni and trustees, this student trip included many visits important to the heritage of St. Augustine.

In its five years, the Pellegrinaggio experience has provided travelers a deeper understanding of the spirit of St. Augustine, and the history, community, and spirituality of the Order.

It has also been instrumental in building a strong sense of community.

To prepare for the trip, students read selected works of St. Augustine discussing the history of the Order.

The students’ destination included a visit to Sant Agostino’s monastery in San Gimignano in Tuscany where they put in a fruit and vegetable garden for the friars, did repair work, such as painting, plastering, and woodworking on the 14th-century medieval monastery. They viewed the Giotto frescoes at the church of San Agostino, and met up with Merrimack’s Pellegrinaggio V group as they journeyed through Tuscany.

Their trip also included a visit to the south of Rome to Gennazzano, site of the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the resting place of Blessed Stephen Bellesini, O.S.A.

“It was exciting to go and see everything firsthand. We’ve been reading The Young Augustine and A Man of Our Times. It’s an educational, faith experience. There was a lot of time for personal reflection and discussion,” said Vicki Izzo ’04, who is now an Augustinian volunteer.

Lessons from Dad Mirror Augustinian Values

When she became a student at Merrimack College in the 1970s, one of the things her father gave Catherine de Lacy ’80 was his copy of The Confessions of St. Augustine.

“A lot of what is in the book was consistent with my dad’s philosophy in education,” de Lacy said of her late father. “He and my mom were both interested in their children’s education being the whole person. They believed there were many different ways to learn, which I find to be consistent with the Augustinian theme.”

Her parents, particularly her father, challenged her through an ongoing dialogue, to be perceptive in her observations, and not to always accept things at face value. These are themes she has found in the writings of St. Augustine, and one of the reasons that her gift to the college will support this year’s Thagaste Symposium, in memory of her father Eamonn de Lacy, who died in 1994.

“Like Socrates, Augustine was always probing people on what was real, and a deeper understanding of the world and of God” said Joseph Kelley, Ph.D., D.Min., director of Merrimack’s Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy. “One theologian has said that St. Augustine thought in questions. In that sense, Catherine’s quote captures the essence of the Augustinian tradition. She under-stands why and how her particular gift will further the mission of the college.”

De Lacy is pleased to rediscover the Augustinian tradition and that it remains strong at Merrimack. With her gift, de Lacy is hoping to set an example for others across the college community.

“I hope other alumni will gain a better understanding of it, and get involved with the Augustinian component of our Merrimack education,” she said.
PHILANTHROPY AT MERRIMACK

Demers Gift Endows Professorship in Life Sciences
By David Rattigan

As a member of one of Merrimack's first graduating classes and a 31-year faculty member at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Professor Laurence Demers, Ph.D. ’60 has developed a keen understanding of the similarities and differences between the two very different institutions of higher learning.

One is large and established, the other small and still in its first century, and Demers feels a strong connection to both. As a faculty member—he is one of four people to hold the title of distinguished professor at Penn State—Demers is aware of the value of an endowed professorship, both for faculty development and for attracting high-level faculty to the college. That’s the reason behind the $200,000 gift that he and his wife Susan (Bernard) ’62 have made to establish an endowed professorship—an ongoing fund that will enable Merrimack to reward current faculty in the life sciences to the college’s Division of Science and Engineering.

“Merrimack is on the point in its history where successful alumni may take a look at what they can do for the college, and look back on what they got from the college and its faculty,” said Demers, a member of the college’s board of trustees since 2001. Through alumni support, “Merrimack can continue to thrive.”

Friends of Merrimack Contribute $330,000 for Scholarships
By Kathleen Fransene

A gift of more than $330,000, the largest gift in the college’s history, was honored at the group’s annual dinner for its unwavering commitment to social, cultural, and fundraising activities that ultimately benefit students of the college.

According to President Santagati, who presented the award, “This has been involved with Merrimack College since its founding in 1947 and was instrumental in its early development and its continued progress over many, many decades. He was a close friend of Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, O.S.A., who started the college for the Augustinian Order and became our college’s first president. ‘Mr. McQuade was instrumental in helping the college develop roots and to further its educational mission and its continued progress over the years and decades.’”

St. Augustine Society Members Recognized
By Susan (Bernard) Demers ’62 and Dr. Laurence Demers ’60

A long-time supporter of Merrimack, a 20-year member of the college’s Board of Trustees, and a long-time contributor to myriad community groups and organizations, Jim Doherty has been a major advocate of the college for the Augustinian mission of Merrimack College.”

Friends’ Board of Directors, according to Dick Reming, executive director of the Friends of the Friends, “He has been one of Merrimack’s longest and most ardent supporters from the time the college was founded. Jim has contributed to Merrimack College and its students in countless ways throughout the years and decades, and has been a major advocate of education and public service in the Merrimack Valley.”

PHILANTHROPY AT MERRIMACK

President’s Cup Raises Most Ever

The 2004 President’s Cup Golf Tournament featured a great day of golf and friendship for 220 players and many sponsors. More importantly, the event raised more than $66,000 for the college and its students, the most successful President’s Cup ever.

“The unwavering generosity of the players, sponsors and many supporters of the President’s Cup has created a tradition of success that ultimately benefits the students of Merrimack College,” said President Richard J. Santagati.

For more information about the President’s Cup, contact the Development Office at 978-877-5123.
Merrimack Students are Best Buddies
By Kathleen Franzese

Chris Serino '04 and his buddy Bobby Kidwell of Andover, Mass., have attended Merrimack hockey games, Lowell Spinners games, gone out to dinner and just hung together for the past two years. Although Bobby is not a student, or even Serino's age, the two have forged a special friendship and become "best buddies."

Chris and Bobby met through the Merrimack College chapter of the national Best Buddies program. "When I go out with Bobby, it helps me to be more integrated into society," Serino explained. "It is a nice difference for him and it gives his parents, who care for him full-time at home, a chance to do other things as well."

In a short time, these students have impressed many local leaders and service-oriented groups with their consistent involvement, dedication and compassion. Twenty-two Merrimack students and Fr. Jim were recognized by Creative Living Inc., a nonprofit organization that assists adults with intellectual disabilities, at the campus's Best Buddies chapter awards program this spring. To become an official chapter, Serino, an associate member, and Fr. Jim were required to attend two mandatory orientation sessions, plus a training session on each buddy pair. Fr. Jim attended these sessions himself, and the two have attended numerous events together.

"Some students are nervous about becoming involved in Best Buddies, but we tell them to attend our programs and see if they are interested," said Serino. "We have many associate members who help with our turnouts, but are not yet ready to be individual buddies. And that's ok," said Serino.

Merrimack College's Best Buddies chapter has a goal to increase the number of buddy pairs at Merrimack and to expand to other host sites in the Merrimack Valley.

Three Trustees Join Board
By Julie Jackson Flynn

Three individuals joined the Merrimack College Board of Trustees this spring: John E. Donovan '78, of Natick, Mass.; Joseph A. Smialowski '71 of Newton, Conn.; and Christine M. Sullivan Zampell '73 of Westham, Mass.

Since 2000, Donovan has been vice president of operations at AmeriFirst LLC, a division of Capital One Financial Corporation, a medical finance company. From 1990 to 2000 he was corporate human resources manager at Kraft Foods, holding the second ranking position in labor relations for 60 locations throughout the United States and Canada. He served as a consultant to the senior vice presidents of all product lines. From 1984 to 1990 he was director of human resources at IRIT Corp., a defense contractor for high-level secret government programs. From 1980 to 1984 he worked as human resources manager for Janssen Ball Valve Corporation and from 1978 to 1980 he was assistant manager for labor relations at Raytheon's Andover, Mass., facility.

Donovan has a background in education, holding a Bachelor of Science degree in business from St. Augustine College. He is a strong supporter of Catholic high school and college athletics. He has been involved in the Middlesex Catholic High School $2 million renovation project of their new football field and track, which is named Donovan Field in honor of his late father. He also led a successful $1.2 million campaign, providing one of the lead gifts to name the hockey rink at Merrimack College in honor of the former hockey coach, J. Thom Lawler. Donovan is a member of the St. Augustine Society, a group of friends and alumni who look to foster the relationship between students and alumni, and is co-chair of the Blue Line Club, which supports the hockey program at Merrimack.

Zampell received a B.A. in biology from Merrimack College and has completed many courses in relation to her science teaching certificates. She is the daughter of the late Delphine and James B. Sullivan, Ph.D., former educator and administrator at University of Massachusetts Salem.

Smialowski is executive vice president of FleetBoston Financial and a member of the company's management committee.

His responsibilities include information systems, technology infrastructure operations, check processing, ATM operations, commercial loan administration, electronic payments (wire and ACH) operations, money services (valute), trade, foreign exchange, treasury, and derivative operations.

Zampell received an M.B.A. from New Hampshire College.
security, business continuity and crises management for Fleet's consumer, small business, private banking, asset management, commercial, corporate, cash management and capital markets businesses in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the United States. With the Bank of America's acquisition of Fleet Financial, he has assumed a key leadership role on the integration team.

In addition to his responsibility at Fleet Boston, Smialowski is a member of the Private Sector Council, serves on the Rochester Institute of Technology's Presidential Roundtable and is active in the United Way of Boston. He has also served as part of National Academy of Science study teams, with the most recent being a review of the FBI's Information Technology Modernization program.

Prior to joining Fleet Boston in 1998, Smialowski was senior vice president and chief information officer for Sears, Roebuck and Co. From 1984 to 1993, he was a partner in the firm of Price Waterhouse. Early in his career, Mr. Smialowski held management positions at Dennison Manufacturing from 1983 to 1984, Xerox from 1974 to 1983 and The Hartford from 1972 to 1974.

Mr. Smialowski graduated from Merrimack College with a B.A. in philosophy; he received an M.S. in computer systems management from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Stevens Service Learning Center Receives Gift

The trustees of the Stevens Foundation recently gifted $60,000 to the Stevens Service Learning Center.

"I am grateful for the support of the Stevens Foundation. They have had a long standing commitment to the City of Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley and their generosity is visible in many different ways," said Mary McHugh, director of the Stevens Service Learning Center. "Over the past five years their support of the Stevens Center has enabled the practice of service learning to grow and flourish on campus. Since 1998, over 2,000 students have participated in a service learning assignment. The Stevens Foundation's grant validates the tremendous amount of service that our students are doing in the many different areas of the Merrimack Valley community and the importance of that service."

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Three Named to Administrator Positions

President Richard J. Santagati announced the appointments of several individuals to administrator positions at Merrimack, joining the college recently are Paul Swindiehurst as vice president of Institutional Advancement; Jeff Yanagi as executive director of Human Resources; and Diane Applegate '91 as director of Corporations/Foundation Relations.

Swindiehurst comes to Merrimack with a wealth of experience in development, specifically in higher education. Most recently, he has been providing technical assistance and advice for organizations concerning campaign strategy, planning and development. From 1998 to 2002, Paul served as executive director of development/chief development officer at Bentley College. Prior to that role, he was the director of alumni development for the College of Business Administration at Northeastern University. Paul earned a bachelor of science in education from Northeastern University.

As vice president, Swindiehurst will oversee all of Merrimack's fundraising and alumni relations initiatives. He and his team are responsible for achieving significant increases in philanthropy and alumni involvement in accordance with the college's strategic planning objectives.

Also new to the Office of Institutional Advancement is Diane Applegate who comes to the college from Exelon Generation where she was manager of public affairs and media relations since December 2002. Prior to that, she was the legislative liaison between the Massachusetts legislature and the Office of Elder Affairs. She has worked for several legislators in the Massachusetts State House, including former state representatives James Jaguda and John O'Brien in the 1990s.

An active supporter of Merrimack College, Applegate is currently the president of the college's Alumni Council, in her second year of service. She has a B.A. in political science from Merrimack College and a M.A. in communication studies, integrated marketing communications, from Emerson College.

In her new role, Applegate will lead the college's program to seek gifts and grants from corporations and private foundations. Working extensively with faculty and other members of the college community, she will also seek gift support from federal and state government agencies.

Diane Applegate is currently the president of the college's Alumni Council.

For more Merrimack news, visit What's Happening at www.merrimack.edu

continued from page 18 Administrators

Jeff Yanagi, Merrimack's new executive director of Human Resources, is also no stranger to Merrimack. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, he helped to develop the college's Co-operative Education program, serving as its director from 1979 to 1984. His experience and growth in the human resources arena began when he left Merrimack for Wang Laboratories where he worked as a human resources generalist and manager of college recruiting. From there Yanagi worked at Lexigreen Corporation, Lotus Development Corporation from 1988 to 1999, and at CMGI, Inc. as executive vice president for Human Resources from 1999 to 2003. He most recently was managing director/HR business partner at FleetBoston Financial Corporation. He has a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering from Rutgers University and worked for Raytheon Corporation as an engineer from 1974 to 1979.

"Each of these individuals brings to Merrimack many strengths that I believe will greatly contribute to the already strong efforts of these various departments," said President Santagati. "These individuals have important roles that will enable the college to fulfill the goals and objectives of our strategic plan."

For more Merrimack news, visit What's Happening at www.merrimack.edu

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Alternative Spring Break Helps the Needy – Rewards the Givers

By Marie DeMarco

When students and their advisors on Alternative Spring Break traveled to Tijania, they visited a small two-room hut where they met a grandmother who cared for her four grandchildren and their mother, a recovered drug addict who, because of years of drug abuse, was left incapable of caring for her children. When the Merrimack group saw the severe poverty and the lack of food, they fished through their own pockets and managed to collect $67 to purchase groceries for the family.

This is just one of the experiences that on Alternative Spring Break encountered. This year, 76 students volunteered to help the underprivileged in eight locations across the country and in Mexico. Seventeen individuals volunteered their time to serve as advisors for the students. Rev. Scott Ness, O.S.A., Study Abroad; Sr. Elaine Palkci, S.N.D., Campus Ministry; Rev. Rick Pratt, O.S.A., Campus Ministry; Melissa Cote, Resident Life; husband-wife team Alicia Dumpy Culp, Student Activities and Bryan Dumpy Culp, First Year Experience; Maura Shaffer, ESL; Charline Henry, Campus Ministry; Carol Leibovitz, Study Abroad; Sue Brien, Co-op Education; and Mark Ouellette, Institutional Advancement.

They were joined by others in the Merrimack community: Trustee Lynn Potoff '76, Merrimack alumni Keith Foiny '01, Frank Collopy '56 and Emile Collopy '53, and Augustinian volunteers Nancy Ais and Peter Steck.

What drives people to volunteer to live under such poor conditions for a week? The reasons are threefold for Lynn Potoff. As a member of the board of trustees and chair of the student life committee, Potoff saw it as an opportunity to connect more with students. She wanted Merrimack students to see her as approachable and open to questions about her role as a board member.

"Hopefully, this experience will encourage students to return to Merrimack after graduation – to give back a little," Secondly, noted Potoff.

Students constructed a school desk to install at a Nigerian orphanage in Warka, Rock, Sierra Leone. In two and a half days, they compiled a tool box that would have taken months to build.
Merrimack Hosts Summer Transportation Institute

The Department of Civil Engineering hosted the first U.S. Department of Transportation-sponsored Summer Transportation Institute (STI) in Massachusetts from June 27 to July 23 at Merrimack. High school students interested in learning more about transportation-related careers participated in the program, which addresses critical declines in the nation’s transportation professional workforce. STI seeks to increase the numbers and diversity of young people entering transportation professions.

Merrimack joined 43 other host sites across the nation in providing high school students exposure to academic and practical experiences designed to motivate them toward professions in the transportation industry. The program provides the students with mathematical, scientific, technical and personal enrichment to enable them to pursue careers in the transportation industry. It also introduces participants to college life and provides them with tools on how to prepare for it.

“Transportation is one of the fundamental reasons we are who we are as a nation. This program addresses a crisis in our transportation industry, and it provides an awesome opportunity for our future leaders to learn, to make new friends, and to have fun,” said Gary Spring, chair, assistant dean, Civil Engineering.

Math and Science Camp Challenges Students

In the science labs of the Mendel Center earlier this summer, students ages ten to twelve were given a kit consisting of a pencil, clay, a pin, glue, plastic drinking straws, a paper plate, and scissors. An odd combination of objects to an observer, but to the students and the Merrimack student teachers, their mission was clear—build a working weather barometer. When testing out their weather instruments they discovered that the sticky July afternoon wasn’t cooperating with the experiment, but tied in perfectly with their earlier lessons on humidity.

This is just one of the components of the first summer camp of the Lawrence Math and Science Partnership at Merrimack College for approximately 100 Lawrence middle school students. The goal of the camp’s curricula is to open the world of science and math to students and relate it to future career choices in those fields. The summer camp, as well as the 20-week, after-school program throughout the school year, are made possible by a three-year grant to the college to support a Higher Education Learn and Serve America Program funded by the U.S. Government Corporation for National and Community Service.

Along with the weather instruments, the students also built and raced their own boats, learned about the mathematics behind the art of origami, learned about fitness and designed their own fitness program.

Merrimack students, who served as the camp counselors, facilitated the learning process through the activities and experiments and by asking questions to enhance the academic component of the activity. Some of the Merrimack student teachers became involved in the summer camp because they participated in the tutoring program that the partnership was founded on; however, many of the others are science and math majors looking to share their passions.

Danielle Crowley, a health science major at Merrimack, was impressed by the children’s creativity and enthusiasm, especially while they were building the junk box boats, powered only by balloons and rubber bands. Sports medicine major, Matt Lovett, was impressed by the students’ willingness to try new exercises in a health and fitness program designed by Merrimack’s Sports Medicine Department. Although Lovett does not always want to pursue teaching as a career, he found the experience rewarding. He said, “It gives you a different perspective, a different viewpoint, a different way of looking at things. It makes you appreciate their effort and hard work, and it gives them an opportunity to make new friends.”

Many of the children who participated in this year’s camp say they hope to pursue math or science in college. One girl loves animals and wishes to become a veterinarian. Another wants to study science because his father always wanted to, but did not have the opportunity.

“Building weather vans in Mendel lab 217, the children discovered a world ready for them to embrace.” —Kayla Riccio

ALUMNI NEWS

Girard Named Alumnus of the Year

The 2004 Alumnus-of-the-Year award was presented to Francis Girard ’62, who has a long track record of support and commitment to Merrimack College and its students. The award, presented at the Reunion dinner, is based on nominations by fellow alumni and college staff and is presented to an individual who has shown extraordinary devotion to Merrimack College and its future.

“Despite the many fine individuals who deserve this honor, one particular individual stood out as this year’s honoree,” said President Richard J. Santagati. “Over the last year and several years, our recipient has certainly shown extraordinary devotion through his generosity of time, spirit and sheen to get things accomplished. Frank Girard leads by example—he is generous and encourages those all around him to share their time and commitment to Merrimack College.”

Girard has been involved with Alumni Relations, has served as a mentor to students, has given lectures and presentations at events, and most recently has provided leadership with the St. Augustine Society.

Andiamo!

Girard, an alumnus of Merrimack College, received the Alumni of the Year award during the college’s Reunion Weekend.

“For many young people, the need is there,” continued Santagati. "It was Girard’s gift of $2.5 million in 2000 to Merrimack, the largest alumni contribution in the college’s history, that established the Francis E. Girard School of Business and International Commerce. The Girard School is currently seeking the prestigious AACSB accreditation. Girard is the retired chief executive officer of Comverse Network Systems, a subsidiary of Comverse Technology, a fortune 500 telecommunications company.”

Frank Girard, right, accepts award from President Richard J. Santagati.

“‘He never hesitates to open his home — or his heart — when the need is there,’ continued Santagati. "It was Girard’s gift of $2.5 million in 2000 to Merrimack, the largest alumni contribution in the college’s history, that established the Francis E. Girard School of Business and International Commerce. The Girard School is currently seeking the prestigious AACSB accreditation. Girard is the retired chief executive officer of Comverse Network Systems, a subsidiary of Comverse Technology, a fortune 500 telecommunications company.”

Frank Girard, right, accepts award from President Richard J. Santagati.

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Frank Girard, right, accepts award from President Richard J. Santagati.
Become involved with Bellesini Academy

Alumni are forging friendships with the students from the Bellesini Academy, a Catholic middle school for boys sponsored by Merrimack College, by hosting a birthday party each month to recognize the special days of students. They also provide a gift for each student—a book that they can donate back to their own library if they choose. The birthday parties are a great way to celebrate friendships and foster a sense of community among alumni and the students of Bellesini Academy.

The school is also looking for alumni who have knowledge of the admissions process for private high schools to assist the students of Bellesini Academy as they begin to apply to private high schools themselves. Individuals are needed to assist with researching various schools, completing forms, conducting mock interviews and offering advice and mentoring. Individuals interested in helping in these capacities, or in any way, at the Bellesini Academy, should call Kathy Marshall '94 at 978-817-5107.

Calling all New Yorkers!

Although you may be out of sight, you are never out of mind. Regional alumni events are being planned in the New York City area by Merrimack alumni, and we'd like to see you there. The first NYC area event will be in August. Details of events will be sent via e-mail. If Merrimack does not have your e-mail address, please send it along with your updated home address to alumnirelations@merrimack.edu.

Additionally, if you would like to work with Alumni Relations to start your own regional club in your area, contact Liz Magliozzi, director of Alumni Relations, at 978-817-5136.

For NYC area events, contact either: Sheila Fuller '96
212-420-9252
Sheila.fuller@verizon.net

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS NIGHT AT MCGUIRK'S IRISH PUB

Erin McGuirk '91 (family owned)
Saturday, October 16 - 7:00 p.m.
95 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, Hampton, N.H.
Live entertainment, appetizers and fun! - $15 per person

ALUMNI CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, December 2
6:00-9:00 p.m. – State Room (formerly the Bay Tower Room)
60 State Street, Boston

Although you may be out of sight, you are never out of mind. Regional alumni events are being planned in the New York City area by Merrimack alumni, and we’d like to see you there. The first NYC area event will be in August. Details of events will be sent via e-mail. If Merrimack does not have your e-mail address, please send it along with your updated home address to alumnirelations@merrimack.edu.

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**SPORTS ROUND UP**

**BASEBALL**
A strong finish highlighted the 2004 baseball season for first-year coach Joe Sannic. The Warriors won nine of their last 12 games to finish the 2004 season with an overall record of 18-24, the highest win total for the program since the 1999 season. The Warriors went 15-17 in league play, narrowly missing a berth in the Northeast-10 Conference playoffs. A pair of freshmen and a sophomore earned Northeast-10 All-Conference honors for the Warriors.

**MEN'S LACROSSE**
The Warriors finished 6-7 overall and 5-5 record in conference action, advancing to the 2004 Northeast-10 Tournament. Head coach Ryan Polley earned a pair of major awards in his first year as head coach of the Merrimack men's lacrosse program (see related article on this page).

**SOFTBALL**
It was another successful year for Merrimack softball as the program made its 12th NCAA Regional appearance and advanced to the final game of the regional tournament. The Warriors finished the 2004 season with an overall record of 35-18 and went 20-8 in league play for a third place finish in the Northeast-10 Conference. The Warriors swept six of their 14 NE-10 opponents.

**WOMEN'S LACROSSE**
For the second time in school history, first-year head coach Katie Lambert led the Warriors to the Northeast-10 Conference semifinals. Merrimack closed out the season by winning seven of last nine games for a school record 10 wins. Sophomore Alison Colonato also set a school record for goals in a season, as she scored 61 times in 16 games. Colonato added 12 assists for 73 goals, the second highest point total in a season.

**WOMEN'S TENNIS**
One of the best careers in school history came to an end in 2004 as senior Haven Wynne closed out her four-year career. Wynne posted an 8-3 mark at No. 1 singles and combined with sophomore Meghan Weller at No. 1 doubles for a 10-1 record this season. Wynne was a Third Team All-Northeast-10 Conference selection as a single competitor and a First Team All-Conference performer at doubles with Weller. First-year head coach Chris Stevens' squad posted an 8-3 record this year.

**MEN'S TENNIS**
Senior Mike Pearson and freshman Dan Hrobak combined for seven individual wins this season. Pearson posted three victories at his No. 2 singles position, while Hrobak added four wins at No. 3 singles. The two combined at No. 2 doubles to post a 2-5 mark for the Warriors. The Warriors, under first-year head coach Chris Stevens, posted a 9-0 win over American International in the second match of the season.

In addition to her award, the Northeast-10 Coach of the Year, Polley was also named the Northeast-10 Conference Coach of the Year. Polley led the Warriors to a 6-7 mark overall and a 5-5 record in conference action. The Warriors also advanced to the 2004 Northeast-10 Tournament. Polley becomes the first head coach to collect multiple awards. As a player at Merrimack, Polley was named the 2000 Northeast-10 Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player, while leading the Warriors to their only Northeast-10 Conference Tournament title.

2004-2005 fall and winter sports schedule now online at www.merrimack.edu

**ATHLETICS**

**CLASS NOTES**

**CLASS NOTES**

**M56**
Members of the Civil Engineering (CE) Class of 1956 recently got together at the home of Frank Collopy. Six of nine were present; one member is deceased. The CE Class of 1956 was the second graduating class of civil engineers from Merrimack College this year after 31 years of service. He spent nearly 28 years of that time as director of Human Resources, working under the guidance of each of the college's five presidents. He and his wife recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

**M61**
Michael Ohanian was recently honored by the State Engineering University of Armenia where he introduced Bar Coding and Radio Frequency Identification Technology (RFID). He is the retired president of Intermec Technologies in Everett, Massachusetts, and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Expertise, Armenia, and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1979. Ohanian has also been involved in the field of microelectronics and AIT technologies and holds numerous patents. He is also the founder of the Russian AIT marketplace and serves as a member on the Board of Trustees of Merrimack College. In addition, he is a member of the RFID Technology Advisor to several U.S. and Canadian companies.

**M62**
Mary Moynihan Leach earned her Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Maryland. She is senior advisor to the president at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County campus. She has recently been named to the Board of Sister Academy, a joint venture of four religious communities to provide academic and professional opportunities for girls in Baltimore's inner city. She is also on the Board of Salvadoran Enterprises for Women, Inc. This project provides micro grants and business expertise assistance to women and families in El Salvador.

**M63**
Donald Gallant is seeking his fifth consecutive term as the women's basketball head coach. He has led the team to 11 straight seasons where the team's record has improved. The team has posted a 20-16 record in the 2003-2004 season. Gallant was named the New England Coach of the Year in 2000 and the Northeast-10 Coach of the Year in 2004. He is a member of the 1974 basketball team that reached the NCAA Tournament.

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Michael Ohanian was recently honored by the State Engineering University of Armenia where he introduced Bar Coding and Radio Frequency Identification Technology (RFID). He is the retired president of Intermec Technologies in Everett, Massachusetts, and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Expertise, Armenia, and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1979. Ohanian has also been involved in the field of microelectronics and AIT technologies and holds numerous patents. He is also the founder of the Russian AIT marketplace and serves as a member on the Board of Trustees of Merrimack College. In addition, he is a member of the RFID Technology Advisor to several U.S. and Canadian companies.

**M65**
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**M66**
Kevin McKelvey is completing his second term on the board of selectmen in Hamilton-Wenham (Mass.).

**M69**
Christine (Scalone) Monaco is seeking re-election to the school committee in Burlington, Mass.

Margaret " Pegs" Tracey is the city clerk for Haverhill, Mass. She has spent much of her working life in state government, most recently as an internships coordinator for the Massachusetts State Legislature.

**M70**
John Butler has held the head coaching job at Marblehead (Mass.) High School for the past 18 years.

**M71**
Carol M. Green has joined the Department of Amelscology at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, Md.

**M72**
Suzanne Columbus Van Pelt was awarded a master of library & information science degree from Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.

**M74**
Captain Stephen F. Carty of the U.S. Coast Guard recently assumed command of the Portland Head Light in Fort Williams Park, Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

**M76**
Donna Eubanks is promoted to manager of Post Office operations for the 018-019 zip code area of the Massachusetts Postal District.

Attorneys Scott E. Cleason has been named Member of the Year at Haverhill (Mass.), Country Club.
Dave McGillivray and a team of nine other New Englanders ran 3,372 miles in a relay from San Francisco to Boston's Fenway Park in 24 days this spring. McGillivray founded TREK USA—Charity Relay for Kids—and raised funds for several local children's charities: the Jimmy Fund; the Red Auerbach Youth Foundation; the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism; the Cam Neely Foundation for Cancer Care, and the DMIE Foundation. The team ran through 12 states as they made their way across country. McGillivray founded McGillivray Sports Enterprises, which has produced or consulted on more than 700 athletic events throughout the world. He is the director of the Boston Marathon, which attracts 20,000 runners from all over the world.

William Pillbury Jr. is the economic development and planning director for the city of Haverhill, Mass.

Jayne (Viladenis) Rotsko became the new principal at the Board of Directors of Naugatuck Trust Company in Lowell, Mass. She is a former Haverhill City Councilor, who received her M.B.A. from Southern New Hampshire University and attended the Massachusetts School of Law at Andover (Mass.).

Diane Boulanger Prescott is the president and chief executive officer of Northeast Environmental Services, LLC, in Haverhill, Mass. She is a former Haverhill City Councilor, who received her M.B.A. from Southern New Hampshire University and attended the Massachusetts School of Law at Andover (Mass.).

Peter Thomas Cromwell wrote his first fantasy-adventure book, Silverblaze, and is currently promoting the book. He resides in San Francisco.

Barbara MacCall is a candidate for the board of directors in Winthrop, Mass.

Kathleen (Conway) Ritson has joined the sales team at Century 21 in Woburn, Mass.

Mike Gonzales is commercial lending officer at Enterprise Bank and Trust Company. Kathy (Coughlin) Marshall was one of the administrative managers for Merrimack's 54th Commencement.

Michael Sullivan is assistant vice president/controller for Enterprise Bank and Trust Company in Lowell, Mass. A two-year Enterprise veteran, he is engaged in managing all daily operational accounting functions.

Angela McGriff is general cashier/accounts payable assistant at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, Mass. The Royal Sonesta is a part of Sonesta International, which also manages properties in Italy, Egypt, New Orleans, and Miami, including the Trump International Sonesta Beach Resort at Sunny Isles, Fla.

Michael Motzkin is a candidate for Massachusetts state representative in the 9th Essex District, which includes the communities of Lynn, Lynnfield, Peabody, and North Reading.

Matthew Jordan moved to Colorado after accepting a sales position with Anheuser-Busch. While working his way up the ranks to management he was promoted to Market Manager in charge of Southwestern and Northern Louisiana for Anheuser-Busch Breweries. His wife is a practicing psychotherapist. He also completed an eight-year enlistment contract and received an Honorable Discharge as Sergeant of the U.S. Marines in October of 2002.

Heather (Stone) Barresi is currently a special education preschool teacher in Woodbridge, Conn. She also runs programs for children with autism.

Michael Barresi will join Smith College as assistant professor in the English Department, beginning in January 2005.

Brian J. LaGrasse is the health inspector for Andover, Mass. His duties include handling health inspections, responding to residents, and working with the Board of Health.

Alumni Team are World Pond Hockey Champions Back when it was the dead of winter, four alumni formed a team that now has claims to a little heard title—World Pond Hockey Champions. The Boston Danglers, comprised of Bob Aitken '94, Mark Comfert '94, Mark Gold '91 and Cooper Snyder '94, out-played 80 other four-man teams across North America in a small village in Pointer Rock, New Brunswick, 50 miles east of Prince Frederic, Mass. The tour met eight years ago while students and hockey team members for Merrimack. Although they all still reside in the Boston area, the tour was originally from Canada.

The annual tournament is a three-day event played outdoors on ice approximately three-quarters the size of a regulation hockey rink with few regulations. The tournament started three years ago as a way for teams to replace Florida's cold with indoor ice rink. This year, the Boston Danglers dominated the tournament, capturing the wooden replica of the Stanley Cup as a trophy. They donated $300 in winnings back the land and promised they’d be back next year. We’ll be watching!
Many Battles Won

By Kayla Riccio

Ever aware of the needs of immigrant students, Correiro says, "Cities are far more diverse than they've ever been. It was once the once of just a couple of ethnic groups, now a multiplicity of ethnic groups with various languages, cultures and needs. Adjustments are necessary to both understand and integrate ethnic groups in our school systems." Since early on in his career as a teacher in Fall River, Correiro has been instrumental in improving the health, welfare, and education of immigrant students, particularly those of the Portuguese population. He traveled to Portugal on a fact-finding mission to help improve the immigration process and establish pre-English class centers for students going to the United States. He was director of the National Assessment Dissemination Center for Bilingual Education at Lesley College from 1975 to 1980. He has served on numerous national committees that studied and explored education among immigrant populations.

After graduating Merrimack College with a degree in education, Correiro initially served as a newspaper reporter in Fall River and in Providence, Rhode Island. He went on to teach sixth grade and earned his master's degree in public administration at the University of Rhode Island in 1971.

At Merrimack College, Correiro played basketball for the Warriors, wrote for the campus newspaper, and led the Phi Kappa Beta fraternity as president. Today, he keeps in touch with many of his fellow alumni, and in 2003 went on the college's Pellegrino trip to Italy. Since early on in his career as a teacher in Fall River, Correiro has been instrumental in improving the health, welfare, and education of immigrant students, particularly those of the Portuguese population. He traveled to Portugal on a fact-finding mission to help improve the immigration process and establish pre-English class centers for students going to the United States.

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CHRISTINE FAGAN POPSON '80 and husband Michael, a son, Andrew James, April 23, 2004. He joins sister Kathlyn.

DIANE BOULANGER PESCO '80 adopted a son, Nicholas Argeo Prescott. He joins brother David Albert and a sister Alexandra Diane.

ANDREW SHANNON '88 and wife Sally a son, Andrew John Shannon, April 28, 2004.

NICHOLAS CATINO '89 and SANDI MILLER CATINO '89, a son, Joshua Lee, March 15, 2004. She joins brother Alexander.

LAURA (MICHALISIN) CHAN '94 and husband James, a daughter, Alexa Marie, January 3, 2004.

KAREN (MAX GAUDETTE) '94 and CHRISS GUADETTE '95, a daughter, Riley Christline, April 15, 2004. She joins sister Lindsey.

MICHELLE (PANCHINO) IMBESI '94 a son Joseph Anthony, December 27, 2003. He joins brothers Andrew and Evan.


KAREN (WALLACE) NELSON '94 and COOPER NELSON '94 a daughter, Emma Grace, June 20, 2004. She joins sister Caroline.


KELLY (SHEDD) DIFILIPPO '81 and PAUL DIFILIPPO '81, a daughter, Maria Kathleen, June 7, 2004.

DEATHS

James J. MILLERICK '51 of Stoneham, Mass., died January 7, 2004. He was the member of the first graduating class of Merrimack College. He received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering.


Mary Elizabeth ORR '73 of Cincinnati, Ohio, and formerly of Haverhill, Mass., died January 12, 2004. She was employed at Western Electric for 10 years and then worked as a computer engineer at Raytheon's Tedwell, Mass., plant.

In Memoriam

Dr. Walter E. Maxey (Associate Professor MACS, 1977-1999)

By James E. Henderson '91

Although now obsolete, all the computer science students would jockey to use the new, large, color DEC VT240 terminals in 1987. As a freshman working on a FORTRAN assignment, I refused to yield to upperclassmen in the Computer Graphics class who had preferred status to use these terminals. Dr. Maxey overheard the altercation and intervened: "Look, clown, I'm not going to ask you again to move to another terminal!" I skulked away as my classmates asked, "Don't you know that he's teaching our Assembly Language class next year?" It never turned out that way. No grudge was held against my behavior, but it was not unusual to see him stroll into the computer lab, often wearing his tan trench coat. He made it a regular habit to see how his students were doing while working on an assignment. Dr. Maxey held himself and his students to high standards. He returned assignments and exams with rapid turn-around, often next the class. Assignments were handed back, marked up with constructive criticism in red pen. The detail he would put into correcting the assignments was amazing, even noting spelling errors in the comments of source code! Having taught evening courses at the college level, I don't know how he bad time to do it all.

He had a good sense of humor, often ribbing the students, or making bad puns. For some reason, this one still sticks in my mind. "How do you catch a unique rabbit? Unique up on him!" Light if you had Dr. Maxey, you're probably grinning right now, too!

Dr. Maxey passed away on June 3, 2003. I've been in touch with other classmates, and we all were fortunate to know him and be under his tutelage, even for a short time. I speak for most, but I'm sure everyone would agree: he was an individual in my life who shaped the person I am today (even with my freshman year confrontations). An effort is underway to establish the Walter E. Maxey Award for a deserving Merrimack student. More information on how you can help can be found at www.maryannaward.org or e-mail to info@maryannaward.org; or phone 978-326-2471 or pkduran@concast.net

Retired Physics Professor Dies by Marie DeMarco

Dr. Benjamin Cogen, retired associate professor of physics, died on March 20, 2004. He had worked 30 years at Merrimack College. He is survived by his wife, Irene; son, David '83 and daughter, Ellen, whose vocals he accompanied on his campus. He spent time each summer in Bar Harbor, Maine. He served as an assistant professor of physics in 1960, he was promoted to associate professor in 1969. Over the years, he served as chair of the Computer Graphics Department during several academic years. He is survived by his wife, Irene; son, David '81 and daughter, Ellen, whose vocals he accompanied on his campus. He spent time each summer in Bar Harbor, Maine. He served as an assistant professor of physics in 1960, he was promoted to associate professor in 1969. Over the years, he served as chair of the Computer Graphics Department during several academic years. He is survived by his wife, Irene; son, David '81 and daughter, Ellen, whose vocals he accompanied on his campus.

Confidence may be sent to: The Cogen Family, 76 Pleasant Street, Ayer, Massachusetts, 01432.
SEPTEMBER
7 - Fall Semester begins
7 - Opening Convocation at 11:00 a.m.
16 - Forever Plaid (Rogers Center)
24 - Tommy Makem (Rogers Center)
26 - SIYAHAMBA - Concert for African AIDS Relief – featuring The Archdiocese of Boston Black Catholic Choir (Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher)
26 - Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra Pops Concert (Rogers Center)
29 - Thagaste Symposium – Augustinian Solidarity with Africa (Cascia Hall) (see page 12 for more information)

OCTOBER
1-2 - Homecoming Weekend
5 - Peace Among Israelis and Palestinians, Alan Solomont, Chairman and CEO, Solomont Bailis Ventures, and activist in Jewish Fund for Justice and Israel Policy Forum
6 - Seventh Annual Dennis McLaughlin Memorial Lecture, co-sponsored by Psychology Department, Dr. Anna Ornstein, Holocaust survivor and internationally renowned speaker and writes on self-psychology
7 - Capitol Steps (Rogers Center)
17 - Fred Moyer Piano Concert (Rogers Center)
17 - Bryant Clarke Piano Concert Afternoon Delight (Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher)
22 - Mystical Arts of Tibet (Rogers Center)
23 - A Cappella Night (Rogers Center)
26 - Last Lecture - Prof. Curtis Martin, Dept. of Political Science (Cascia Hall)
29 - Al Roker – presented by the Friends of Merrimack College (Rogers Center)
30 - Michael Cooper Family Program (Rogers Center)

NOVEMBER
5-6 - Shenandoah Shakespeare Express (Rogers Center)
11-13 On-Stagers Fall Production (Rogers Center)
13 - The 165th Birthday Party for St. Augustine

DECEMBER
2 - Christmas Party at the State Room (formerly The Bay Tower Room)
4 - A Merry-Mack College Christmas (Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher)

Don't Miss Al Roker at Merrimack
Don't forget to mark your calendars for the visit of Al Roker to Merrimack College on Friday, October 29, 2004. Roker, a six-time Emmy winner and beloved weatherman for the Today Show, will help to raise scholarship funds for Merrimack students. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Merrimack College and the Rogers Family Foundation. Tickets may be purchased through the Rogers Center for the Arts at 978-817-5155.